



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR, FIRST LADY HONOR 2009 "BRIGHTEST STARS"

(BOISE) – Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter and First Lady Lori Otter hosted the ninth annual Governor's Brightest Stars Awards ceremony today at Boise State University, honoring Idaho volunteers who selflessly provide public service within their communities. KTVB-TV anchor Carolyn Holly was emcee for the event.

The Governor's Brightest Star Awards are hosted by Serve Idaho, the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism in partnership with Boise State University's Service-Learning Department. Sixty-seven individuals and groups representing communities throughout Idaho were recognized for their outstanding volunteer efforts in six categories, including Corporation, Small Business, Organization, School, Student and Individual. The Governor and First Lady also announced the First Lady's Choice and The Governor's Choice Awards.

"This is a great opportunity to give some well-deserved credit to the folks who make a real difference in our communities, and in our lives," Governor Otter said. "Lori and I are privileged to be part of this program, and to have the chance to rub shoulders with people who selflessly display tremendous civic virtue."

This year's honorees in the Individual and Student categories are making baseball fields safe for children, rocking babies while their young mothers attend school, helping improve access to end-of-life care, creating a "swear jar" fund to collect money to purchase items for local charities, and cleaning up Idaho's highways.

The Corporations, Small Businesses and Organizations being recognized are teaching financial literacy classes at homeless shelters, donating to local events, providing employees as volunteers, and supporting veterans and under-served groups. One business provides flexible work schedules so their employees can volunteer.

The Brightest Star Schools are recruiting and training tutors and mentors, providing reusable shopping bags and nutritional cookbooks to local food banks. They also are providing students with opportunities to contribute to their communities through voluntary service. Details about all the recipients are available at: <http://bit.ly/1sChjF>.

Serve Idaho, the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism, administers Idaho's National Service Program AmeriCorps, provides training and technical assistance in the field of volunteer management and works to engage more Idahoans in volunteerism. For more information, please telephone Serve Idaho at 208-332-3578 or visit www.serveidaho.org.

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