



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bend's Volunteers in Medicine Calls for Nominations for Ronald E. Carver, MD Heart of Healthcare Award

Recognizing Central Oregon licensed medical professionals who donate care to the medically underserved locally, nationally or internationally.

BEND – Hundreds of medical professionals in Central Oregon donate thousands of hours each year to care for those who cannot afford, or do not have, access to healthcare. Many volunteer close to home, while others travel around the world to serve those in need.

“As a local medical clinic for the low-income, uninsured, we see these dedicated professionals in our clinic every day, donating their skills and filling their passion to serve others,” states Kat Mastrangelo, Executive Director of Volunteers in Medicine Clinic of the Cascades (VIM). “The *Ronald E. Carver, MD Heart of Healthcare Award* is our way of honoring these exceptional Central Oregon volunteers who live the work they love.”

The Award is named after Ronald E. Carver, MD, the first medical director of Volunteers in Medicine Clinic of the Cascades, and one of the founders of VIM. In 2011, the Award honored Michael L. Mara, MD, and Colette M. Whelan, RN.

Nominations are open to any Central Oregon doctor, dentist, nurse, mental health provider, or other licensed medical professional who volunteers their time to care for the health of others. The 2012 Honoree(s) will be celebrated at a banquet on Friday, May 11th at the Seventh Mountain Resort. In addition, the Honoree(s) will receive a \$1,000 award to be donated to the medical charity of their choice. A limited number of sponsorships, tables, and tickets for this event will be available beginning March 13, 2012.

Nomination guidelines are available at www.vim-cascades.org. For more information, contact (541) 585-9007 or heartofhealthcare@vim-cascades.org. **Application deadline is February 29, 2012.**

About Volunteers in Medicine Clinic of the Cascades

Since 2004, Volunteers in Medicine Clinic of the Cascades (VIM) has been caring for the health of low-income, uninsured people who work or live in Deschutes County, free of charge, by utilizing the collaborative power of medical and lay-person volunteers. The clinic is located at 2300 NE Neff Road in Bend. For more information, visit www.vim-cascades.org or call 541.330.9001. ###