



NEWS

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Caring Hall of Fame Announces 2013 Caring Awards Honorees
Caring Institute announces the most caring people in America

WASHINGTON, D.C. (October 29, 2013) – Senators Bob Dole and Tom Daschle, Co-Chairs of the Caring Institute announced the winners of the 2013 Caring Awards. Six adults and four youths are being commemorated at the Caring Awards Ceremony on October 31, in the Cherry Blossom Ballroom, Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, during the National Association for Home Care & Hospice Annual Meeting & Exposition in Washington, DC.

“Each year, it amazes me how compassionate people can be toward humanity,” said Val J. Halamandaris, founder and executive director of the Caring Institute. “I am so proud of our 10 extraordinary winners, and the great service they do for others here in the United States and around the world.”

Some past winners of the Caring Award are: Mother Teresa, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Rabbi David Grossman, Cal Ripken, Jr., Nancy Brinker, and Colin Powell. Like our 2013 winners, they all agree with Albert Einstein that “only a life lived for others is worthwhile.”

2013 Annual Caring Award Winners include:

Adult Award Winners

Maria Gomez
President and CEO, Mary’s Center

Gomez provides compassionate health care for the disenfranchised immigrant community. Her own experiences as an immigrant and home care nurse led her to find her life’s work in 1988. Her staff serves 40,000 people out of four centers and two mobile health units where they get first-hand knowledge of the challenges their clients face.

Congressman John Lewis
Civil Rights Leader, Congressman from Georgia

Lewis has been a civil rights icon since he marched with Dr. Martin King Jr. As a member of the U.S. House, he has authored bills that fund probes of slain civil rights leaders and coins to commemorate the Civil Rights Act of 1964. His continued fight for racial justice has earned him fame as the conscience of Congress.

J. W. “Bill” Marriott Jr.
Executive Chairman and Chairman of the Board, Marriott International, Inc.

Marriott's success in the hospitality field is only matched by his humanitarian endeavors. He builds the future through his training program for welfare recipients, his scholarship program for students who plan to work in hotels, and his foundation to help young disabled people find rewarding jobs. He is also a Caring Institute trustee and a former board member of the Mayo Clinic, where he gave his advice on developing businesses based on human values.

Patty Webster

Inspirational Speaker, Founder and President, Amazon Promise

Webster has brought free health care to one of the poorest parts of the world since 1993. Braving floods and flies, snakes and poor sanitation, she leads medical volunteers to the Amazon jungle. Her teams hold clinics in remote villages and urban slums where they provide medical and psychological care, along with health education.

Honorable Daniel Inouye

Posthumous Award Winner

Inouye was a lifelong public servant who broke racial barriers on Capitol Hill. He fought heroically in World War II and lost an arm in a firefight with Germans in Italy. He went on to become the first Japanese American to serve in Congress, representing the people of Hawaii from the time they joined the Union. Last year, President Barack Obama awarded him a posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. And he is just one of many to recognize Inouye's valor on the battlefield and his ethics in public life.

Father Patrick Devine

International Winner

Executive Director, Shalom Centre for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation (SCCRR)

Devine has often risked his life to end conflict in Kenya. He knows there can be no lasting peace if people's needs are unmet, so he has provided food, shelter, health care, and education to thousands in Kenya and nearby countries. He also heads conflict resolution workshops where local factions learn ways to build peace themselves.

Young Adult Winners:

Allyson Ahlstrom

Founder, Threads for Teens

Age 18

Allyson helps underprivileged girls have more self-esteem by giving them new, brand-name clothes. She has outfitted 200 girls in her charming storefront boutique and brought a mobile boutique to 48 states. By seeing up to 30 girls a day, she was able to provide over 1,000 girls with new back-to-school ensembles.

Zachary Certner

President, Co-founder, Special Needs Athletic Programs (SNAP)

Age 16

Zach conducts free sports clinics for students with special needs, along with sensitivity training to help other kids see the challenges they face. With funding of \$60,000, he has held workshops that have taught 2,700 students to be more empathic and convinced 450 of them to join him as mentors and coaches.

Nicholas Cobb

Founder, Comfort and Joy

Age 17

Nicholas's strong sense of conscience has inspired him to help the homeless. He has raised more than \$30,000 to provide them with food and donate 400 winter coats to homeless shelters. He also helps people

to help themselves by giving the homeless suits to wear on job interviews and by funding college scholarships.

Will Lourcey

Founder, Friends Reaching Our Goals (FROG)

Age 11

Will is determined to tackle hunger and knock it down. He has taken steps toward that goal by raising more than \$20,000 for his local food bank, providing over 100,000 meals for the hungry, and feeding over 10,000 families. Will's success lies in his talent for making fundraising fun and combining giving with sports.

About the Caring Institute

The Caring Institute's mission is to promote the values of caring, integrity, and public service. It was founded in 1985 by Val J. Halamandaris after a meeting with Mother Teresa, who told him there was a poverty of the spirit seen in the developed world that was much worse than the poverty of the body seen in the Third World. When she directed him to do something about it, he founded an awards program that identifies those who give back to society in outstanding ways and then holds them up as role models for all. The Caring Institute is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and all donations are tax deductible by law.

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