



## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Outstanding Citizen Award Winners

**Bentonville, AR – January 17, 2012...**Mayor McCaslin is pleased to announce the 4th quarter winners of the Outstanding Citizen Award. The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter winners are: Horace Hardwick, Cara Ebersole, and Bentonville Noon Rotary Club.

Horace Hardwick was nominated by his daughter, Kim Mertes. Kim says of her dad, "He gives tirelessly and openly shares his love of his God, wife, family and community." Horace moved to Bentonville in 1989, and immediately became involved in the Bentonville community. Horace has served on several Boards that include NWACC Board of Directors; NWACC Foundation Board of Directors, Bentonville Airport Advisory Board, Arvest Bentonville Bank and Northwest Arkansas Cancer Challenge. He currently serves on the Community Development Corporation Board of Directors, Legacy Village Retirement Community Board of Directors, The Greenhouses @ Legacy Village Board of Directors and Circle of Life providing hospice care Board of Directors and capital campaign chair and Benton County Co-chair with his wife, Jeretta. After retiring from a 39 year career with General Electric Company, Horace was able to begin devoting more time to volunteering. Horace was elected to 3 terms on the Arkansas State Legislature, and was recently appointed by Governor Mike Beebe to the Higher Ed Coordinating Board of Directors. In a press release announcing the new appointees, Department of Higher Education Director Jim Purcell, Ed.D. said about Horace, "his professional life and volunteer work cover a large spectrum of what post-secondary education seeks to achieve and improve – from quality of life to economic development."

Cara Ebersole was nominated by teacher, Salle-Anne Whillock. Cara is a 12 year old 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Old High Middle School that is mature above her years. Cara has become a friend to an autistic student at her school. Ms. Whillock states that Cara has taken this young lady under her wing, not only at school, but also outside of the school day. Cara is the first to lend a helping hand to this student whatever the need. Cara is part of this student's daily routine, which is very important. Cara spends time with a friend that is a little different from the 'norm', but loves her for who she is, not what condition she has. Ms. Whillock mentions that Cara is well mannered, makes good grades, and is involved with many activities in school, and she also excels in soccer.

Organized October 23, 1924 with 18 members, the Bentonville Noon Rotary Club has grown to currently have 92 members. Rotary is a service organization that has invested a vast amount of time and energy into the Bentonville community. Some of the projects they have been involved with over the years include the County Fair, Girls and Boys State, Boy Scouts, and the Snack Packs for Kids program that began 4 years ago. The Snack Packs for Kids program is organized through the Samaritan Community Center. Once a month, club members purchase non-perishable food items that are then donated to the Snack Pack program. The program services over 3000 students in Northwest Arkansas who qualify for the free or reduced lunch program. The program is designed to provide meals/snacks for kids who do not have access to food over the weekend. The Rotary Club members have contributed countless hours, and thousands of dollars to benefit the Bentonville Community over the years. They have a room named in their honor at the Bentonville Public Library as a result of a multi-year capital campaign commitment met

by selling smoked pork shoulders. They also hold an annual Chicken Tetrazzini dinner with the money raised benefitting deserving Bentonville High School Seniors through providing college scholarships. Nominator Blair Cromwell states, "The Bentonville Noon Rotary Club lives by their motto, 'Service Above Self.' To put it simply, they are good people doing good things."

The Outstanding Citizen Award program was initiated in January 2011 to recognize the exceptional volunteer contributions of Bentonville residents. There are three award categories: adult, youth and community group. First quarter nominations will be accepted until March 23, 2012. To obtain a nomination form and additional information, please visit the City's website at [www.bentonvillear.com](http://www.bentonvillear.com).

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