



## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Outstanding Citizen Award Winners

**Bentonville, AR – October 18, 2011...**Mayor McCaslin is pleased to announce the 3rd quarter winners of the Outstanding Citizen Award. The 3rd quarter winners are: Richard Wells, Hunter Hook, and First Baptist Church of Bentonville Women's Ministry Clothing Giveaway Committee.

The City received two nominations for Mr. Richard Wells. When nominating Mr. Wells, Vicki Ronald, Executive Director of the Literacy Council, wrote, "Richard Wells has worked faithfully and tirelessly for the Literacy Council of Benton County for five years as a volunteer tutor. Over the course of those years, Richard has helped his students go from not knowing one word of English, to reading, writing and speaking the language. He has made his students more productive members of our community." Mr. Wells also serves on the Literacy Council's Board of Directors. Linda Stiles wrote, "His thoughtful and logical approach, coupled with his knowledge of the law, has been extremely helpful to the Board with some of the issues we have faced." Ms. Ronald said, "If anyone is an outstanding, loving, giving citizen of Bentonville, Richard is!"

Hunter Walton Hook was nominated by his former teacher, Mrs. Phyllis Abraham. Hunter has been volunteering since he was seven years old. He has participated in many volunteer activities; most notably at Habitat for Humanity, The Children's Museum of Northwest Arkansas, and Bentonville Church of Christ Community Care Day. He is a dedicated 5th grade student at Barker Middle School and loves to learn. Hunter is a member of his church Leadership Training for Christ Bible Bowl, Drama, & Choir team. He has been a member of an "Odyssey of the Mind" team for four years in the Bentonville Public Schools. His team went to the State championship event three years and made it to the World Championship in 2010. Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. He served as an Ambassador & Recycling Ranger at R.E. Baker Elementary School. He won a *Kid's Directory* essay contest and his picture appeared on the July cover. Hunter is a multi-talented baseball player; playing left field, 2<sup>nd</sup> base and pitcher. He and his team members won the "Cal Ripken 10 year old State Championship" this summer. Hunter is also the ball boy for the Bentonville High School Tigers football team. His mother, Holly boasts, "He is a fabulous big brother to 2 year old Jacoby." Mrs. Abraham said, "Hunter bridges all age groups with his enthusiasm and leadership qualities. He has a deep love for our city and passion to make Bentonville a better place to live through his day-to-day contributions."

Since 2003, the Women's Ministry of First Baptist Church of Bentonville has hosted an annual Clothing Giveaway in the month of August. In 2011, the Women's Ministry of First Baptist Church Clothing Giveaway Committee clocked approximately 1,500 hours preparing for and executing this giveaway. The event could not happen without the generosity of the many citizens who donate clothing items to this cause. In order to be successful, the Clothing Giveaway requires the help of many volunteers. This year, 225 volunteers were tasked with cleaning, sorting, hanging, and organizing thousands of items of clothing. Over 2,000 needy children and adults were provided clothing from the approximately 60,000 items donated. Over the life of this annual event, 1,325 volunteers have donated 9,600 hours and have

served over 10,000 people. They have provided clothes for people to wear to work, and clothes for children to wear to school at no cost to the recipients.

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. Fourth quarter nominations will be accepted until December 23, 2011. 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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