



## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Outstanding Citizen Award Winners

**Bentonville, AR – July 11, 2011...** Mayor McCaslin is pleased to announce the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter winners of the Outstanding Citizen Award. The 2nd quarter winners are: Joy Shorb and Helping Hands, Inc. No nominations were received in the youth category.

The City received two nominations for Ms. Joy Shorb. Like many of us, Ms. Shorb takes daily walks to maintain good health and fitness. But, it's what she does on these daily walks that make a difference in our community. She collects litter from two of the City's widely used parks; Memorial Park and Orchards Park. Parks Department staff member, Jimmy Walden wrote, "Everyday, Ms. Shorb walks Orchards and Memorial Park with a trash bag in her hand. And, everyday she fills her trash bag with litter that is scattered throughout the park from the previous day's activities. She isn't a fair weather walker. She is at the park during the hottest days of summer and the coldest days of winter." Mr. and Mrs. Richard Anderson said, "To us, she makes our city cleaner, more appealing and safer. We have seen her go way beyond her walking area, even into the street, to pick up trash. By her actions, she shows what we as individuals can do and should do – one at a time, anytime to make life better in Bentonville."

More than 145 volunteers donate their time to Helping Hands each and every week of the year. Earlier this year, the organization celebrated its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In 2010, Helping Hands provided \$2.4 million in aid to the people of Benton County. Mrs. Wylene Cohagan certainly wouldn't have dreamed of this success back in 1972. In that year, she was the Ecumenical Chairman of the Bentonville Methodist Church when she asked her Pastor if she could invite other church members to a meeting to discuss community needs. The group met monthly and named themselves Ecumenical Friends. Mrs. Cohagan served as the President of the founding organization Ecumenical Friends from 1972 until 1976. Ecumenical Friends held rummage sales and other fundraising events to raise needed monies and other donations for the disadvantaged. Then, on April 29, 1976, Helping Hands Thrift store opened in the historic Massey Hotel building located at 121 West Central. Today, Helping Hands is a non-profit organization operated as a partnership of 26 churches from throughout Benton County. In addition to the thrift store located at 320 Airport Road, Helping Hands operates one of the largest food pantries in NW Arkansas providing food to more than 900 families each month. Mayor McCaslin said, "I would be hard-pressed to find many citizens who haven't either shopped in the thrift store or made a donation of some type. Helping Hands is one of the finest non-profits in NW Arkansas and its volunteers are truly outstanding."

The Outstanding Citizen Award program was initiated in January 2011 to recognize the exceptional volunteer contributions of Bentonville residents. The Mayor chooses three winners, one in each category, i.e., adult, youth and community group. Third quarter nominations will be accepted until September 16, 2011. To obtain a nomination form and additional information, please visit the City's website at [www.bentonvillear.com](http://www.bentonvillear.com).