



**Making a Difference for Women and Girls  
March 2008 Recipient  
Julie Martinez**

A program to honor local women  
who help improve the lives of  
Women and Children  
in our local community.

Julie Martinez is our 2008 Honoree. She is one of those exceptional people who has devoted her life to serving others. Although she could live a life of elegant ease, she works tirelessly as a volunteer in numerous organizations focusing on developing the potential of women and girls. She has even opened her home to those in need. Julie's radiant smile belies the personal obstacles and struggles she's overcome. Throughout her life she has reflected on why she loves to help people and attributes it to the influences of her mother, parental aunt and distant relations for the efforts to improve the lives of others.

Julie's PTA involvement ignited her passion to serve. The Junior League trained her to become a community leader while developing the potential of women. This broadened her outreach to membership on the Medford School District Teen Parent Program Advisory Board, Rogue Valley Women's Association, Jackson County Commission on Children and Families, Prevention Council, Rogue Valley Community Development Corporation, American Cancer Society Hillcrest Committee, and the Oregon State Commission for Voluntary Action and Service (appointed by the Governor).

Julie's work to encourage girls and women gives her the greatest joy. Her training as an EMT enabled her to identify and focus on their needs. After taking in a homeless pregnant teen, Julie networked to reopen a Homeless Teen Parent Home, The Magdalene Home. This home teaches life skills and provides a safe place for homeless girls and their children while requiring school attendance. She and her husband, Chuck, support them financially, share networking resources and are working to help start an in-home teen Mom enterprise. A personal 10 year mentoring of two women whose lives were severely affected by sex, drugs, abuse and an extreme lack of proper modeling of life-skills, now 23 and 39, has been extremely rewarding to Julie.