

# *Governor's Service Recognition 2015*



*"I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service.  
I acted and behold, service was joy."*

*~ Rabindranath Tagore*



# *Governor's Service Recognition*

## *2015*

10:05 am Pledge of Allegiance

10:10 am Welcome by Amber Noggle

10:15 am Award Presentation

**Governor's Community Service AmeriCorps Program Honoree**  
Pathfinders' 2013-2014 AmeriCorps Team ~ Wisconsin  
Association for Homeless and Runaway Services, Milwaukee

**Marty Stein Friend of National Service Exemplary Supporter**  
Susan F. Mikulay ~ College Possible Milwaukee

**Governor's Disability Inclusion Award**  
Goodwill AmeriCorps Financial Empowerment Services  
~ Goodwill Milwaukee

**Governor's Volunteer Engagement Award**  
Rev. Erik Koepnick ~ Guest House of Milwaukee

**Governor's Veteran Volunteer Service Award**  
Rick Steeber ~ Foster Grandparent, DePere

**Governor's Senior Corps Participant or Program Honoree**  
Linda Timm ~ RSVP Waukesha County

10:45 am Remarks from Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch

10:50 am Closing Remarks

10:55 am Photographs

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The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and Serve Wisconsin support service in Wisconsin that strengthens communities and enriches lives. We all know that America's challenges are real and urgent. We need all Americans, especially those who have proven themselves to be citizen leaders, to get involved in changing lives and communities. Today we honor individuals who have done just that.

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**Pathfinders' 2013-2014 AmeriCorps Team** is receiving the AmeriCorps Program of the Year award. Pathfinders of Milwaukee is a nonprofit, community-based organization that assists homeless youth throughout the city of Milwaukee. Five AmeriCorps members from the Wisconsin Association for Homeless and Runaway Services played a vital role in Pathfinders' success. From September 2013 through December 2014, AmeriCorps Members made over 7,000 contacts with individuals on the street and organized safe living arrangements for over 500 at-risk youth. AmeriCorps Members also distributed over 42,000 resource cards on services offered by Pathfinders and other community agencies during the 2013-2014 program year.

**Susan F. Mikulay** will receive the Marty Stein Friend of Service Exemplary Supporter award. Susan has spent the past three years helping to ensure that College Possible Milwaukee can support and expand program services to more low-income students as they get into and through college. Susan's leadership has helped the organization secure close to \$1 million in donations from local corporations and foundations. Her participation in site visits and donor meetings, writing letters of support and making personal phone calls has been integral in opening the door to new relationships within Milwaukee.

**Goodwill AmeriCorps Financial Empowerment Services** will receive the Disability Inclusion Award. The Goodwill AmeriCorps Financial Empowerment program provides free financial literacy education, Social Security benefits education and free VITA tax preparation services to Goodwill participants and the general public. During the 2013-2014 program year the AmeriCorps team met or surpassed their individual and team objectives. Susan Logsdon, Senior Tax Specialist with the IRS, noted that the AmeriCorps team has nearly doubled the number of tax clients served through the VITA tax program since starting at Goodwill in 2012.

**Rev. Erik Koepnick** will receive the Volunteer Engagement Award. The Guest House of Milwaukee's volunteer program draws on the support of over 600 unique volunteers each year to enhance the varied programs and service offered to the guests and clients. Erik Koepnick, manager of communications and volunteer services, is the primary staff person tasked with coordinating the diverse volunteer population of this organization. From preparing and serving meals, working in the residential services office, to helping in the gardens, Erik strives to create meaningful experiences for each volunteer. In the dynamic daily operations at a homeless shelter, Erik has proven to be truly remarkable in assessing situations, identifying needs, and making meaningful and effective volunteer opportunities for all present.

**Rick Steeber** will receive the Veteran Volunteer Service Award. Rick Steeber, affectionately known as Grandpa Rick, served during the Vietnam War and has been associated with various Veterans associations including the Disabled Veterans Association. Rick continues his service as a Foster Grandparent at De Pere Encompass Childcare Center, a SCORE Counselor and a Chairperson at THRIVE. He is on the Downtown Green Bay Holiday Parade Committee, the Celebrate De Pere Committee and volunteers with the De Pere Area Chamber of Commerce, Our Lady of Lourdes, The United Way, Junior Achievement, and many other organizations. Besides being an avid volunteer, Grandpa Rick is an advocate for children, veterans, and all those in need.

**Linda Timm** - RSVP Waukesha County will receive the Governor's Senior Corps Program award. Linda's volunteer service addresses education needs at Riverside Elementary School located in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. Linda serves 370+ students (K-5) and staff members as a classroom tutor, library leader, volunteer trainer and health room assistant. Linda is an advocate for school libraries and stresses the importance of reading books as learning opportunities through libraries, even while new technology is utilized in schools.

*AmeriCorps Oath*

I will get things done for America  
to make our people safer,  
smarter, and healthier.

I will bring Americans together  
to strengthen our communities.

Faced with apathy,  
I will take action.

Faced with conflict,  
I will seek common ground.

Faced with adversity,  
I will persevere.

I will carry this commitment  
with me this year and beyond.

I am an AmeriCorps member,  
and I will get things done.



Goodwill AmeriCorps Financial  
Empowerment Services,  
Disability Inclusion Honoree

**Serve Wisconsin**

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Serve Wisconsin  
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Volunteer Wisconsin  
[volunteerwisconsin.org](http://volunteerwisconsin.org)

Corporation for National & Community Service  
[cns.gov](http://cns.gov)



pathfinders

AmeriCorps  
Program Honoree  
Pathfinders'  
2013-2014  
AmeriCorps Team

Marty Stein Friend of  
National Service  
Exemplary Supporter,  
Susan F. Mikulay



*Special Thanks to  
Lt. Governor Kleefisch  
&  
Amber Noggle*

Volunteer  
Engagement  
Honoree,  
Rev. Erik  
Koepnick



Volunteer  
Veteran  
Honoree,  
Rick Steeber

Linda Timm,  
Senior Corps  
Honoree



**Scott Walker**  
Governor

**Kathleen Groat**  
Chair

**Thomas H. Devine**  
Executive Director



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## SERVE WISCONSIN!

**For Immediate Release:**  
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### **Governor's Service Recognition Winners Announced**

[**Madison, Wisconsin**] – Six winners will be recognized at the Governor's Service Recognition ceremony at 10:00 A.M., on June 4 at the Monona Terrace located at One John Nolen Dr., Madison, WI 53703. The Governor's Service Recognitions are presented to programs and individuals participating in organizations funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) through AmeriCorps and Senior Corps. This event provides an opportunity to recognize organizations and individuals that help solve serious social problems and help strengthen their community. Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch will speak and present the awards. Amber Noggle of the channel 27 News Team will emcee.

### **2015 Governor's Service Awards**

#### **Governor's Community Service AmeriCorps Participant or Program Honoree**

*Pathfinders' 2013-2014 AmeriCorps Team ~ Wisconsin Association for Homeless and Runaway Services, Milwaukee*

#### **Governor's Senior Corps Participant or Program Honoree**

*Linda Timm - RSVP Waukesha County*

#### **Marty Stein Friend of National Service Exemplary Supporter**

*Susan F. Mikulay – Milwaukee*

#### **Governor's Veteran Volunteer Service Award**

*Rick Steeber – DePere*

#### **Governor's Volunteer Engagement Award**

*Rev. Erik Koepnick – Guest House of Milwaukee*

#### **Governor's Disability Inclusion Award**

*Goodwill AmeriCorps Financial Empowerment Services – Milwaukee*

Serve Wisconsin and the CNCS State Office, sponsors the Governor's Service Recognitions.

Serve Wisconsin is a 22-member citizen body appointed by the Governor responsible for overseeing AmeriCorps grants, which address unmet human, environmental, public safety, educational, and homeland security needs. For more information about Serve Wisconsin or funded AmeriCorps programs, visit [www.servewisconsin.wi.gov](http://www.servewisconsin.wi.gov)

The Corporation for National and Community Service provides opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their communities and country through programs like AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, the Social Innovation Fund, the Volunteer Generation Fund, and more. The Corporation is working to build a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility in America. For more information, visit [www.nationalservice.gov/](http://www.nationalservice.gov/).

Now more than ever, it's important to make every dollar count. National service is a cost-effective solution that taps the power of citizens to get things done. We multiply the impact of our investment by generating hundreds of millions of non-federal dollars, mobilizing millions of additional volunteers, and operating with a high degree of accountability and efficiency:

**Following are brief descriptions of each award winner.**



**Pathfinders' 2013-2014 AmeriCorps Team** is receiving the Governor's recognition for an AmeriCorps program who has contributed significantly to community service. Pathfinders of Milwaukee is a nonprofit, community based organization that assist homelessness youth throughout the city. Five AmeriCorps members from the Wisconsin Association for Homeless and Runaway Services play a vital role in this organizations success. From 9/1/2013 through 12/31/2014 AmeriCorps Members working in conjunction with other Pathfinders staff made 7,087 contacts with individuals on the street and distributed 42,431 resource cards on services offered by Pathfinders and other community agencies. They organized safe living arrangements for 503 at risk youth and another 273 young people made use of Pathfinders' emergency shelter. "Pathfinder's becomes a constant stabilizing place in their lives. The first step towards leading a successful fulfilling life, which is all these youth really want. Then again, isn't that all anyone wants?" Tanya Kruit, former AmeriCorps member.

**Linda Timm - RSVP Waukesha County** will receive the Governor's Senior Corps Program award. Linda's volunteer service addresses education needs at Riverside Elementary School located in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. Due to staff cuts in the district, Riverside School in Menomonee Falls no longer has a full-time librarian, sufficient staffing for the school's health room, and has fewer classroom aides to assist students who need one-on-one help. Linda serves 370+ students (K-5) and staff members as a classroom tutor, library leader, volunteer trainer and health room assistant. Students know her and refer to her as "Grandma Timm." Linda is an advocate for school libraries and stresses the importance of reading books as learning opportunities through libraries, even while new technology is utilized in schools.

**Susan Mikulay**, will receive the Marty Stein Friend of Service Exemplary Supporter award for his outstanding support to National Service. Susan's belief in both the abilities of Milwaukee students and the power of national service lead her to College Possible, and to serving as their board chair. As a leader in the Milwaukee community, she serves College Possible in order to make the city a brighter place for all, and to bring more idealistic, driven recent college graduates to Milwaukee to have a direct impact on poverty. Susan has spent the past three years helping to ensure that College Possible Milwaukee can help support and expand program services to more low-income students as they get into and through college. Susan has been integral to the organization by helping College Possible substantially increase donations through sponsorship. Additionally, Susan's leadership has helped the organization secure close to \$1 million in donations from local corporations and foundations. Her participation in site visits and donor meetings, writing letters of support and making personal phone calls has been integral in opening the door to new relationships within Milwaukee community. Susan leads College Possible's local board by example. She does not ask board members, volunteers or staff to do something she has not already done for the organization.

**Rick Steeber** will receive the Veteran Volunteer Service Award. Richard Steeber, affectionately known as Grandpa Rick, has an extensive background in service. Grandpa Rick served during the Vietnam War era and has been associated with various Veterans associations including the Disabled Veterans Association. A few of the other organizations that Grandpa Rick has been involved with during the past year include, but are not limited to, De Pere Encompass Childcare Center as a Foster Grandparent, The United Way, SCORE Counselor, the De Pere Area Chamber of Commerce, THRIVE Chairperson, Celebrate De Pere, Downtown Green Bay Holiday Parade Committee, Our Lady of Lourdes, Junior Achievement, and the AITP (Association of Information Technology Professionals). Besides being an avid volunteer, Grandpa Rick is an advocate for children, veterans, and all those in need. He not only wraps his arms around needy children, but he wraps his heart around his community, his state, and his nation.

**Goodwill AmeriCorps Financial Empowerment Services** will receive the Disability Inclusion Award. The Goodwill AmeriCorps Financial Empowerment program provides free financial literacy education, Social Security benefits education and free VITA tax preparation services to Goodwill participants and the general public. The focus has been on providing free services to individuals who have a disability or low income. During the time frame of 09/1/13 and 12/31/14 the AmeriCorps team has met or surpassed their individual and team objectives. Over 400 Goodwill participants participated in financial education training in Banking, Budgeting and Credit. One-on-one financial coaching was provided to 39 individuals by the team to work on goals set by the participants. Susan Logsdon, Senior Tax Specialist with the IRS noted that the AmeriCorps team has nearly doubled the number of tax clients served through the VITA tax program since starting at Goodwill in 2012. We have found that as people find employment, learn to manage their income and learn the value of saving and building credit, they are able to move to greater financial independence.

**Rev. Erik Koepnick of Guest House of Milwaukee** will receive the Volunteer Engagement Award. The Guest House of Milwaukee's volunteer program draws on the support of over 600 unique volunteers each year to enhance the varied programs and service offered to the guests and clients. Erik Koepnick, manager of communications and volunteer services, is the primary staff person tasked with coordinating the diverse volunteer population of this organization. From preparing and serving meals, working in the residential services office, to helping in the gardens, Erik strives to create meaningful experiences for each volunteer. Erik also seeks to develop unique ways for the guests and clients to engage in service to the organization. In the dynamic daily operations at a homeless shelter, Erik has proven to be truly remarkable in assessing situations, identifying needs, and making meaningful and effective volunteer opportunities for all present. His calming presence and ability to relate to others in a compassionate manner has proved to be an asset and a comfort to many.