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West Valley employees win humanitarian awards

CALDWELL — Three West Valley Medical Center employees recently won 2010 Frist Humanitarian Awards for their extensive community service both inside and outside the hospital.

The winner of the Employee Award was Karen Baese, an administrative executive assistant. Richard Augustus, MD of family medicine at West Valley Medical Group, won the Physician Award. The Volunteer Award went to Mary Sedlar.

The Frist Humanitarian Award is given in recognition of the humanitarian efforts and achievements of the late Dr. Thomas F. Frist Sr., a founder of Hospital Corporation of America, which is the parent company of West Valley.

Baese was recognized in part because of how she uses her knowledge of the hospital and how it runs to make meaningful connections with patients and co-workers. She also has been involved in many community-building events, including the Caldwell Foundation for Educational Opportunity Golf Tournament.

Dr. Augustus is well-known in the Treasure Valley — and especially in the West Valley community — for key connections he makes with every patient. Over the years he also has spent many hours helping transient individuals medically and otherwise, and mentoring youth in Boy Scouts of America.

Since 1989, Sedlar has volunteered 11,000 hours at West Valley. She helps ensure patients who enter the emergency department are properly greeted and made comfortable. She also is intimately involved in the Caldwell Ramblers charter of the Good Sam Club, helping with everything from soda-can drives for the Ronald McDonald House to making quilts for neighbors who are ill or hospitalized.