

# Idaho's 'heroes' in health care honored at annual event

**By Steve Martin**  
IDAHO BUSINESS REVIEW

Thirty health care professionals and organizations statewide were recognized last week during the Idaho Business Review's annual Health Care Heroes Awards dinner.

About 250 people attended the event, held Oct. 8 at the Boise Centre on the Grove in downtown Boise. Doug Petcash of KTVB emceed. Sponsors included Regence BlueShield of Idaho, Idaho State University, Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center and Verdi Wealth Planning.

The Health Care Heroes program was developed by the IBR as a way to acknowledge and celebrate the tireless dedication and service of Idaho individuals, organizations, hospitals, clinics, educational institutions and programs in the area of health care committed to improving the lives of others.

During the awards dinner, the IBR presented a \$1,000 Health Care Hero scholarship to Meredith Ann Alder of Boise. Alder is pursuing her master's degree in speech and language pathology through Idaho State University.

Awardees are profiled in the Idaho Health Care Heroes magazine, featured in this week's paper. Here is the list of this year's recipients:

- Advancements in Health Care Hero**
- Joseph Harris, program manager, Extra Hands for ALS, Meridian.
  - Volunteer Physicians Network, Genesis World Mission, Garden City (top honor).
  - Dr. Christian Zimmerman, neurosurgeon/health economist, Idaho Neurological Institute, Boise.
  - Community Outreach Hero
  - Brake for Breakfast Community Breast Cancer Awareness Event, The Hospital Cooperative & Portneuf Medical Center, Pocatello (top honor).



IBR publisher Rick Carpenter presents the Rehabilitation Care award to Diane Rampelberg & "best friend" Ovelle during the Idaho Health Care Hero Awards dinner on Oct. 8.

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logical sciences, Boise State University, Boise.

- **Elder/Hospice Care Hero**
- Doris Foruria, administrator, The Cottages of Emmett, Emmett (top honor).
- Heart 'n Home Hospice & Palliative Care, Fruitland.
- Hospice & Palliative Care of the Wood River Valley, Ketchum.
- **Emergency, Fire & Rescue Hero**
- Robert Mayes, reserve EMT, Ada County Paramedics, Boise.
- Barbara Pyle, deputy chief EMS, Donnelly Rural Fire Protection District, Donnelly (top honor).
- Jeremy Schabot, paramedic/field training officer, Ada County Paramedics, Boise.
- **Health Care Professional Hero**
- Sarah Berg, marketing manager, Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, Boise (top honor).
- Jill Howell, assistant administrator, Patient Care Services, St. Benedicts Family Medical Center, Jerome.
- Belinda Stockton, lab manager, Clearwater Valley Hospital & Clinics, Orofino.
- **Nurse Hero**
- Sharon Bistodeau, RN/Emergency Department shift manager, Bonner General Hospital, Sandpoint.
- Jill Howell, assistant administrator, Patient Care Services, St. Benedicts Family Medical Center, Jerome (top honor).
- Diane Shoemaker, staff RN, St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, Boise.
- **Physician Hero**
- Dr. Ben Katz, retired pediatrician, Twin Falls (top honor).
- Dr. Richard Thurston, Emergency Department director/physician, Benewah Community Hospital, St. Maries.
- Dr. Steven Writer, cardiologist, Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, Boise.
- **Rehabilitation Care Hero**
- Idaho State University Boise Speech & Language Clinic, Boise.
- Diane Rampelberg & Ovelle, canine modality specialist/assistance dog, Dustin's Paw, Kuna (top honor).
- Saint Alphonsus Rehabilitation Services WorkSTAR Program, Boise.
- **Volunteer Hero**
- Dr. C. Stamey English, volunteer, Snake River Community Clinic, Lewiston (top honor).
- Dr. Elaine Ladd, clinical assistant professor/clinical pharmacy specialist, Idaho State University College of Pharmacy/Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, Boise.
- Richard Rogunas, volunteer, Snake River Community Clinic, Lewiston.

- Susan Morris, patient safety officer, St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center, Twin Falls.
- John & Sandra Sexton, medical technologist/clinic coordinator/RN, Mustard Tree Community Wellness Clinic, Twin Falls. Educator Hero
- Dr. Cheryl Jorcyk, associate professor of biological sciences, Boise State University, Boise.
- Judy Thorne, HIV education coordinator - Master of Public Health Program, Idaho State University - Boise campus, Boise (top honor).
- Dr. Denise Wingett, associate professor of bio-