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Volunteering Works 2010 Recipients

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By [Sara Geimer](#) | August 2010



Cynthia M. Dwyer, CRS, SRES, of Weichert, REALTORS®, in Vienna, Va., provides clothing to families who are visiting wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Many of the soldiers' spouses rush to Walter Reed with only an overnight bag, only to find out they'll be spending months there. Dwyer arranges clothing distributions at hotels. Her mentor is Cynthia Shafer (2002 Good Neighbor Award winner), Lahaina Realty Inc., Ft. Myers Beach, Fla., founder of Beds for Kidz (part of Voices of Kids of Southwest Florida).



Leslie Heath, of Century 21 Service Realty Inc., in Paducah, Ky., started the [Oscar Cross Legacy Committee](#) to restore a historic home and turn it into an after-school homework and meal center for children in the community. The home had belonged to the late Oscar Cross, a local civic leader. Heath's mentor is Regina Ragon (2009 winner), Prudential Realty Center, Flintstone, Ga., founder of Latin American Community Development. Heath will seek guidance on how to network with local businesses.



Joyce R. Long, of Prudential Shimmering Sands Realty in Panama City Beach, Fla., found [Acton Up With Downs](#) Inc. to increase awareness and acceptance of people with Down syndrome. The group holds support groups for caregivers and sends "New Parent Packets" to doctor's offices and clinics. Long's mentor is Claudette Bruck, CCIM, (2001 honorable mention) of Multiple Choice Realty Investments in Tamarac, Fla. Bruck, who works with Broward Partnership for the Homeless, will share knowledge of recruiting community leaders.



Sarah J. Sorenson, GRI, of Whale's Trail Realty Inc. in Kahului, Hawaii, created [Wishing Well ...](#) for Maui students to assemble wish lists for 32 budget-crunched public schools in Maui and find individual and corporate donors who can make those wishes come true. Her mentor is Victor Kee, ABR, CRB, (2008 honorable mention) of Pete Anderson Realty Inc. in Astoria, Ore., for his work with Sunday Supper and Sunday Meals on Wheels. Sorenson wants to learn how to communicate better with school administrators.



Donna Whiskeman, of RE/MAX Cimarron Realty LLC in Ridgway, Colo., founded a group called Neighbor to Neighbor in 2006 to serve seniors and adults who are homebound or disabled. In her rural county, it's not easy for seniors to get to doctor appointments or access other services. She and her volunteers deliver meals, take seniors shopping, and provide handyman services. Her mentor is Silvia S. Rodriguez, CIPS, GRI, (2003 honorable mention) with Silvia International Realty in Rockville, Md., and a volunteer leader with Centro Catolico Hispano.

The 2010 Good Neighbor Awards winners will be announced in the November/December issue of REALTOR® Magazine. To learn more, visit REALTOR.org/GNA.

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