



Annual Awards of Excellence

OPCA Annual Awards Nomination Form

Please fill out the form below to nominate your colleagues for OPCA's Annual Awards of Excellence

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The name and photo associated with your Google account will be recorded when you upload files and submit this form. Only the email you enter is part of your response.

* Indicates required question

Email *

lknope@pawneeparks.gov

Please list your name, job title, and organization

Leslie Knope, Assistant Director, Parks Depart

Please select the award you're applying for *

- Innovation and Leadership in Transformation
- CHC Value
- Access and Sustainability:
- Health Equity and Social Justice
- CHC Advocacy
- Lifetime Achievement

Please name the nominee(s) for this award, along with their title(s) and organization(s) *

Anne Perkins, RN, Public Relations Director of

Please tell us about the community your organization serves and some of the challenges patients and/or employees face each day. (250 words or less) *

Pawnee is located in south central Oregon, 90 miles from Portland and 35 miles past Eugene. It is the state's seventh-largest city. Pawnee 80,000 citizens deal with a variety of chronic health issues, i.e. diabetes (21%) and hypertension (18%). Many of the Pawnee's prevalent health conditions are exacerbated by a lack of access to health food and drink options. In fact, the town's largest employers are a fast food company and a candy company - leading many citizens to also purchase and consume the products they make at work. Ann's department works diligently to educate the public on healthy living skills. Ann also leads efforts to improve Pawnee's public resources to support people on their health journeys. Ann and her team identified a lack of public drinking fountains as one reason why so many of their patients are dehydrated.

How did the nominee(s) learn about the problem they set out to solve? What inspired them to act? (250 words or less) *

Ever since Ann joined the Pawnee government, she has continually sought ways to collect feedback from citizens. She has knocked on doors, attended town hall meetings, and helped to organize community events like valentines day dances and the Pawnee Harvest Festival. As she talked with and listened to so many of her neighbors, she noticed recurring themes to people's concerns about public health. People often mentioned having headaches and other symptoms of dehydration but were surprised when Anne explained their symptoms could indicate they were dehydrated. Many of the people she spoke with were resistant to drinking water straight from their taps, due to long standing distrust of Pawnee's water and sewer department. Anne was inspired to act when she went for a jog through town with her friend, Chris Traeger, and during their run, they could not find a single water fountain to quench their thirst. Ann realized that a lack of public infrastructure was likely contributing to people's dehydration and reliance on drinks other than water.

When they started their work, what challenges did they face in making their vision a reality? (250 words or less) *

Ann faced several challenges in making her vision of public water fountains a reality. First, she needed to secure funding for her project, and Pawnee operates on a notoriously tight budget. Second, she needed to launch a public outreach strategy to educate Pawnee citizens on the availability of clean water and the benefits of staying hydrated.

Ann's deep involvement in the community meant she also had connections with a variety of local businesses. She spoke with leaders of several prominent businesses (Jay Jay's Diner and Sue's Salads) to ask if they would be interested in financially supporting a project to place public drinking fountains around the city of Pawnee. Anne secured \$100,000 to commission six "bubbler" fountains.

Ann also anticipated community resistance to changing their drinking habits, so she partnered with a local marketing company, Entertainment 720, to launch a series of viral explainer videos on the benefits of drinking 10 cups of water a day. Entertainment 720 also brought on local celebrity, Johnny Karate, to write songs that would resonate with younger audiences.

Did the nominee(s) partner with others or other organizations? If so, what kinds of support did they give or receive? (250 words or less) *

Ann partnered with local businesses - Jay Jay's Diner, Sue's Salads, and Entertainment 720. The restaurants provided financial support for Ann's project. Entertainment 720 donated their time and skills to project. All this was made possible because Ann is a pillar in the community. People trust Ann because she is intelligent, kind, and extremely good at her job.

What is the lasting impact of the nominee(s) work? (250 words or less) *

Pawnee's new public drinking fountains and ongoing campaign to tout the values of drinking water has led to a 35% decrease in reported symptoms of dehydration. Anecdotally, children on public playgrounds like to sing Johnny Karate's song, "Drink some water." Slowly but surely, we see a positive shift in public perceptions about the importance of drinking water. The water fountains are expertly designed to fit the aesthetic of Pawnee, and they are located in areas with high foot traffic to ensure public access and ease of use.

Much of this project was made possible by Ann herself. She is the thought leader who identified the problem. She is the diplomat who leveraged her personal and professional connections to secure partnerships with local businesses to make this project financially feasible. She is the organizer behind all the logistical aspects of the project as well. None of this would be possible without Ann's guiding light.

Has the nominee(s) received other awards and recognition for their work? Have others begun to replicate their idea? (250 words or less)

Your answer

In addition to the short answer questions above, you may provide up to three letters of support from patients or peers which describe how the nominee(s) embody the spirit of the award.

Upload up to 5 supported files. Max 10 MB per file.

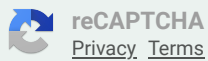
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