

# NEWS RELEASE

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For more Information, Contact  
Debbie Miller, IOM, ACE  
debmiller@gwpcc.biz  
President  
719-687-9885

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## CHAMBER ANNOUNCES AWARD WINNERS

**WOODLAND PARK, COLORADO** -- The Greater Woodland Park Chamber of Commerce announced today the winners of the following awards: Volunteer, Employee, Non Profit and Business of the Year, along with naming the Wagon Boss. These annual awards will be presented at the Chamber's Annual Gala on Friday, March 15, 2019 at Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs. Dinner tickets are available by contacting the Chamber office at 719-687-9885 or going to the website at [www.woodlandparkchamber.com](http://www.woodlandparkchamber.com).

The Chamber accepts nominations for each division over a six-week period. Once the nomination process is closed, they are submitted to the judges who come from outside of the Woodland Park and Teller County region. The judges are tasked to evaluate and score according to the fulfillment of qualifications requested within the nomination form. “The number of submitted nominations for all categories was the largest I have seen in my 14 years with the Chamber,” said Debbie Miller, President of the Greater Woodland Park Chamber. “We understand throughout our region there are so many individuals, businesses and non-profits who work hard every day to enrich our lives through a myriad of different avenues. The judges confirmed our understanding and shared their task to evaluate and score was a difficult process related to the sheer level of achievements by all the nominees.” concluded Ms. Miller.

This year's Volunteer was described as a **SUPERHERO**, a born leader with the unique ability to encourage participation from everyone involved within those organizations where she volunteers. Over the past 40 years, Karolyn Smith has been active with the Girl Scouts, the Dickson Auditorium project, the Woodland Aquatic project, CHOICES, Friends of Mueller State Park, Teller Senior Citizens Organization, Pikes Peak

Regional Medical Center Foundation, Holiday Home Tour and the Ute Pass Symphony Guild. Karolyn was described as extremely gracious and a supportive role model for countless numbers of other volunteers. It was noted within her nomination, she possesses a special talent to make everyone and their ideas feel valued and appreciated while keeping committees on task and focused. Her talent is beyond anything that can be taught or learned; it is a talent that is organically inherent to a person that is humble, kind and caring. Her involvement within the numerous and varied committees was noted as bringing the community closer together. Adversity is met head on by Karolyn where she finds a way to make challenging situations into assets. There is no expectation or desire to seek recognition or praise for Karolyn as her demeanor is to be the first to give credit and appreciation to others. “She truly is the most humble volunteer whose desire is to better the community where she has lived over the past 40 years.” said Jim Olsen, Chairman of the Chamber.

This year the Chamber is awarding a Large Non Profit and Small Non Profit in respect to their financial budgets. The 2018 Small Non Profit award winner is Cruise Above the Clouds Car Club. For over 27 years, they have planned and organized the annual Cruise Above the Clouds Car Show held in Woodland Park in September. The car show is recognized as one of the best shows held in the Pikes Peak region, and has been featured twice on My Classic Car, which is a nationally televised car program. Each year the number of participants has steadily grown in numbers and in 2018, there were over 300 registered participants. Over the years, the clubs' effort has distributed more than \$320,000.00 to support other non-profit Teller County organizations. In addition to supporting the primary mission of the club, the economic impact to the region is significant as one of the Signature Events held in Woodland Park and Teller County. “Thousands of visitors come to our region for this event,” said Chamber Board Member Vera Egbert. “Those visitors spend dollars here equating to a positive economic impact for the region.” The Large Non Profit of the Year is UCHealth Pikes Peak Regional Hospital. Over the last year, the UCHealth system has brought significant improvements to the lives of people in Teller and Park Counties. These improvements include utilization of the latest telemedicine technology to connect immediately with skilled stroke neurologists who deliver quick, effective treatment to reduce or eliminate long-term deficits caused by a stroke. Access to a general surgeon to ensure patients in the region receive advanced care

closer to home. Emergency and acute care surgeries, including appendectomies, hernia repair and colorectal surgery. As part of UCHealth, patients in region now have access to UCHealth's larger health care network, combining the strengths of the region's best academic and community hospitals to provide greater depth of medical services. As a nonprofit health system, UCHealth in fiscal year 2018 provided \$854 million in community benefits across Colorado through programs, facilities, subsidies, research and more, including \$359 million in uncompensated care. "For a community the size of Woodland Park, we are extremely fortunate to have an asset like UCHealth Pikes Peak Regional Hospital to meet the medical needs of our region," declared Debbie Miller, Chamber President. "As medicine evolves, we have the UCHealth's resources available to ensure our citizens accessibility to revolutionary medical care is here in our own community."

Criteria for the Employee award includes Goal Oriented, Organizational Skills, Dependability, Exemplary Work Ethic, Self-Motivation and Leadership. The 2018 Employee award winner excelled in all areas. Woodland Park Police Chief Miles DeYoung has served with the Woodland Park Police Department for more than 8 years, with the last 4 years as the Chief. In 2018, the Police Department set a record number of investigation of 1,639 cases, up from 1,596 in 2017. Under the leadership of Chief DeYoung, the 22 officers who make up his team responded to just short of an incredible 30,000 calls in 2018. His leadership skills were a key element of the success in handling such a large call volume. His officers and support staff know that his work ethic is remarkable. Chief DeYoung leads by example. He is the first person to give credit to those on his staff. His highest priority is the public safety of the citizens of Woodland Park. Most recently, the Police Department and community were faced with an incredible tragedy with a recent missing person's case. Chief DeYoung did not hesitate to initiate and lead this multi-jurisdictional investigation with impeccable professionalism and collaboration with the assistance of the Teller County Sheriff's Office, Teller County Search and Rescue, District Attorney's Office, Colorado Bureau of Investigation, FBI and other partner agencies in Idaho. This was a monumental task for a small police department, but Chief DeYoung took the responsibility in stride and with great professionalism. Chief DeYoung demonstrated impeccable organizational skills in maintaining daily operational activities and public safety requirements while also receiving and investigating hundreds of leads in Colorado and Idaho. "I feel strongly that his dependability, work ethic, and

exemplary service to our City was clearly demonstrated in his contributions in 2018.” said City Manager Darrin Tangeman. Chamber President Debbie Miller notes, “Not only does Chief DeYoung’s optimistic leadership style shine bright in our community, he seeks out opportunities for his officers to interact with the business community through training, partnerships and more. We, as a community reap the benefits of his passion to give generously to his team and his community to ensure we have a safe environment to work, play and raise our families.”

The Chamber seeks to honor a member business - small or large - that can meet or exceed the criteria of exceptional job growth, revenue growth, economic sustainability, exemplary customer service, response in times of adversity, and participates with their local community. This year, the Chamber is pleased to announce that Forest Ridge Senior Living is the recipient of the 2018 Business Award. Forest Ridge is a role model as a relatively new successful business in the community. Open for three years, Forest Ridge has become a major economic factor within the community. They bring approximately ninety high quality non-seasonal permanent jobs to Woodland Park. Additionally, there are over sixty individuals living there in short or longer-term stays. Forest Ridge is locally owned and operated by the Bob and Lori Schleicher family. They bring valuable experience, a successful record of accomplishment in Senior Living, and the nurturing that only a family-owned business enjoys. Forest Ridge Administrator, Roger Call notes the operation has been nationally recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid as a Five Star rated facility. Their most recent recognition was issued by US News and World Report in two categories of long-term care and short-term rehabilitation as One of America's Best Nursing Homes 2018 -2019. One family member of a Forest Ridge resident declared the facility is a personal treasure to them and many other families who have their loved ones residing there. Several of residents are local allowing them the benefit to stay within their own community. Following surgery, one local resident shared their fourteen days of intense rehabilitation therapy included continual intense care, physical therapy and occupational therapy as well as spiritual encouragement has given them a new normal in life. “Forest Ridge denotes what a true locally invested business means to our community economically,” said Barbara Asbury Chamber Board Member. “As we grow silver in our region, this resource gem serves an essential need for the community.”

The Greater Woodland Park Chamber's Wagon Boss is a person of great ethical standards, integrity and a distinguished leader who is actively involved in their community. This individual has made a positive and lasting impact on the region. In essence, they are the Citizen of the Year. The 2018 Wagon Boss David Butterly is no exception. David's commitment to community includes mentoring young men within the Boy Scouts organization to further their positions as Eagle Scouts. His passionate involvement and love for the Community Church has resulted in being named one of their church elders. One letter of recognition noted David is the definition of Integrity, which equals authenticity plus transparency and honesty. He genuinely is a humble man putting the needs of others ahead of himself. Within his duties as elder, he has taken a keen interest in assisting other men in the church and their families. His friendship, leadership and guidance has made a positive difference in their lives. "All who know David know his passion for those who currently serve or are veterans of our great nation. His commitment to the soldiers of Fort Carson has allowed the Woodland Park community to build a great working relationship with the base," said 2013 Wagon Boss Neil Levy. "David was instrumental in developing the connection with the 4<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion that worked so closely with us during the Hayman and Waldo Canyon Fires. In addition, their presence at the Lighter Side of Christmas Parade and Oktoberfest is always a hit with our community members," said Mr. Levy. David is known to have an avid passion and respect regarding the history of Woodland Park. He sought to learn as much about his community to understand where it began and how he might play a part with the future vision of Woodland Park - still protecting and maintaining respect for the community's history. During times of tragedy whether it was a personal friend, the school district, city staff, church family or business connections, over and over it was noted in his nomination that David was one of the first persons to reach out and not only offer help, but provided the assistance - many times in the background. He was described as steady and dependable during those times. "Many of our past Wagon Boss' have been awarded this high honor as a result of their service to the community through Business Ownership, Leadership positions within their place of employment and more. Charlie Oaks as Bank President, Spence Swann, Business Owner, Tony Perry, Terry Harrison, Clarke Becker, Lois and Glen Sills, Cal Elder, Rick Chulick, Karen (Cunningham) Lowry, Tom Carrick, Dave Spradling and so so many more," said Chamber President Debbie Miller. "David Butterly is now a part of an elite

group who has changed the history of our community for good through their service to community.” The list of his accomplishments during his watch as City Engineer and City Manager is significant and impactful. Memorial Park renovation - a beautiful gem and gathering place for citizens and visitors alike; commitment to making the dream of an Aquatic Center a reality; he led the community through two natural disasters - the Hayman and Waldo Canyon Fires; he represented Woodland Park and Teller County at the highest level of integrity with all of the surrounding municipal neighbors; serving on a school district task force to evaluate and offer solutions to challenges facing the district; and developing plans and building a new City Maintenance Garage allowed the City to meet the operational needs of the community. “If you have never experienced David’s “Chamber Tour”, then you have missed out,” said Wagon Boss Tony Perry. “His willingness to drive around citizens, potential new business investors or residents, even the press, pointing out all the highlights and extolling the virtues and amenities of our beautiful mountain was an asset to our region.” In the words of his daughter Amanda Howell, “David Buttery is a Wagon Boss. He is at the front of the crowd, clearing the way. He is at the back of the train tying up loose ends. He is in the middle of the pack offering encouragement, guidance, and support. He gives others the tools to do the same and leaves every place he goes better, just for having been there.”

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