



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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St. Luke's Honors Boise Woman for Philanthropy

-- Marilyn Shuler Hailed as Children's Advocate and Human Rights Champion--

St. Luke's Health Foundation has named Marilyn Shuler the 2009 recipient of the Ralph J. Comstock Jr. Light of Philanthropy Award.

Now in its 14th year, the annual award is given to individuals who have improved the community through their leadership, philanthropy and humanitarian efforts.

"Marilyn has been leading the efforts to promote human rights and provide positive opportunities for children for more than 45 years," said Gary Fletcher, St. Luke's Boise/Meridian CEO. "It's a pleasure to recognize such a passionate advocate and someone who has given so much back to our community and touched many lives with her efforts."

In 1970, Shuler was elected to the Boise School District Board of Trustees, serving as President in 1975 and 1976.

For 20 years, she served as the director of the Idaho Human Rights Commission, the state agency that enforces anti-discrimination statutes. Since retiring in 1998, Shuler has devoted her time and talents to numerous humanitarian efforts, including creation of the Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial, and the establishment of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment.

Following the death of her husband in 1985, Shuler helped establish the John D. Shuler Memorial Fund to provide foster children with positive opportunities, from swimming and karate lessons, to providing bicycles and camping equipment.

Shuler also volunteers for the Court Appointed Special Advocate program and Casey Family Programs, organizations that provide help and support to children in foster care.

Shuler has also served on countless community boards including the Boise Committee on Foreign Relations, the Idaho Black History Museum, City Club of Boise, Idaho Public Television, Junior League of Boise, YMCA, and Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning at Boise State University.

Shuler will be recognized Nov. 14 at the Boise Centre during the Ralph J. Comstock Jr. Light of Philanthropy Award and St. Luke's Ball. The event starts at 6 p.m. with a no-host cocktail reception followed by dinner and a night of live music and dancing.

The cost to attend the event is \$100. Tickets are available by calling St. Luke's Health Foundation at 381-2123.

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About the Award

The Comstock Light of Philanthropy Award, presented by the St. Luke's Health Foundation, provides unique recognition for the considerable achievements of those who reflect the humanitarian spirit and philanthropic leadership of Ralph J. Comstock, Jr. Comstock, who died in 1995, is credited with major philanthropic efforts that benefited Boise's Morrison Center for Performing Arts and helped improve the medical and cancer care at St. Luke's. Born in 1917 in Rexburg, Comstock earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Idaho. After a tour with the U.S. Army Medical Corps in WWII, Comstock entered the banking industry in Idaho eventually rising to the top executive for First Security Bank of Idaho before retiring in 1984.

Past Winners List

*2008: Anna Margaret Jones
2007: Jim Everett
2006: Judge Stephen Trott
2005: Carolyn Terteling-Payne
2004: Alice Hennessey
2003: Jim and Karin Nelson
2002: Harold Thomas
2001: A. Dale Dunn
2000: Robert V. Hansberger
1999: John and Dee Fery
1998: Velma V. Morrison
1997: J.R. and Esther Simplot
1996: Ralph J. Comstock, Jr. and Larry Kissler*