



**South Suburban  
PARKS AND RECREATION**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 15, 2015

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**South Suburban Pays Tribute to its 2014 VIP Volunteers**

Volunteers lighten the load; give the gift of time and share their knowledge and skills with others, all for free. South Suburban Park and Recreation District annually salutes its most outstanding volunteers with a special recognition ceremony to publicly thank them for their contributions. The District held its 25th Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony on Wed., April 8, honoring individuals who served a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer work throughout the District last year. Of more than 5,000 total volunteers, nine outstanding volunteers were nominated by South Suburban and Hudson Gardens' staff.

South Suburban continues to benefit from a rich tradition of dedicated volunteers who enjoy lending their time and talent in a myriad of ways, including coaching, teaching classes, helping with ice competitions at South Suburban's ice arena, volunteering at Hudson Gardens and Carson Nature Center and helping with programs at South Platte Park. The dedicated efforts of these volunteers allow South Suburban to extend its services and programs by those who share a passion for what they do.

VIP Volunteers Carol Peterson and Diane Wagner help at South Platte Park and Carson Nature Center. Carol leads school experiential education field trips and teaches nature art classes and Diane helps with resource projects and public programs. Stan Folker participates in restoration and maintenance projects and helps in South Plate Park's Nature Garden. He also assists with the Outdoor Recreation Archery program. Bob Hoffman was awarded posthumously. His wife Fran accepted his award. Bob served as Hudson Gardens' lead water gardener, recruiting and directing the work of all water gardener volunteers. Matthew Hamer helps at the Pottery Studio at Godson Recreation center, sharing his knowledge and expertise with others. Chad Mackendrick and Steve Harden are volunteer basketball and flag football youth coaches. Brad Hanson and Karl Nyquist both volunteer at South Suburban Ice Arena for the annual *Showtime on Ice* show and other competitions.

**Photo Caption for attached group photo:**

Back Row left to right: Matthew Hamer, Brad Hanson, Steve Harden, Chad Mackendrick, Karl Nyquist

Front row left to right: Fran Hoffman, Carol "Cookie" Peterson, Diane Wagner, Stan Folker

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