

**YouthZone Recognizes Volunteers, Supporters and Partners**

**at Annual Recognition Reception**

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. (April 24, 2014) – Recognizing that it takes a village to raise kids with confidence and respect, YouthZone recently recognized a number of volunteers, supporters and partners at their annual recognition reception, held at the Glenwood Springs Community Center on Thursday, April 23.

“There are so many wonderful people who support YouthZone throughout the year that it’s difficult to choose our annual award recipients, because each and every one of our volunteers, partners and donors are integral to the success of our organization,” said Lori Mueller, YouthZone Executive Director. “However, our honorees this year really stand out as having gone above and beyond for YouthZone and our kids.”

The YouthZone award recipients included:

Restorative Justice Volunteer of the Year: **Ted Edmonds**

Teen Pals Pair of the Year: **Sara & Madalynn**

Outstanding TITAN Award: **Justin Bosco**

Youth of the Year: **Vivi Ulloa**

Making Our Jobs Easy: **Nick Croissant** and **Adrian & Gabby Saenz**

To Infinity and Beyond: **Sonja Linman**

Bright Light for Youth & Families: **Kathy Pototsky**

Bright Light for YouthZone Staff: **Martha Robinson**

Lighting the Way for YouthZone Youth & Families: **Angela Roff** and **Joel Karr**

Rising Star for YouthZone: **Stephanie Keister**

Beacon of Light for YouthZone Youth & Families: **John Collins and Gail Nichols**

“You’re in the Spotlight” YouthZone Business of the Year: **Neil Garing Insurance**

Star Community Partner: **Aspen Thrift Shop**

Shining Star of the YouthZone Foundation: **Pam Szedelyi**

After a presentation made by YouthZone staff, young people who have gone through varying programs at YouthZone in the past year spoke about their experiences and how YouthZone has made an impact on their lives. It was a touching, poignant reminder of the value YouthZone’s programs and services bring to youth and their families.

During the reception, YouthZone also paid tribute to Hank Bosco, a longtime supporter of YouthZone and former President and Chairman of the Board of the Glenwood Hot Springs Pool, who was recently recognized by the City of Glenwood Springs through a proclamation declaring April 17 as “Hank Bosco Day.” The Hot Springs Pool commemorated the occasion by donating a portion of the day’s proceeds to YouthZone, one of Bosco’s favorite charities. During Thursday evening’s festivities, John Bosco, Hank Bosco’s son and Chief Operating Officer of the Hot Springs Pool, spoke about his father’s dedication to the community and fondness of YouthZone and presented the organization with a donation of $6,000.

“The Hot Springs Pool’s generous donation was such a welcome surprise, and will go towards supporting the programs and services that continue to help the youth in our community prosper,” said Mueller. “We are thankful to families, like the Boscos, who continue to support YouthZone through each generation.”

YouthZone employees Joy Lynnn Leuallen, Nancy MacGregor and Patty Schaffner were also recognized for their long-term service and dedication, as Leuallen and MacGregor have been with YouthZone for ten years, and Schaffner is celebrating her 25-year anniversary with the organization.

**About YouthZone:** YouthZone is a leader in youth programming and is dedicated to providing opportunities for youth to be responsible, contributing members of their families and society. A Colorado non-profit organization, YouthZone strives to enhance the quality of life in our communities through prevention, support, parent education and direct services. YouthZone proudly serves the communities of Aspen, Basalt, Carbondale, El Jebel, Glenwood Springs, New Castle, Silt, Rifle and Parachute.

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