



CITY OF MERIDIAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 12, 2016

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MERIDIAN STARS RECOGNIZED FOR EXTRAORDINARY COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

MERIDIAN - Meridian Mayor Tammy de Weerd presented the 2016 Meridian Stars Awards to a group of deserving individuals and a business within the community during a public ceremony and reception last night at Meridian City Hall.

This annual award recognizes Meridian residents for their commitment to preserving, maintaining and improving the quality of life and safety in their neighborhoods, as well as the broader Meridian community.

"It's no secret we're ranked as one of the top places to live in the country. The real reason for that ranking is how our people care for one another - as shown by the Meridian Stars recipients and nominees," said Mayor Tammy.

Award recipients are nominated by a community member.

Star of the Year – Mayor's Choice

Ken Pierson spent months collecting discarded bikes from the Meridian Transfer Station to refurbish them for youth in need at the Boys and Girls Club. He paid for any parts he was unable to salvage and spent countless hours making the bikes nice and safe for kids in the community that he will never meet.

Youth of the Year

Dominic Al-Shawaf has always made it his mission to bring joy to all children during the Christmas season. What began as a couple of toys that he collected for kids, has grown into a huge collection he now coordinates each year, often with his own money. He has spurred others to give and this past year was able to donate \$1,400 worth of toys to children in the community.

Senior of the year

David Pritchard's generosity has been compared to Santa or a Fairy God Mother. He's a Park Ambassador for the City of Meridian who volunteers an average of 85 hours a month. Residents in the area of Settlers Park know him well; he is the grandfatherly gentleman that uses a sleek motorized scooter for his Park Ambassador rounds. Dave was born a triple amputee but that doesn't stop him from giving back and brightening the days of all around him. Aside from his volunteer work, he also gives rides to seniors to doctors' appointments.



Neighbor of the Year

Joel Howard renewed a neighborhood watch in a subdivision that's nearly 20 years old and encouraged the area to join the Nextdoor website. He went door-to-door meeting neighbors and as a result of his efforts, the neighborhood watch has been re-instated and neighbors are connecting.

Business of the Year

Scentsy strives to give back to the community in many ways - but this particular nomination was focused on Scentsy's commitment to a small non-profit that strives to give Idaho children battling cancer and their families an escape. Scentsy hosts Baldapalooza each year, and has turned it in to a major fundraiser and a family friendly musical festival for the entire valley.

Three Meridian businesses donated dinner to this year's recipients: Homestead Bar and Grill, Applebee's and Grant's Neighborhood Grill.

More information about this year's winners and other nominees can be found on our website, www.meridiancity.org.

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The City of Meridian is located in the heart of the Treasure Valley in southwest Idaho. Founded in 1893 and incorporated as a city in 1903, Meridian is one of Idaho's largest and fastest growing communities. 24/7 Wall Street named Meridian the *Number One Place to Live in America*. America's Promise Alliance/ING recognized the city as one of the nation's *100 Best Communities for Young People*. For more information, visit www.meridiancity.org.