

THE LOWENSTEIN TRUST
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PRESS RELEASE

The Steve Lowenstein Trust Board is proud to have selected Pat Wagner, Linnton community activist and organizer, to receive the 2011 Lowenstein Trust Award. First presented in 1992, this annual award is given to the nominee who has demonstrated, in the judgment of the Trustees, a significant personal contribution to assisting the underserved in the City of Portland. The formal presentation of the Award will take place on Wednesday, December 7th, in Portland City Council.

Since 1999, starting with helping to pull the Linnton Community Center out of the ashes of an unfortunate financial situation Pat Wagner, and her fellow volunteers have worked to make the Linnton Community Center (LCC) a place that enriches life, builds character, and strives to develop a community consciousness for the benefit of all persons who live or work in the Linnton community. It is an integral and energizing part of the Linnton neighborhood.

In the course of the effort to breathe life back into the LCC, the community was hit by the tragic traffic death of a child near the center. Pat and other community volunteers worked together to get traffic lights and crosswalks installed at the fatal intersection.

Thanks to Pat's leadership, and the work of many others in the neighborhood, the center reopened and has grown by leaps and bounds. Thousands of dollars worth of contributions and volunteer labor have been invested in the renovation of the LCC facility. It was given a new lease on life.

The scope of service of the center has grown tremendously. There are programs to enrich the lives and protect the children of the area. LCC's programs serve the most vulnerable. A bilingual preschool and food bank have opened. The food bank, which opened in 2006, served 5508 people 2010. LCC does not turn families away for their inability to pay. It is the only service provider for the people of Linnton and the surrounding neighborhoods. Every night the gym is bustling with activity, from Aztec dancers rehearsing, to open gym nights when teens and adults play basketball. LCC has set up a program to make it easier for Latino families to comfortably and safely have large traditional community events.

It is the dedication to the area's homeless, underserved, and low income families that has been the catalyst for Pat and others to improve and broaden the services of LCC. Working and job-seeking families are provided with safe places for their children to go. Seniors help out at the LCC and build supportive connections with each other through monthly potlucks.

Pat Wagner continues pour her energy into the LCC, volunteering all of her time, often over 40 hours per week, to ensure the children and families of Portland's most rural and northernmost neighborhoods have a safety net, a place they can turn to for community. If it wasn't for Pat's amazing dedication and ability to rally a community in need, LCC would be just another abandoned building along highway 30.

For all of her hard work and the neighborhood involvement she has inspired in Linnton, the Lowenstein Trust is proud name Pat Wagner, R.N., the 2011 recipient of the Lowenstein Trust Award.

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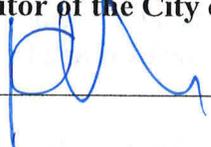
Recognize Pat Wagner recipient of the 2011 Steve Lowenstein Trust Award
(Presentation introduced by Commissioner Fish)

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LaVonne Griffin-Valade
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By 

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