



Agenda Item #: _____

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Cohen and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM: Richard Gill, Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: July 7, 2009

SUBJECT: Presentation of the 2009 Manhattan Beach Recreation and Youth Services Award to Rose van Wier Hein

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends presenting the Parks and Recreation Commission selection of Rose van Wier Hein as recipient of the 2009 Recreation and Youth Services Award.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

There is no fiscal implication associated with this recommendation.

BACKGROUND:

Each year, in keeping with "July is Parks and Recreation Month," the Parks and Recreation Commission recommends a member of the community for the "Recreation and Youth Services Award." This award is given to worthy individuals who have dedicated their time for the betterment of the youth in Manhattan Beach. Historically, the recipients have either volunteered their time (Lay Citizen) or engaged in an occupation (Professional) for various youth agencies and the school district.

DISCUSSION:

During the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting of April 27, 2009, the Commission reviewed nominations for the award. After a discussion, the Commission recommended that Rose van Wier Hein is very deserving of the Youth Services Award.

Following is the background criteria the Commission used in their selection process.

Rose van Wier Hein

Rose van Wier Hein was nominated for the Youth Services Award by Dr. Beverly Rohrer on behalf of the Manhattan Beach Unified School District Board of Trustees.

Ms. van Wier Hein assisted the Manhattan Beach Little League in developing the Challenger Little League. She worked tirelessly to publicize the new league so special needs children would have an opportunity to participate in little league. She coordinated recruitment of typical peers to support

the children with special needs. Every Sunday morning, Rose is followed by two full teams of special needs children and youth who are dressed in full uniform with scores of parents, dozens of volunteers from the Friendship Circle, balls and bats in hands, asking question after question, while she arranges the morning schedule, directs a mom and her ball player to the restroom, begins the cheering section, sees about helping a wheelchair-bound child down a flight of stairs and then shouts to coaches and teams (Sharks and Dolphins) "Let's play ball!" Ms. van Wier Hein is a whirlwind of joy and love for her numerous fans, past and present, who would never have touched a ball, held a bat, run a base or been a member of a team.

Ms. van Wier Hein is the Executive Director and Founder of Golden Heart Ranch, a non-profit organization dedicated to building a life center residential community where special needs young adults can live, work, learn and play in a harmonious, caring environment.

Conclusion:

Due to the outstanding services that Ms. van Wier Hein has provided for the youth in our community, the Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously recommended Rose van Wier Hein for the Manhattan Beach Youth Services Award.