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Leslie Ingraham: Her mission to help Ore. youth 1/28/2010



Left to right: Trish Montague, Bethanie Quiel and Scott Sherbourne of Western States Insurance Agency, Safeco Territory Manager LeeAnn Sternes, Community Hero winner Leslie Ingraham, Hearts with a Mission President Michelle Steffens, Hearts with a Mission Executive Director Kevin Lamson

When Bethanie Quiel thinks about someone who is dedicated to "something bigger than themselves," co-worker and best pal Leslie Ingraham always comes to mind. Ingraham and Quiel work at Western States Insurance Agency's Medford, Ore., office. Away from the office, Ingraham devotes herself to homeless teens and Hearts with a Mission. Nominated by Quiel, Ingraham was named a 2009 Safeco Community Hero.

Ingraham's selection as a Community Hero netted the nonprofit a \$15,000 grant that will help with operating costs. Hearts with a Mission provides food, family rehabilitation and relocation programs, and job search opportunities for the community's at-risk teens. Soon, after licensing issues are finalized, it will also provide temporary shelter to homeless teens, accommodating up to 16 teens nightly. Individuals will be able to stay at the facility for up to 120 days, depending on the severity of needs as evaluated by case workers.

Ingraham's award was featured on the local news broadcast of Medford's CBS TV affiliate.



This is the third in a series of profiles of 2009 Safeco Community Hero Award recipients. Nominated by Safeco agents, each profiled winner received a \$15,000 grant for their respective charity.

See below for winners profiled in previous editions:

"Leslie was one of the original members planning Hearts with a Mission," Quiel says. "She is on the Board of Directors. In addition, for the past seven years, she has devoted her time to help counsel the youth in her church and be a source of encouragement for them. It was about two years ago that she began telling me about Hearts with a Mission and how she was excited to be part of the effort to help teens in our area who need help the most.

"It's a blessing and honor to brag about my best friend and all the hard and selfless work she does for the youth in our community."

- **Emily Neely – Paris, Texas**
Nominated by Zach Saffle
of Pierson & Fendley
Insurance
- **Brent Harting – Hebron,
Ind.**
Nominated by Deborah
McKay of Hebron Realty &
Insurance

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