



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION



PRESIDENTIAL CHANGEMAKER AWARD

THE WHITE HOUSE HONORED 12 Rotary club members from across the United States as Champions of Change for their volunteer work to improve the lives of others during the second annual Rotary Day at the White House on April 5, 2013.

"Each of these men and women has spent countless hours helping communities both here in the U.S. and abroad. The Rotarians we honor today truly exemplify the Rotary Club motto: "Service above Self" and in doing so show that the American spirit is a generous one," said Paulette Aniskoff, Deputy Assistant to the President.

Peggy Halderman, current president of the Rotary Club of Golden, was one of the 12 Rotarians honored. Peggy launched the Golden Backpack Program (GBP) five years ago, which provides enough food to feed a child for an entire weekend. Currently the GBP provides assistance to more than 520 schoolchildren in eight local schools. What started as a small program feeding 65 students has grown into a community effort involving partnerships with the Food Bank of the Rockies and the Developmental Disabilities Resource Center.

When a child does not have access to regular meals and is uncertain of when they may eat again they are experiencing the epidemic known as "chronic childhood hunger." Children experiencing chronic hunger may not only suffer from poor health, they can also be denied the opportunity to reach their academic, athletic and social potential.

"It is a great honor to see these dedicated Rotary members recognized by the U.S. White House as Champions of Change for their work to improve the lives of people around the world," said Rotary International President Sakuji Tanaka of Japan. The honorees exemplify how Rotary brings people together to solve problems that are too large for one person to tackle. "Alone, we look at the problems of our community and our world and we feel helpless," he said. "But together, we are powerful."



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THE 2012-2013 AWARDEE
PEGGY HALDERMAN
ROTARY CLUB OF GOLDEN



Peggy Halderman