

# Correctional center honored as community hero by Red Cross

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LOVELOCK — The Lovelock Correctional Center received the American Red Cross Real Hero Award at ARC's Real Heroes awards dinner held in Winnemucca on Sept. 7.

This is the second time LCC has received the award in the Community Hero category.

"I am extremely proud of LCC's staff and their commitment to helping our community," LCC Warden Robert LeGrand said.

The prison staff is actively involved in giving back to the Lovelock Community. They hold bake sales at the prison to gather money for high school scholarships. In June they awarded a \$500 scholarship to two Pershing County High School graduates. They hold annual backpack and school supply drives that benefit the Pershing County elementary schools.

In addition, they support the Santa for Seniors program, the Pershing County Toy Drive and they will hold food drives in November and December for the Lovelock Food Bank.

The LCC staff's generosity does not stop with the local community. So far in 2013, LCC has hosted two blood drives, collecting over 80 units of blood; mailed nine packages of T-shirts, school supplies, awards and toys to a Peace

Corps Volunteer, Gracie Geremia, in Zambia; sent three Fourth of July care packages to deployed NDOC staff and raised \$1,000 for Relay for Life through their Peace Keepers team.

LCC Lt. Valaree Olivas said staff members have also recently started collecting boxtops for the Gabbs School.

"We chose Gabbs because some of our staff, including myself, are Gabbs High alumni," Olivas said.

"I have been in Nevada law enforcement for over 25 years, having worked as a deputy sheriff and a police officer prior to joining the Nevada Department of Corrections in 1994. During my career I have been blessed to work with some of the finest citizens in Nevada and I cannot think of any more caring group of people than the staff of the Lovelock Correctional Center," warden LeGrand said.

The community nominates all the recipients of the ARC Real Hero Awards, said American Red Cross Events Coordinator Julie Street.

"Each person is unique in their service, but in general they are people who quietly give service on a regular basis without thought of reward or honor," Street said about those who were nominated.

They have also received recognition awards from U.S. Sen. Harry Reid and State Sen. Don Gustavson.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Lovelock Correctional Center received the American Red Cross Real Hero Award in the Community Hero category for the staff's community involvement. The award was presented recently at a banquet in Winnemucca. Members of the community nominate Real Heroes for the award and the correctional center staff's civic involvement, both in Lovelock and beyond, was the basis for the nomination. The American Red Cross holds the awards ceremony annually. LCC staff members (left to right) Starlin Gentry, Jim Reitz, Laurie Rose, Sean Findley, Dwayne Deal, Susan Sparke, Sherry Gentry, Anthony Carassco, Barbara Gilmore and Glenn Chambers show off the Real Hero Award as well as awards from U.S. Sen. Harry Reid and State Sen. Don Gustavson.