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# Helping children wins McCoy Award

Muriel Goldman, for more than 40 years an advocate for the young, is the sixth person to receive the honor

By DAVID AUSTIN  
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Muriel Goldman's advocacy for children traces back more than 40 years to the Midwest, when she learned her daughter had hearing difficulties.

Living in the Chicago area, Goldman had taken the child, then 20 months old, to a pediatrician, who diagnosed her as profoundly deaf.

Goldman began researching schools that help deaf children and discovered Portland's Tucker Maxon Oral School. After a brief stint in the Los Angeles area, Goldman moved her family to Portland and quickly got involved at the school.

One of the first things she did as a parent was help the school raise about \$100,000 to build a new gymnasium and a science room.

"I discovered that I had a knack for getting people interested in helping children," she recalls. "It sort of took off from there."

And, it's still going. Goldman, 74, a tireless advocate, has spent much of the past four decades fighting for abused and disadvantaged children in Oregon.

And last month, she added yet another honor to her already packed résumé: She is the sixth winner of Multnomah County's Gladys McCoy Award for volunteering in the community.

Goldman "exemplifies the community organizer's maxim of 'Think globally, act locally,'" says Jim Duncan, chairman of the county's Citizen Involvement Committee, which gives the award. "In her case it should be modified to 'Think globally, act locally and keep acting locally.'"

"Her energy, enthusiasm and tenaciousness motivate others to join in and actively solve problems."

## Award remembers chairwoman

Since 1995, the Gladys McCoy award has been given each year to the person who best exemplifies volunteerism in the county. It is named for former county board



ROGER JENSEN/THE OREGONIAN

Muriel Goldman has had such an influence on childhood issues that Multnomah County officials recently named her the sixth winner of the Gladys McCoy Award for volunteerism. She has served on commissions under six governors.

Chairwoman Gladys McCoy, who served in local government in the early 1990s.

McCoy died of cancer at age 65, two years into her four-year term, but had made a mark on county government with her fierce passion for helping those in need. Local officials created the award to honor those who carry on McCoy's vision.

Goldman's credits make it sound more as if she belongs in a "Who's Who" of nationally recognized politicians. Although she began as an activist for children with disabilities, she expanded her work to improve day care for children as well as health care access for low-income women and their children. She also became an advocate for gender equity issues.

She has spent plenty of time in Salem lobbying for children, and anyone would be hard pressed to name a related committee she hasn't served on. She has assisted six governors, from Tom McCall to John Kitzhaber, on juvenile justice, children's mental health and other family issues.

She also served on the Portland League of Women Voters and a statewide task force on early childhood development issues, and she was a founding member for the nonprofit Children First for Oregon.

She's been honored repeatedly for her advocacy for children and even has an award, the Muriel Goldman Child Advocate Award, named after her.

## Working while raising family

Most of her volunteer work was done while she and her husband raised three daughters.

"My children were getting bigger, and they were in school, so I was able to do it," Goldman says. "I decided early on that I was very effective in child advocacy. I found that I could accomplish more than I could if I was working for a living."

"For me, it's very important to spread the message that the entire community is responsible for the well-being of our children. If we harm any of them, then we harm all of us."

Goldman says she's had to cut back lately on her volunteering be-

cause she wants to spend more time with her husband, Marvin, a retired doctor who has Parkinson's disease.

She joins an impressive list of winners of the award, all of whom have worked throughout the county to assist others.

They include: William Gordon for his work with the Gray Panthers; Edna Mae Pittman for her service to children and work as a community activist; Joanne Carlson for her work with educational issues and the homeless; Mike Fahy Sr., a former state legislator who has been involved in labor and other issues; and the late Doshie Clark, who served as an advocate for low-income and minority children who attended Portland Public Schools.

Goldman's name will appear on a plaque that is on display in county Chairwoman Beverly Stein's office.

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