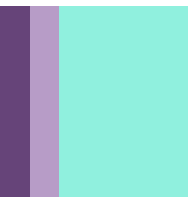


Susan Arn
1716 Schooner Drive
Norman, OK 73072
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October 19, 2018

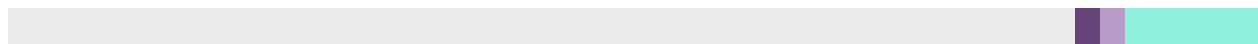
Ms. Sarah Encinias
Human Rights Award
Norman, Oklahoma

Dear Ms. Sarah Encinias,

I would like to nominate Brenda Wheelock for the 2018 Human Rights Award. Brenda is a life-long resident of Norman and since 2002 serves as the director of communications and development for the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence, a statewide nonprofit founded by David Boren to recognize and encourage academic excellence in public schools. In addition to her public relations duties, Wheelock serves as staff liaison for the foundation's early American history education programs with Colonial Williamsburg and helps coordinate the annual Colonial Day at the Capitol, a day of hands-on educational activities for fifth-graders. A 1988 University of Oklahoma journalism graduate, Wheelock served more than 10 years on the news and publications staff of OU Public Affairs and was editor of OU's alumni and staff publications. She has also been a reporter for United Press International and the Daily Oklahoman.

Among her volunteer activities, Wheelock has served since 2002 on the leadership team for the Cleveland County CROP Walk to Stop Hunger. CROP, which stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty, is a nationwide, ecumenical effort to raise awareness about the impact of hunger and poverty. Norman's CROP Walk, now in its 34th year, has raised more than \$340,000 to support the work of Food & Shelter Inc. and the global relief and development projects of Church World Service.

In 2010, Wheelock joined with retired Norman educator Mary Francis to co-chair Pennies for Peace Oklahoma, which rallied Oklahoma school children to raise nearly \$20,000 – mostly in jars of coins -- to help build schools for girls in Pakistan and Afghanistan.



Wheelock is a longtime volunteer for Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma and served as a troop leader from 2000 to 2016. In 2013, she became chair of the council's Give Storm Shelter Campaign, a fundraising effort spearheaded by the girls in her troop to build a large-capacity, F-5 rated storm shelter at Camp Ekowah Girl Scout camp in Marlow. The campaign raised more than \$290,000 for an above-ground multipurpose shelter and two 15-passenger vans for camp properties. To help support the project, Wheelock and one of her scouts joined other daring fundraisers in going "Over the Edge," rappelling 16 stories from the top of Leadership Square in Oklahoma City.

As part of her commitment to empowering girls and women through education, Wheelock joined the advisory board of OU's Women's and Gender Studies Program in 2016. She is an active member of St. Stephen's United Methodist Church in Norman and volunteers as the church's webmaster and publicity coordinator.

Wheelock has been honored as Norman's Girl Scout Leader of the Year and received Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma Frances Hesselbein Award in 2011. In 2015, she was awarded the council's Juliette Gordon Low Philanthropy Award in recognition of her work with the Storm Shelter Campaign. She also is the 2012 recipient of the United Way of Norman Volunteer of the Year Award for Service to Youth and Education. In 2017, she was named to the "Big 12 Women of Influence" by Cleveland County Magazine.

Wheelock and her husband David are the proud parents of two daughters, Robyn, a 2017 graduate of Trinity University in San Antonio, and Amanda, a junior at Mills College in Oakland, Calif.

This is only a small glimpse of what Brenda does for the Norman Community and for Oklahoma. Brenda is well deserving of this award. Brenda's information is as follows.

Brenda Wheelock
2501 Butler Dr.
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(405) 620-1305
Email brendawheelock@cox.net

Sincerely,

Susan Arn