



July 19, 2021

Thank you for completing your 2021 Community Star Individual Nominee Questionnaire!

Overview

Here is a copy of your answers for your records. All nominations will be reviewed and evaluated by members of NOSORH's Community Star Selection Committee. One Community Star will be selected per state. If you are selected as your state's Community Star, I will work with you to schedule an interview so that we can develop your outstanding story to share in our annual book of Community Stars released on Thursday, November 18, 2021.

If you have any questions, please reach out to NRHD Community Star Project Coordinator, Brea Corsaro at bcorsaro@powerofrural.org.

Your Information

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Have Questions? Contact:
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Organization or Project Website

Please describe in as much detail as possible, your role within your organization and the nature of your work in rural health?

I am the Director of the Garfield County Ambulance Service. I perform all the administrative duties for our Service. We are a rural county in Utah of 5,100 square miles, with about 5,100 permanent residents. However, we have Bryce Canyon National Park, The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and 2 State Parks in Garfield County, which brings more than 2.5 million people to our County each year. We have 7 ambulances and 50 people to provide that service. My job is to ensure that we have the training, equipment, and ability to provide that service. It is also my responsibility to work with our local government officials, and the State EMS organization to ensure we meet all their recommendations and regulations. I find myself more and more serving on State Committees or Boards advocating for ALL rural agencies in the state of Utah, not just my own. Each County has its own set of unique circumstances, and we must recognize that each will need unique solutions to provide the EMS service required in their County. Although, I have a great passion for my job, the part I probably enjoy the most is being a "boots-on-the-ground" EMT. It's what brought me to this career.

What inspired you to choose your career?

I truly did not choose this career! 29 years ago I took the EMT class simply for the purpose to help out my community, and to give me medical knowledge to help my family. I found that I not only loved being an EMT, but

also teaching EMS. I became an EMT Instructor, and then a Training Officer in my local organization. I did that as a part-time job for 6 years, and gradually took on more Administrative duties. It seemed like a natural step when the then Director retired to move into that position. So, I guess maybe this career choose me!

What is the impact of your work in your community or the rural populations you serve?

I like to think that over the years I have had a part in not only making Garfield County's EMS system stronger, but the entire Rural Community in Utah. Locally I continue to serve as an EMT and Training Officer for our County EMT's; provide education such as CPR, First Aid, and Stop The Bleed to our Communities and Schools, and serve on the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee). On a Regional level, which includes Garfield County and 4 of the surrounding Counties, I serve on the Southwest Utah Public Health Executive Committee, this Committee is committed to assuring that our Counties are prepared for disasters that may occur in our region--such as a pandemic. On the state EMS level I have served on the Utah Bureau of EMS Committee, where I was the Chairperson for 4 years; the State CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management) team, EMSC (Emergency Medical Services for Children) team, and was instrumental in founding the Utah REMSDA (Rural Emergency Medical Services Association), an organization that has been instrumental in achieving great things for rural EMS in Utah at the Legislative level. Now all of that being said, my part in each of these organizations is only a small one, the things we accomplish are because of each and every individuals committed dedication, they are definitely not because of me alone.

Have you accessed, benefited from, or worked directly with your State Office of Rural Health? If yes, please describe.



Oh my YES!! As I stated in the previous question, I have and do work closely with our State EMS personnel in many capacities. I remember the first Leadership Conference they provided right after I became the Director, I walked in with that 'deer in the headlights" look--if it wasn't for I learned at that Conference (and many since), the network of great Directors I met there, and the welcome and introduction to the State employees that was given freely, I know I would not have become an effective Director! One of the things I have always appreciated about our State Office is their open door, willing to spend time with, bend over backwards to help policy. In fact, I see it is one of our State employees that has nominated me for this award, and I am so very humbled by this nomination. It is hard to speak of my individual accomplishments, because I feel like so many wonderful people have had a hand in any of the good things I have been a part of moving forward.

Are you or your organization a HRSA, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Grantee? If yes, which grant program? If yes, which one?

No