

**PRESS RELEASE**

**City of Yorba Linda  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 8, 2010**

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**Jan Duwe selected as Yorba Linda's 2010 Citizen of the Year**

*Yorba Linda, CA* – Mayor John Anderson today announced the selection of Jan Duwe as the City's 2010 Citizen of the Year. This City-sponsored award is designed to recognize Yorba Linda residents whose local volunteer work has had a significant and recognizable impact on the quality of life in Yorba Linda.

Jan Duwe, also known as “the lemon bar lady”, is a woman with a true servant's heart. Describing herself as a worker but never as a boss or chief, she is quick to say that there are so many others who are more deserving of recognition than herself. Yet, those around her see her decades of service to her community as making her worthy of respect and admiration.

Jan, her husband Dick, and their two daughters moved to Yorba Linda from Wisconsin in 1971. She began her acts of service to the community almost immediately, becoming a volunteer for the Welcome Wagon. Jan then became part of the Ways and Means group of the Welcome Wagon. She fondly remembers visiting local nursing homes to play bingo with the residents and spend time talking with people who enjoyed her attention. This was the group, she says, that taught her the most about Yorba Linda's history and culture.

Out of this initial service, came the invitation to join The Littlest Angel Guild of the Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC). This is the charity that has become the focus of Jan's volunteer work. Over the years, she has participated in most facets of this organization, including packaging holiday cards and working for the success of boutiques and home tours. While Jan appreciates working with the ladies who have been with this organization for many years, she is always happy to welcome a new member, a younger woman who is ready to give her time and

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energy to this cause. She is an amazing mentor and motivator.

The Registrar of Voters has also benefitted from Jan's desire to be of service. For many years, her garage served as a polling place. Now she volunteers at the polls for nearly every election, going wherever she is sent and serving with a smile on her face.

Perhaps one of the most fulfilling of Jan's services is to her church, Grace Lutheran. The church began meeting in the Duwe's living room in 1975 and now is at its permanent location on Fairmont Boulevard. Jan's talented hands have created numerous banners that adorn the sanctuary, and those same hands still write letters of welcome to Sunday morning guests. Jan is a craftswoman who makes ceramic figures and jewelry, presenting them to friends and family. Every child in the church receives a Christmas ornament and an Easter knick-knack made by their beloved Mrs. Duwe. Young families in the congregation regularly benefit from Jan's incredible recipes, but her lemon bars are always the star of the show.

Those lemon bars, along with various wonderful cookie recipes, tend to show up wherever Jan is. Any physician who has treated Jan, any gardener or handyman who has done work for her, any ailing friend or acquaintance can expect a gift of her bars, cookies, or homemade chicken soup. While Jan has certainly put in her time as a volunteer in community and charity work it is perhaps, her attention to individuals that makes her such an awe-inspiring person and asset to our community. Notes of encouragement, phone calls of comfort, and visits of care fill Jan's daily calendar. At the age of 85, she still drives the freeways, still attends adult school classes, and still makes service to her community a part of her daily life.

The citizen of the year is selected by a Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee based on nominations submitted by the public. Several nominees were considered this year. Review criteria include the selflessness of the work, the variety of community work performed, the length of time the nominee has been involved in community service, and the nominee's current volunteer efforts.

Mrs. Duwe will receive the 2010 Citizen of the Year Award at the Yorba Linda City Council Meeting on Tuesday, November 16, 2010 at 6:30pm. At this time we will recognize Mrs. Duwe's efforts in the community and beyond as well as the other nominees. All are invited to

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attend to celebrate those that have contributed so much to this community.

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