

# *Citizen Corps Connection*

**Volume 6, Issue 4  
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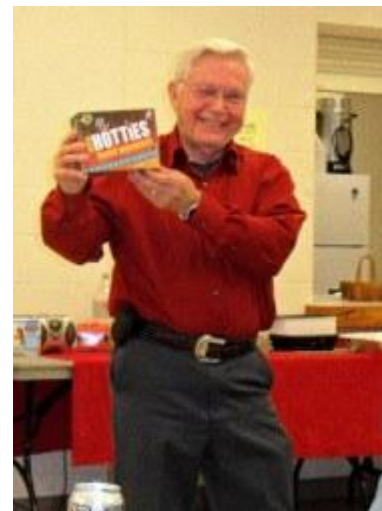
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## *Citizen Corps Volunteers Honored at Annual "Meet 'n Eat" Event*

**Hartford, WI - December 5, 2011** Citizen Corps volunteers closed the year with an evening of food and fun during the second annual "Meet 'n Eat" pot-luck dinner held in Hartford. As a token of appreciation for service in 2011, each volunteer in attendance received one of the new Citizen Corps safety whistles for their emergency supply kit.

Don Macomber was honored with a special Leadership Award as Volunteer of the Year for outstanding service promoting Citizen Corps and emergency preparedness throughout the county.



Don Macomber

Leadership Awards highlighting other notable achievements in 2011 included: Joe Wodushek and Debbie Geidel for their leadership and guidance in the CERT program and VOAD of Washington County; and Brad Willett for his generous contribution of time and expertise in helping create and set up the credentialing system used in volunteer reception centers during disaster response.

Citizen Corps pins were awarded to ten individuals to commemorate their role as founding members of Citizen



Citizen Corps is a grassroots organization of volunteers who help make our community more disaster resilient by preparing for and responding to disasters.

Citizen Corps of Washington County is organized under the direction of VOAD of Washington County and operates through the Volunteer Center of Washington County in West Bend, Wisconsin.

For more information about Citizen Corps or to learn how to get involved, visit [www.volunteernow.net](http://www.volunteernow.net)



Citizen Corps is a program of the Volunteer Center of Washington County. The Volunteer Center is the catalyst for volunteerism in

Corps, each having served four or more years as active volunteers. Recipients included Arlen Backey, Patty Gallagher, Debbie Geidel, Claudia Kollenbroich, Don Macomber, Helen Neal, Barb Radschlag, Candy Shoop, Brad Willett and Joe Wodushek.

Volunteers who were not present to receive their awards will be honored at the next Citizen Corps meeting.

[CLICK HERE for more photos](#)

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## *The "Toy" That Saved Christmas...*

Sounds like the title to a great holiday story, doesn't it? A humble little red toy safety whistle nestled in the corner of Santa's pocket saves the day by blasting a signal for help when the jolly old man gets lost in a blizzard delivering toys on Christmas Eve.

Well, the little red whistle we're talking about is not actually a toy at all...but rather a vital piece of life-saving equipment, capable of emitting a loud 120db blast that can be heard above most environmental noise.

A little red safety whistle should be within reach at all times. Why? Because if you can be heard...you can be rescued!



***There is still time*** to get a little red safety whistle for yourself and the people you care about this Christmas. Individually priced at only \$5 each you can give the gift of safety and help support Citizen Corps of Washington County at the same time. Even Santa can't do better than that!

[CLICK HERE to order](#)

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## *Five New CERT Instructors Debut*

***Hartford, WI - October 22, 2011*** Five new CERT instructors debuted in Washington County after completing their final phase of training in October at the CERT class held in Hartford. They are: Fire Chief Paul Stephans and Sally Jensen of Hartford Fire and Rescue; Helen Neal of Washington County Sheriff's Department; Melanie Knigge

our community - connecting thousands of volunteers to hundreds of opportunities each year.

For more information about the Volunteer Center of Washington County, visit [www.volunteernow.net](http://www.volunteernow.net)

and Debbie Rebman, both EMT's.

One of the standards for becoming certified to teach CERT in the State of Wisconsin involves assisting during an actual CERT class. Debbie Geidel and Joe Wodushek were the senior instructors on hand leading the October CERT class and guiding the new instructors.

Incorporating instructor training into the regular CERT class created an interesting scenario for the rest of the CERT students. Not only did they get a rare behind-the-scenes peek at the program, they also got the chance to offer input from the student perspective. All the newly graduated instructors agreed the student comments will influence how they teach CERT in the future.



**[Click on the photo to view entire photo album](#)**

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## *Citizen Corps: The Year in Review*

2011 marked the seventh year since Citizen Corps of Washington County sponsored the first CERT class and began registering disaster response volunteers. Guided by VOAD of Washington County (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster), Citizen Corps has been managed by the Volunteer Center of Washington County and funded with Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) dollars.

This year, Milwaukee was removed from the list of high risk urban areas eligible for funding under the 2011 UASI program, essentially cutting off Citizen Corps from future grant funding. Nevertheless, Citizen Corps has continued to move forward accelerating efforts to find alternative funding and empower volunteers to manage more aspects of the program.

## Citizen Corps summary of achievements for 2011:

### Volunteer Training and Development

- Managed pool of 38 Citizen Corps volunteers, background screened and ready to respond in a disaster if activated by VOAD.
- Developed job descriptions for volunteers in community leadership positions.
- Provided special training through guest speakers at quarterly Citizen Corps member meetings.
- Offered specialized training through Medical Reserve Corps Preparedness Summit.
- Provided CERT and CERT Olympics training and exercises (32 of the 38 volunteers CERT trained).
- Encouraged members to attend beginner and advanced Weather Spotters classes.
- Recommended online ICS training through FEMA.

### Preparedness Outreach

- Acquired five new portable displays with professional graphics focused on preparedness.
- Citizen Corps presence at community events such as Celebrate Families, Washington County Senior Conference, Schauer Center Tribute to 9/11, Humane Society Pet Walk, Germantown NAC.
- Distributed 5,195 pieces of preparedness literature.
- ReadySetGo Preparedness classes to the public.
- Began planning 2012 expansion of the CERT program with Hartford Fire Department.

### Collaborative Relationships

- Emergency planning and exercising with various Washington County agencies including the Office of Emergency Management, VOAD of Washington County, All Hazards Preparedness Coalition, and Washington County Health Care Partners.
- Relationships with local Fire Departments and Law Enforcement agencies.
- S.E.W. COAD planning for CERT Olympics
- UASI Citizen Preparedness regional work group.

### Funding and Resource Development

- Introduced Citizen Corps Safety Whistles as the signature fundraiser.
- Received donations of professional graphic arts and IT services for development of marketing materials.

2012 Goals - Citizen Corps will continue to pursue alternative funding while holding fast to its mission: recruiting and training volunteers for disaster response and educating the public about emergency preparedness.

**Submitted by Deborah Knepler, Citizen Corps of  
Washington County Outreach Coordinator**

## ***2012 Upcoming Training & Events***

### **January 2012**

**1/21**

***Citizen Corps New Member Orientation***

9a.m. - 11a.m.

Volunteer Center, West Bend

**1/23**

***Citizen Corps New Member Orientation***

6p.m. - 8:00p.m.

Volunteer Center, West Bend

### **February 2012**

**2/12**

***21st Annual Celebrate Families***

11a.m. - 4p.m.

Washington County Fair Park

## **Volunteer Today!**

For more information about Citizen Corps of Washington County or to register as a volunteer, go to

[www.volunteernow.net](http://www.volunteernow.net)

Contact us via email: [citizencorps@volunteernow.net](mailto:citizencorps@volunteernow.net)  
or call (262) 338-8256.

Citizen Corps volunteers are committed not only to personal preparedness, but to helping improve disaster resiliency within our communities. Citizen Corps volunteers come from all walks of life, ready to share their time, skills and resources for emergency readiness and response in Washington County.