

2023 Ageless Award Honorees



**Don
Bruland**

Don Bruland graduated from Fresno State College in 1967 and attended Union Theological Seminary in New York City. After leaving the seminary, he worked for South West Indian Foundation in program development. Don earned his Master of Social Work from California State University, San Diego. Following his MSW program, he accepted a position with Oregon State University training Senior Nutrition Program directors in practical gerontology and program development. In 1975, Don became director of the Area Agency on Aging for the Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG). He evolved to director of Senior and Disability Services for RVCOG, with overall responsibility for serving seniors and persons with disabilities in Jackson and Josephine counties.

Don retired in 2012. His current activities are: AllCare and Jackson Care Connect Citizen Advisory Committees, Jefferson Regional Health Alliance, AARP Community Action Team, Continuum of Care Board, Rebuilding Together Rogue Valley board member, Hope Village Steering Committee, Ascension Lutheran Church Administration Committee, Southern Oregon Center for Community Partnerships board member, Deaf Issues Workgroup of RVCOG's Disability Services Advisory Council.

Don has been married to Margaret for over 50 years. They have two children, Jeannie and Peter, who live in the San Francisco Bay Area.



Ed Edmo

Ed Edmo is a Shoshone-Bannock poet, playwright, performer, traditional storyteller, tour guide, and lecturer on Northwest tribal culture. He was born in Nevada; when he was a baby, his family moved to his father's ancestral home of Celilo Village along the Columbia River. Ed is enrolled in the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and also has Yakama and Nez Perce ancestry.

His grandparents taught him many tribal customs and traditions. Ed offers guided tours to the She Who Watches petroglyphs on the Columbia Gorge, as well as to the Warm Springs Indian Reservation in central Oregon's high desert country. He conducts workshops, traditional storytelling performances, dramatic monologues, and lectures on issues such as cultural understanding and awareness, drug and alcohol abuse, and mental health. Ed is a published short story writer, poet, and playwright, and serves as a consultant to the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian.

Ed currently lives with his extended family in Gresham.

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Dan Steffey & Maria Rojo de Steffey

Dan's multi-decade career in affordable and special needs housing has resulted in homes for people afflicted with chemical dependency, foster children, seniors, and families and individuals seeking to grab the first rungs on the ladder to self-sufficiency. His work earned him the honor of directing a development team twice named one of the nation's Top 50 Affordable Housing Developers and consulting with another developer that made this list multiple times. Dan was the Wisdom Officer for Community Development Partners from 2016-2022.

A member of a large Hispanic family, Maria was the first of ten siblings to earn a college degree. Her career is marked by significant accomplishments in community service and public affairs, among the more notable; Co-founder of Hacienda Community Development Corporation, two terms as Multnomah County Commissioner, creator and co-chair of the Vital Aging Task Force (a precursor to Portland's designation as the first Age-Friendly City in the U.S.), a fierce advocate for LGBTQ+ rights, and member of numerous nonprofit boards. In her third post-retirement career, she serves as Executive Director of EngAGE Northwest.

Currently, Dan and Maria bring decades of experience in social equity and racial justice to an affordable housing model called Community for All Ages. This intentionally intergenerational housing development model embraces interdependence and engages all residents regardless of age, financial status, cultural heritage, racial and gender identity, sexual orientation, and religious beliefs. Projects are currently in construction in La Grande, St. Helens, and Salem, providing highly affordable housing and programming to over 630 households.



Robert Stoll

As the son of “New Dealers,” Robert grew up believing in public service. Born in Washington, D.C., he and his family moved to the NW in 1948. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, then Harvard Law School, he was drawn to political, social justice, consumer protection, and economic development endeavors. These often intersected with his successful legal career as a founder of the Law Firm, Stoll Berne.

Robert has a long history of dedicated community service, including serving at-risk children, social justice, and civil rights issues. His board service includes the Portland Urban League, Oregon ACLU, National Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Budget Committee of Riverdale School Board, Oregon Center For Public Policy, Portland Art Museum, Portland Center for Visual Arts, Pacific Northwest College of Art, and St. Mary’s Home For Boys. He founded the nonprofit fund, Albina Opportunities Corp, which provides capital for minority and women entrepreneurs in Portland (now MESO). Robert also served on the original Advisory Board to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, created in the Dodd-Frank Act, in response to the national financial crisis.

Post “retirement,” Robert founded the Center for Homeless Research (now Here Together) and led the successful Metro Supportive Housing Bond Measure Campaign—an effort to provide a consistent revenue stream to end chronic homelessness.

Robert is married to Barre McFarlane Stoll. They have four children.