2014 Oregon School Nurse of the Year

Karen Brown

Karen is a credit to our profession. Karen works for the Coos Bay School District as a school nurse/nurse coordinator and case manager for the last 20 years. She serves 1,200 students in two schools. Karen is a successful grand writer with grants for AED’s and thermometers in Coos Bay schools, and manikins for CPR training. She is on a number of committee including several school district committees, SW Oregon Community College advisory board and has been honored as the Coos County Friends of Public Health “Superstar”.

Karen founded the Shoes that Fit program in Coos Bay schools after being inspired by reading about a Shoes that Fit national program. Karen has received media attention for the creation of this successful program. Many children now have new shoes due to Karen’s dedication.

Karen also began the Operation Backpack/Shoe Box program that supports students with school supplies and hygiene products. Karen is nationally known for her work with eating disorder with the “Great Jeans Giveaway” project. This event is a new and used clothing drive that encourages young adults to donate jeans they’ve outgrown, in order to help needy students and families. It also encourages girls to like the body that they are growing into as they mature.

Karen has served as OSNA Vice President and has been an active support of school nursing across the State. She is truly a nurse to look up to!