

Citizen Finalists



Heather Chrisman

One revered LO Reads event has been the art show, wherein artists create works inspired by the selected book. Each year, 24 professional artists read the book, then paint a work reflecting an aspect of the story. The results of their work become the LO Reads Community Art Exhibit on view for the month of February. **Heather Chrisman** had the idea to involve high school art teachers and their students to create the Student Art Show, now an ongoing event of LO Reads. Her commitment and enthusiasm continued until her passing in March. Her selection as a Citizen SASEE finalist honors her unflagging support of the Student Art Show.



Michael Backus

Michael Backus has been the leader of the Mercy Teams for Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church for the past eight years. Before the pandemic, Michael led Mercy Team volunteers in cooking for unsheltered citizens in three different locations in West Linn and Oregon City. He and his team could always be counted on to provide a hot breakfast, as well as hygiene kits, socks, shoes and jackets. With the onset of the pandemic, Michael's group not only continued those activities, but also provided shelters with much needed sack lunches and other necessities. His nominators tell us that his work has inspired many additional volunteers to come forward to help.