

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

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Coto de Caza woman earns Heart & Soul Award

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Debbie Simpson of Coto de Caza is the December recipient of the O'Connor Mortuary Heart & Soul Award. Simpson received the award because of her volunteer work with the Trauma Intervention Program.

Simpson moved to California from Washington a year after the death of her 13-year-old son in 2004. She decided to do volunteer work but hadn't expected to choose an organization that provides assistance to families after the death of a loved one, especially not while she was still emotionally recovering from her own loss. But she transformed her personal tragedy into an invaluable gift to the community, which is what O'Connor Mortuary representatives say earned her the honor.



Neil O'Connor, president and CEO of O'Connor Mortuary in Laguna Hills, presents Debbie Simpson of Coto de Caza with December's Heart and Soul Award.

PHOTO BY KASEY SCOTT

Simpson has volunteered with TIP for about five years, making herself available 24 hours a day to help others who have lost a loved one or experienced some sort of tragedy. She currently serves as the crisis team manager of the Orange County chapter.

The O'Connor Mortuary Heart & Soul Award, which is awarded monthly, recognizes Orange County citizens for making a difference in their local communities. In addition to giving Simpson a plaque, O'Connor Mortuary in Laguna Hills will make a donation to TIP in Simpson's name.