

The Craig and Susan Thomas Foundation

Susan Thomas

**Inspiration
Leadership
Opportunity**

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Hinderliter Named Thomas Foundation Leadership Award Winner

Casper – Greta Hinderliter, Natrona County School District #1 McKinney-Vento Homeless Student Liaison, was honored as the winner of the tenth annual Leadership Award from the Craig and Susan Thomas Foundation. The Leadership Award recognizes and honors an adult who champions the needs of young people who are at risk.

Susan Thomas, Foundation Director, said, “Craig believed strongly in leadership. He would say that each of us has the responsibility every day to make this world a better place in which to live. Leadership is one way to accomplish that and this leadership award recognizes those who actually live it.”

In presenting the award to Hinderliter, Thomas said, “Greta is a true agent of change. She champions the homeless students who couch surf, she champions the youth who goes to school hungry. She gives hope to those who have none. She changes lives forever. This award was created for people just like Greta.”

In addition to the honor, the award comes with a \$2,500 check to be used as the winner chooses.

Hinderliter was nominated by Jim Zierden who is the Dropout Prevention and Recovery Coordinator at Natrona County School District #1. He works closely with Hinderliter and during the award presentation, he told several stories about the students she has helped. He said “Greta is willing to go to the ends of the earth to help a student. She touches generations and she will continue to change lives for decades and centuries to come.”

Dr. Dean Braughton, Director, NCSD#1 K-12 Student Support Services, lauded Hinderliter’s work. He said, “Greta... works tirelessly year around to identify and then to meet the myriad needs of families and hundreds of children without homes in the Casper community. Greta is there ... be it with a gas card; shelter at a local motel; arranging for free school lunch; buying toothpaste, deodorant or a pair of socks; meeting with school social worker and principal; and a dozen other things that without her passion to help would go unprovided, and unnoticed by most in our community.”

Rick Skatula, Natrona County’s Executive Director for School Improvement, also recognized Hinderliter’s commitment to students who are homeless, saying, “Every teacher’s dream is to make a difference in the lives of the students with whom they work. I can tell you that Greta has made not only a difference in the lives of young people, she’s made a significant difference.”

The Craig and Susan Thomas Foundation focuses on students who are at risk. The Foundation is named in part for the late United States Senator Craig Thomas who championed the cause of Wyoming's youth.

(photo attached)

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Greta Hinderliter, left, holds the 2017 Craig and Susan Thomas Foundation Leadership Award which was presented by Susan Thomas.