

## Starfish award presented to Coal Creek Watershed founding member

Fred Brown  
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OAK RIDGE — Carol L. Moore, founding board member of the Coal Creek Watershed Foundation and office manager of Geo/Environmental Associates Inc. of Knoxville, was presented Wednesday with the Anderson County Interagency Coalition's annual Starfish Award.

The presentation took place at Oak Ridge Associated Universities' board room before representatives of social service agencies and students helped through Moore's tireless efforts in the foundation.

The Starfish Award, based on the story of a boy who helps save the lives of beached starfish, is given each year to the person who has contributed to Anderson County's community at large.

The presentation was made by Rick Morrow, executive director of the Anderson County United Way.

Since 2002, Moore and the foundation — founded by Barry Thacker, who also started the engineering firm of Geo/Environmental — have provided 36 scholarships to students from the Briceville area.

Through the foundation, more than \$300,000 in scholarships, which range from \$2,000 to \$10,000, have been awarded to students, mainly from Briceville Elementary School.

Kyle Leinart, 22, a senior in computer engineering science at the University of Tennessee, and Jonathan Sharp, 25, both recipients of the scholarship, told the jammed board room how much the scholarships meant to their future.



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Carol Moore takes questions from Briceville Elementary students during a program Thursday, Dec. 6, 2012, at Briceville Church. Moore, who operates the Coal Creek Watershed Foundation with Barry Thacker, left, is the recipient of the Anderson County Interagency Coalition's annual Starfish Award, given each year to a person who has contributed to Anderson County community-at-large. (AMY SMOTHERMAN BURGESS/NEWS SENTINEL)

"Without Carol's help, who gave me an opportunity to realize my dreams, I would not know what my future would have been," Leinart said. "I am living my dreams."

Sharp, a graduate student in business administration from Eastern Kentucky University, said he has known Moore since he was in the fourth grade at Briceville Elementary.

"She has been a positive influence on my life," Sharp said. "She also taught me how important it is to give back to the community."

Amy Dugger Crabtree, the first scholarship winner, was unable to attend the Starfish ceremony but sent a letter. Crabtree, who earned a graduate degree in social work, was the first in her family to go to college.

She wrote that Moore "has believed in me from day one. She is such a positive person and has found her calling in inspiring young adults to reach beyond their wildest dreams and conquer any barrier that gets in the way."

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