



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **(Hillsboro Fire Department Honors Citizen Life-Saver)**

Hillsboro Fire Department awarded a local citizen with a certificate of recognition for her actions in saving the life of a six-year old drowning victim. Fire Department Operations Chief Greg Nelson presented the award to Tonya Stewart at the City of Hillsboro Council Meeting on Tuesday evening, June 16, 2009.

The incident occurred on the afternoon of May 22<sup>nd</sup>, when a group of about 20 people were enjoying the unusually warm spring weather at the Wyndhaven Apartments swimming pool. Witnesses say the boy, whose identity is protected by federal privacy laws, was standing at the shallow end of the pool. He reportedly jumped into the water and surfaced. At that moment, another swimmer accidentally bumped the boy and he apparently hit his head against the pool edge. When fellow swimmers noticed the child again, he was floating motionless in the pool. Bystanders quickly pulled the child from the water.

Tonya Stewart, 33, a stay-at-home-mom, was sunbathing on the pool deck. When she realized the child was not breathing, she drew upon her training from a previous healthcare job, raced to his side and began administering Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), while another bystander called 9-1-1. Stewart continued C-P-R until Hillsboro Firefighter/Paramedics and medics from Metro West Ambulance arrived. By that time, the youth had begun breathing again and had regained consciousness. He was taken to a local hospital and held for observation overnight.

“Whether someone else could or would have done the same thing isn’t the question here,” said Chief Nelson in making the presentation on behalf of all City public safety responders. “Ms. Stewart acted quickly and decisively saving this child’s life.” Stewart indicated she had received her C-P-R training from the American Red Cross. For more fire and life safety information, visit:

[www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/fire](http://www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/fire) or call 503-681-6166.

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Tonya Stewart displays her life-saving award presented by Hillsboro Fire Department Operations Chief Greg Nelson and Mayor Jerry Willey.