



**For Immediate Release**  
**May 27, 2011**

**Contact:**  
**Phil Nash, 303.458.1340**

**May 2011 Awardee Mark Hopkins:  
A Champion for Deaf and Hearing-Impaired Children**

**Mark Hopkins** is the May 2011 recipient of the **Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award**. A volunteer with **The Listen Foundation**, Hopkins is being honored for helping infants and children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing learn how to listen and speak so they may have the same opportunities as other children. Hopkins' passion stems from his experience with a hearing-impaired daughter.

Hopkins served as board president of The Listen Foundation for the past five years. He also has taken on many other roles, including support for the organization's computer technology, website upgrades and helping secure a video producer for The Listen Foundation's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. Hopkins is also involved in marketing and fundraising for the organization.

In addition to his volunteer work with The Listen Foundation, Hopkins teaches English as a Second Language to immigrants, performs with an a cappella vocal group that entertains senior citizens, and is involved in the South Metro Chamber of Commerce, where he speaks to groups about the hearing-impaired.

The Listen Foundation ([listenfoundation.org](http://listenfoundation.org)) nominated Hopkins for the award. The organization's programs use current therapies and technology to help deaf or hard-of-hearing children and infants learn to listen and speak. Services are provided regardless of a family's ability to pay. Hopkins has designated The Listen Foundation as beneficiary of the \$2,000 cash gift that accompanies the Community Volunteer Award.

"We are very pleased to recognize the generous contributions of Mark Hopkins to The Listen Foundation and the children they serve," said Dr. Chris Veasey, chair of the Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award Committee. "Mark's efforts to help these young people have an equal chance in life exemplifies the spirit of the Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award."

**In its 35<sup>th</sup> year, the Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award Committee recognizes outstanding volunteers monthly 11 times a year. Recipients may designate a \$2,000 gift to the organization of their choice. Since 1976, the Committee has recognized 401 outstanding volunteers and donated \$706,000 to nearly 500 nonprofit organizations designated by award recipients. From 1967 to 1983, Minoru Yasui served as executive director of the Denver Commission on Community Relations, which launched the Community Volunteer Award in 1976, and named it in honor of Mr. Yasui in 1977.**

**2011 sponsors include: Debra Ardel; City and County of Denver; The Cody Dental Group; *Denver Post Community*; The Denver Foundation; Denver Marriott Tech Center Hotel; Judge Kerry Hada; Havey Productions; KEZW AM 1430; Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award Committee Members; Signal Graphics Printing at Hampden & Monaco; *The Villager*; The Yasui Family**