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Rockaway Beach Resort Named Oregon Private Employer of the Year

The Oregon Resource Association (ORA) has named the Rockaway Beach Resort its 2025 Private Employer of the Year. Holly Rico, Vocational Program Director at Marie Mills Center in Tillamook accepted the award in Ashland April 24 on behalf of the Resort.

ORA names one company each year that demonstrates an outstanding commitment to improving the lives of people with disabilities. Says Rico about the Resort and its leadership; “Their company strives to provide hospitality, integrity, and excellence to the public and I feel they succeed by setting a high standard of these principles...which also include teamwork, trust and inclusiveness for the world to witness.”

“The Marie Mills Center has been a Resort partner for over eight years and we appreciate the way their mission aligns with our own”, says James Coke, Resort Proprietor. “I could not be more proud of our team and how each employee is so honoring.”

Marie Mills placed employee Dallas Entwistle-Jewett with the resort where she is supervised and mentored by John Johnson, Facilities Manager, and Amanda Rodriguez, Housekeeping Manager. Says Johnson; “Dallas has been a wonderful addition, and the joy she finds in her work is a daily encouragement to me and everyone else.”

The Rockaway Beach Resort was a non-profit condominium timeshare facing failure in 2023. Tillamara was formed by a group of former owners who bought the property and reorganized it into a for-profit hotel. It is notable that the resulting culture can be recognized for such a prestigious award only one year into the turnaround.

About:

The Rockaway Beach Resort and Conference Center is wholly owned by Tillamara, Inc., and located in Rockaway Beach, Oregon. It provides lodging and meeting facilities serving groups visiting the north Tillamook Coast. Its website is [<https://ezrbr.com/>].

The Marie Mills Center is located at 1800 Front Street, Tillamook. It was founded in 1969 and facilitates local employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. It is a member of the Oregon Resource Association. Its website is [<https://mariemillscenter.com/>].

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Photo:

Resort employee Dallas Entwistle-Jewett holds the ORA award with Facilities Manager John Johnson at left and Proprietor James Coke at right.

