

Award Honors Trauma Volunteers

■ **Public service:** A North County group has won a \$100,000 Ford Foundation grant for its work helping victims of tragedy. The money will be used to help other communities establish the popular program.

THE AWARDS PROCESS

Although they are among the newest in the field of state or local government, the annual Innovations Awards given by the Ford Foundation and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government are widely considered the most prestigious.

That is only in part because of the standing of the institutions awarding these \$100,000 prizes. The chief reason is the careful investigation and judging that goes into the selection.

Applicants fill out a detailed form describing the program, its budget, its aims, its achievements—and its shortcomings and critics. From this and additional written material the Innovations program staff may request, 75 semi-finalists are selected.

Each of these 75 programs (chosen from an applicant pool of more than 1,500 this year) is then inspected, on site, by a two-person team, one from the Kennedy School and the other a specialist in the program area involved. Twenty-five finalists are then chosen to come to the Kennedy School to make oral presentations to the Innovations Awards judges, most of them former or present state or local officials. The judges then pick the 10 winners. —E.S.