

## CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

The community will celebrate its volunteers at the 22nd annual Somerset Hills YMCA Volunteer Recognition Night from 6 to 10 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 19, at the Olde Mill Inn in Basking Ridge. The event allows participating organizations the opportunity to recognize their own outstanding individuals who, over the course of the year, have given tirelessly and selflessly to others.

The event also celebrates the community's spirit of volunteerism, while learning about one another's groups and volunteer programs.

More than 20 volunteers will be honored at this community-wide volunteer recognition event, which the Somerset Hills YMCA coordinates and hosts. Robert Raymar, chair of the Somerset Hills YMCA Board of Directors, will welcome nearly 200 attendees, and Tad Waldbauer, chair-elect of the Somerset Hills YMCA Board of Directors, will be master of ceremonies for the evening.

Many of the organizations are involved in the event on an annual basis. Among those participating this year are: The Arc of Somerset County, The Bonafides, Fellowship Village, Bernardsville Business & Professional Women, Junior Woman's Club, Somerset County 4H, Somerset Hills Learning Institute, Somerset Hills Adult Day Center, Somerset Valley YMCA and the Visiting Nurse Association. Participating for the first time this year are: Great Swamp Watershed Association, Kevin J. Hannaford Sr. Foundation,

S.H.A.R.E., as well as The Wellness Community.

The Somerset Hills YMCA will present four awards including the Millicent Fenwick Memorial Civic Award given to an area individual or organization that recognizes meritorious leadership and service. This year's winner is Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church – Hearts for Honduras School. The YMCA will also present the Distinguished Volunteer Award to Tom Moschello; the Distinguished Youth Volunteer Award, given to a young adult(s) between the ages of 13 and 18, to Ian Van Nest; and the Distinguished Family Volunteer Award to the Wachenfeld family.

The Somerset Hills YMCA relies on its volunteer base for many programs and services that support the community and, last year alone, welcomed more than 1,000 devoted and talented volunteers through its doors.

Volunteer Recognition Night began in 1988 as a champagne reception in the YMCA's gym and, as the event continued to grow, was moved to the Somerset Hills Hotel in Warren and then to the Olde Mill Inn. This is the 13th year it will take place at the Olde Mill Inn.

Somerset Hills YMCA is a charitable community service organization, rooted in Christian values and dedicated to helping all people grow in spirit, mind and body. The Somerset Hills YMCA is guided by its core principles of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.

## COVER STORY

# HEARTS FOR HONDURAS: CHANGING LIVES...FOREVER

By **ROBIN HOLLERAN**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In Honduras, only 50 percent of all children finish sixth grade and only about 10 to 15 percent ever make it through high school. As one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere, most families lack the money to purchase mandatory uniforms and textbooks needed for public schools; young children are also often sent to work to help support their families.

Several years ago, a crew from the Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church set out to change this – one child at a time.

"A member of our church – Nancy Hogue – had gone down to Honduras for 18 months after college to work as a physical therapist. While there, she developed a relationship with a small mountain village with no electricity, public water or communications. A mission team returned with her in 1997 to build a church, and if the experience didn't change their lives, it certainly touched everyone in a meaningful way," said Doug Ligouri of Basking Ridge, leader of the Honduran mission project. "For one, Nancy's Honduran boyfriend, Carlos, joined the group of volunteers building the church, and at the end of the week, proposed marriage."

### A Series Of Events

A follow-up trip to La Majada the next year was canceled when Hurricane Mitch pummeled the Central American country. About the same time, Carlos' sister, Paty Villanueva de Coto, a teacher in Honduras, approached the church with a new idea: help the poorest children get an education.

The Hearts for Honduras School began in 2000 with a first-grade program and the idea that the students could then be enrolled in public schools after the first year. "Because we started with some children who were 12 and 13 years old who didn't even know how to hold a pencil, we couldn't put them into a public classroom with others who were a good five years younger. As you can imagine, there is also a much higher dropout rate with large age gaps in the same classroom," adds Ligouri.

"The school even combined the fourth and fifth grade curriculum to graduate some 16 year old boys in time. Since then, they've been able to scale back to make the classes more age appropriate."

### A Community Oasis

Since its modest beginnings, the Hearts for Honduras School has grown to a first through sixth grade school that offers art instruction, English classes and a fully



Proudly showing off a photograph of the family they helped in Honduras are Doug Ligouri, left, and Glen Taylor, both of Basking Ridge.

equipped computer lab as part of its elementary school curriculum. Paty also organized a parent organization and hold seminars and other events throughout the year to keep parents involved, many of which are illiterate and may not understand the value of an education.

"Hearts for Honduras is really an oasis in the middle of a cultural desert. It is amazing to see these children blossom under the attention and love they receive from the teachers," says Glenn Taylor of Basking Ridge, president of the Hearts for Honduras Foundation. "The director of the local secondary school where our graduates go told us Hearts for Honduras students are generally better prepared than public-school children."

The not-for-profit Hearts for Honduras Foundation was started in 2004 that now includes six Hondurans and two members from Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church – Ligouri and Taylor. The same year, Hearts for Honduras graduated its first class of 17 sixth grade students. By 2008, over 60 percent of the 73 students who'd graduated were continuing their education at secondary schools with scholarships provided by the Hearts for Honduras Foundation – a major achievement in a country where only one-half of the children make it through sixth grade.

### A Good Idea Grows

"The goal of Hearts for Honduras is to be there forever. In 2010, the first Hearts for Honduras graduate will enter a university. Because the student will have to live away from home and will not have time to work, he will probably need additional assistance with living expenses," said Ligouri.

Ligouri also told a story about a Hearts for Honduras graduate who continued



Making the World a Better Place.

MILLINGTON SAVINGS BANK salutes the volunteers of the Somerset Hills YMCA and proudly recognizes the leadership and service that they provide throughout the year.



(908) 647-4000

www.millingtonsb.com

Branches in Morris and Somerset Counties



Community-Minded. Customer-Focused.  
Business-Friendly.

# 2009 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR NAMED BY YMCA

## ARC of Somerset County

**Jody Friedman** of Watchung is team leader of the Camp Jotoni Horticultural Support Team of the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Somerset and Hunterdon Counties. She acts as a liaison between the Arc of Somerset County, owner of Camp Jotoni, and the Master Gardeners. Her team researched, developed, installed and helped to maintain two new programs at Camp Jotoni this summer to enhance its nature program: Camp Jotoni Grows, vegetable and herb garden and corresponding activities, and Camp Jotoni Explores, nature trail lessons, horticultural identifications, trail maps and sensory awakening activities for Camp Jotoni's campers to enjoy.



**JODY FRIEDMAN**

Friedman is married to Bruce with children Scott, 23, Monica, 21, and Glenn, 17, and has lived in the area for 25 years.

She is a contributing writer and volunteer for the Certified Rutgers Master Gardener of Somerset and Hunterdon Counties. Friedman is also a team member of Habitat For Humanity, a leader at Camp Jotoni Horticultural Support, a team member for publicity and Somerset County Helpline volunteer. She serves as an advisory board member for The Pingry School Lower School Community Service from 1999-2004; a leader/sidewalker and stable assistant for Dreams Come True Therapeutic Riding from 2000-2004; and has also volunteered in the development responsible for raising needed funds to complete the Social Hall for the Temple Har Shalom.

She volunteers because, "When I was younger my dad taught me that if I have the good fortune to be able to give back to the world that I live in and I don't take that opportunity and run with it, who will?"

She says she is "very proud of the programs that we've developed and will continue to work on at Camp Jotoni. Both the nature trail explorations and the vegetable/herb garden activity periods offered new and valuable learning experiences to the campers and staff who return to that wonderful place year after year."

## Bonafides

**Bettyann Bowlby** of Somerville is this year's volunteer of the year award winner for The Bonafides of Somerset Hills. She works with the Bonafides to bring food to the Food Bank of Somerset County. In addition, she also helps gather and deliver food for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners as well as helping to provide gifts for 16 families at the holidays. Bowlby has served as president of the Bonafides in 2007 and 2008.



**BETTYANN BOWLBY**

Bowlby has lived in the area with her husband, Richard, for the past 34 years. She has three children: Richard J., Marianne and James; and six grandchildren.

Her civic and volunteer work includes being an election board worker for 34 years, making chemo hats for cancer patients and serving as a cantor and a soloist at the Church of Saint James in Basking Ridge from 1963 to 1995. She also has been a Eucharist Minister for the Immaculate Conception Church in Somerville from 1995 to 2009. She is a trained vocalist and has entertained at the Somerset Hills Adult Day Care.

"I enjoy helping others who need help. God has blessed me with many gifts - a wonderful husband and family. Being a cancer survivor myself, I would like to give help to others," said Bowlby.

Her best volunteer experience was "bringing Christmas food and gifts to the Food Bank. Our workers made me feel so proud to see I am a Bonafide. I was walking a foot off the ground," she said.

## Business and Professional Women

**The Business and Professional Women (BPW)** of Bernardsville in Bernardsville, with Andrea Mastrobattista as the current president, as an organization is recognized this year.

BPW Bernardsville has been in existence since 1961. It is an organization committed to supporting women in their personal and



**THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN**

professional lives. Many of the programs offer personal growth, community involvement, and education in such important areas as finance, health, and business. Members enjoy the networking opportunities, support systems, and friendships that come from being a BPW volunteer.

BPW Bernardsville is also dedicated to assisting women with the advancement of their education and careers. In that spirit, the organization awards two scholarships in the Somerset Hills community each year; one to a graduating high school senior and one to a woman who is continuing her adult education.

## Fellowship Village

**Helen R. Mallon** of Basking Ridge has been chairperson of the Library Committee at Fellowship Village since 1996. She keeps a regularly updated record of all books in the library, makes book labels and signs as necessary. She runs Library Committee meetings and, with her co-chair, trains new volunteers and does an annual inventory of the library collection. Mallon has served a three-year term on Fellowship Village's Resident Council and also is a member of the welcoming committee.



**HELEN MALLON**

Mallon has been a resident of Basking Ridge with her husband, Paul, since 1962. She and her husband, who is her co-chair of the Library Committee, moved to Fellowship Village in 1996. They have a son, Stephen, who lives in Wyndmoor, Pa., with his wife, Helen, and a daughter, Linda, who

lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband, John Mueller. They also have five grandchildren.

Mallon served as president of the Ridge High School American Field Service Chapter from 1968-1970, was a member of AAUW and co-chairperson of the 1973 AAUW booksale. She also started recording for the blind service sponsored by the Somerset Hills Red Cross in 1963, working with the NJ State Commission for the blind and visually impaired.

Mallon has a long list of volunteering and civic affiliations. Besides her work at Fellowship Village, her most recent commitments include being an elder of the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church and is currently serving a second term as deacon. She also assists the church staff as needed in writing church publicity.

When asked why do you volunteer? Her response is "one hopes that what we do as a volunteer will make a difference in the life of the community and in the lives of the people we meet."

## Great Swamp Watershed Association

**Ann E. Campbell** of Morristown volunteers for Great Swamp Watershed Association as a Webmaster, a newsletter designer and is a member of the Communications Task Force, Science and Technology Committee, Education and Outreach Committee, and BioBlitz Committee.



**ANN CAMPBELL**

Campbell is a retired scientific software developer and has lived in this area for 27 years.

She also is the Webmaster for many different organizations including the Cross Estate Gardens, NJ Historical Garden Foundation, CONTACT We Care (a crisis hot line in Westfield), Watchung Arts Center, New Philharmonic of NJ, Garden State Gardens Consortium, Association of NJ Environmental Commissions, South Jersey Bayshore Coalition, Harding Township

PLEASE SEE YMCA, PAGE 4

## HEARTS FROM PAGE 2

with a secondary education until he decided to become a policeman. He was then selected to become an intelligence officer largely because he had computer skills and a Microsoft Certificate for proficiency in Microsoft Office that all graduates earn at Hearts for Honduras. "He's come back to the school on several occasions to thank the teachers and talk to the students," said Ligouri.

Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church's annual mission trips to Honduras have grown to about 70 to 80 volunteers who venture to the Central American country

for one week of work at and around the school.

Work teams now also include professionals who provide dental, medial and eye examinations and treatment to the students - and their families, time permitting.

"The public school system in Honduras is a travesty. We're now starting to reach out of public schools in the area to help them make much needed renovations and updates to their buildings," said Taylor. "But at the same time, we don't want to become overextended."

At the conclusion of the interview, Taylor quoted Winston Churchill: "You make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give."

A HEALING FAMILY

**VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION**  
of SOMERSET HILLS

HOME HEALTH AND HOSPICE SERVICES  
COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES  
ADULT DAY CENTER

www.visitingnurse.org • 908.766.0180

SERVING SOMERSET AND MORRIS COUNTIES  
SINCE 1904

**The Board & Staff of the  
VNA of Somerset Hills  
Salute  
Lynne Combs  
Hospice/Homecare  
Volunteer, Rummage  
Volunteer, and former  
Board of Trustee.**