

2011 Unsung Hero

Mary Jacobson is a proud alumna from McDonell Central High School class of 1978. When Mary brought her oldest child to St. Charles Borromeo School for kindergarten in 1995 it was like a coming home for her.

Mary's passion and dedication to Catholic education motivated her to serve two terms on our advisory board the Education Commission. From here, she helped implement the Recruitment and Retention Committee (PR Committee) always striving to share her love of Catholic education with others and keeping the students always first.

It is this servant leader mentality, which gave Mary the inspiration to create a service program at the Chippewa Area Catholic Schools. In 2005, Mary formed and implemented the Student Ambassador program for grades 7th through 12th. The mission of the program is to promote leadership, team-building skills, service-mindedness, and personal growth in the ambassadors.

With countless volunteer hours each year organizing the students, (which one year grew to over 90 students), Mary identifies the needs in the community. With the motto "Partners in Faith: "First You, then Me", the students then reach out to satisfy those needs and in Mary's words. "They do it respectfully, compassionately and unselfishly."

The student's community service touches many from assisting adults with computer classes, the Heyde Center special events, working with kids at the Special Olympics and providing food for our community table and the Empty Bowls program. Through this program of works of charity and service, which provides over 1100 hours of service to their schools, parishes and community annually, the students gain confidence, knowledge and leadership skills which they will continue to use throughout their lives.

Mary has been married for 29 years and has two children, who have and will join her as alumni of McDonell Central Catholic High School.

I thank Mary for her years of tireless volunteer service and dedication not only to the Catholic school system but to the students. We appreciate your devotion and look forward to the greater accomplishments of the student ambassador program with your excellent example of Christ shown through each of them.

It is with great respect that I present to you the 2011 unsung hero, Mrs. Mary Jacobson.

– Principal Brother Roger Betzold