Disabilities

Awards

2008 Winners

The Caring Ministries honored recipients of the agency's annual caregiving awards during their Recognition Dinner at the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference in Richmond, Virginia.

Mary Cline Detrick was praised for her contributions to the Older Adult Ministry cabinet. From 2001 to 2007, Mary served as a member of this group, presenting numerous workshops related to many aspects of aging and helping to plan and lead Older Adult Ministry Training Events in conjunction with the 2004 and 2006 National Older Adult Conferences. At closing worship of NOAC 2006, Mary shared her vision of aging in her sermon “Amazing, Passionate Lights!” Mary is a member of the Delegate Council of the National Interfaith Coalition on Aging, a constituent group of the National Council on Aging (NCOA); and was a key speaker at NCOA’s 2006 Wingspread Conference, presenting “When Age, Spirituality, and the Boomers Meet.” Mary has a long history of involvement on an ecumenical level, including Church Women United, FaithTrust Institute, and the International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Mary’s warmth, caring spirit and compassion serve as the foundation for her many years of service to the Caring Ministries, the Church of the Brethren, and the broader faith community.

Shari McCabe was recognized upon her retirement from The Cedars in McPherson, Kansas. First as Healthcare Administrator and then as CEO, Shari put The Cedars on the map among the Brethren Homes and moved the retirement community forward to welcome and embrace the oncoming generations. During her five years at The Cedars, Shari guided the organization through construction of four Cedar Houses and a Wellness Center. Both construction projects moved The Cedars toward its stated goal of “meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of its residents.” During Shari’s tenure, The Cedars hosted the Fellowship of Brethren Homes Forum and a regional Deacons’ Workshop. Shari also regularly attended National Older Adult Conference, traveling to North Carolina on a bus from the Western Plains District along with many Cedars residents. The gift of Shari’s contagious laughter, fun-loving sense of humor, deep care and concern for others, professional skills, and love of family have been a successful life-giving formula for her career in long term health care.

Kathy Goering Reid was honored for her work as Executive Director of the Association of Brethren Caregivers since January 2004. Kathy began her leadership with the organization at a time when ABC was in the process of building relationships with the congregations in the Church of the Brethren. Her gifts enabled ABC to more than double its support base among the congregations, and her dynamic interpersonal skills helped to increase giving from individuals as well. Kathy’s success was based on her belief that every donation from every person mattered.

Kathy was instrumental in initiating ABC Week at the General Offices in Elgin, Ill. Inspired by a concern for the wellness of the office employees, activities during the week were designed to build relationships, reduce stress, and provide a means for all to be involved in the caring ministries of ABC.

Kathy has shown her love for Christ and the church and her passion for the caring ministries of ABC by utilizing her gifts in innovative ways to encourage the new Mission and Ministry Board to be designed...
around caring relationships.

The La Verne (Ca.) Church of the Brethren received the “Open Roof” award for its consciousness raising and education on the topics of disabilities and mental health. The congregation recognizes that it has been blessed with leadership from people with special needs. As a result of one young woman’s openness regarding her struggle with bipolar disorder, the congregation offered a Sunday school series called “Understanding Mental Health” and two support groups that meet regularly and provide opportunities for open sharing, on-going education and awareness, an e-mail prayer chain for use during critical incidents, and a host of other resources. With the help of a young married couple in the church family, both blind and using guide dogs, the church hosted an intergenerational Disability Awareness Sunday that included all disabilities/challenges.

The La Verne church building is handicap accessible in a number of ways, including its use of ramps, pew cutouts in the sanctuary for wheelchairs, and wheelchair-accessible restrooms. Sermons are printed for the hard-of-hearing. Large-print bulletins are available for those with limited vision, and ushers have been trained to respond appropriately to those who have physical challenges. The Trustee and Property Commission and the Christian Education Commission have appointed a joint “Visioning the Future” Task Force to do an assessment of the church facility. There is a growing awareness and advocacy by members of the congregation to identify still-existing barriers to accessibility. The congregation continues to find ways to address these issues with imagination and creativity, resulting in greater access for all people with special needs.

Disabilities
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Awards
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Resources