



AWARDEE:

Susan Arthur **Steuben County**



Susan Arthur retired from teaching in 2002, which gave her plenty of time to dedicate herself to other passions. She has volunteered at Ira Davenport Hospital for the past 12 years, transporting patients by wheelchair, running errands throughout the building and carrying medical samples to the lab for processing. Seventeen years ago, Sue's love for animals brought her to the Finger Lakes SPCA, where she spends an average of 40-50 hours a week caring for at-risk animals. Her volunteer roles include facilities manager, outreach volunteer coordinator, equine supply coordinator and fundraising facilitator. She's a member of the emergency rescue team, taking care of logistics and participating in the rescue of animals from horrible conditions. Vicki Mosgrove, director of the Finger Lakes SPCA, says that she would need to hire three or four people to do the work that Sue accomplishes as a volunteer. Beyond this, Sue is simply a good neighbor. She knows the people in her neighborhood and she looks out for them, especially the ill and older neighbors remaining at home. She checks in on them and spends time visiting. Often, Sue and her husband Jim will attend local fundraising dinners and purchase extra meals to deliver to the neighbors who were not able to get out on their own.

Sue was raised in Marcellus, NY, near Syracuse. After graduating high school, she attended SUNY Brockport, where she earned a teaching degree in physical education and biology. She earned her master's degree from SUNY Cortland. She was offered a position at the Canisteo School District and made the move to Steuben County to begin a 33-year career teaching physical education, life science and biology. An avid sportswoman, Sue also became well known throughout the county as "Coach" to many soccer, basketball, softball, and baseball teams. Although she taught in Canisteo, she was actively involved in youth sports coaching in Bath. In total, Sue has spent about 36 years coaching youth sports. She was the president of the Bath Little League, and was appointed as the first female athletic director in New York State. She met her husband, James, in 1974 after being set up on a blind date by a friend of Jim's. There was chemistry in the match, and the two began a 44-year life together. They remain happily married to this day, adding two sons, a daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren to their family.

On volunteering, Sue believes that everyone has a gift and that once that gift is discovered it should be shared with others. She says that we all require support from others throughout our lives, so when we have the opportunity to give back it is a privilege to do so.