



AWARDEE:

Joan Watkins
Steuben County



Joan Watkins has served her community for many years in diverse ways. She was the lead nurse at the Health Ministry of the Southern Tier in the Steuben County branch for about ten years until the ministry closed its doors.

With her work on Operation Christmas Child, Joan travels to various locations throughout the county, passing out shoeboxes for people to fill and send items to children in other countries at Christmastime. Other organizations benefit from her dedication to serving others, including the Woodhull Community Food Pantry as well as the Parent Resource Center and its Baby Bottle Drive.

For the past four years, Joan has served as a Wellness Ambassador with Steuben Senior Services Fund under the Full Circle America Program, bringing their members joy, compassion, and friendship. Joan has also been a lifelong Sunday school teacher. She is truly a caring person who gives her time, talent, and energy to serving others. Joan's caring spirit continues to touch countless lives within and beyond her community.

Joan is a native New Yorker, residing most of her life in Woodhull, New York, where she raised a son and a daughter who remain in the area. Before living in Steuben County, she lived in Horseheads, New York.

Joan graduated in 1964 from the Arnot Ogden School of Nursing in Elmira and spent 40 years as a medical/surgical and intensive care nurse, working at Arnot Ogden Medical Center, St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira, New York, and Corning Hospital in Corning, New York. She eventually became a nurse practitioner at the MacDonald Health Clinic in Woodhull, New York where she touched many lives.

"My best advice to everyone is to get ahold of the Office for the Aging in your community and find what volunteer project interests you, because there are many!" she says. "God affords us great opportunities to bless others by using our varied skills."