



HOLY ANGELS

Unconditional Love. Unlimited Possibilities.

PRESS RELEASE

April 23, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Sr. Nancy Nance
Vice President of Community Relations
704-829-4471 (Office)
704-860-0414 (Cell)
NancyN@holyangelsnc.org

HOLY ANGELS 19TH ANNUAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION & AWARDS RECEPTION

Holy Angels presented the 2009 Volunteer Awards, during the 19th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Reception on Tuesday, April 21st, at Holy Angels in Belmont, NC. The reception was part of the Volunteer Appreciation Week celebration.

During the evening Regina Moody, Holy Angels President/CEO, announced the re-naming of one award to be the “Gail Blackburn Angel of Friendship Award” in memory of Ms. Blackburn, Gastonia, who passed away earlier this year. She was a long time volunteer who was a special friend to a resident and this award will recognize those special friendships at Holy Angels.

Two graduating seniors from were honored for their continued volunteerism throughout their high school years – Elizabeth Costner and Kara Hamm, who both attend Highland School of Technology.

Following is a list of the 2009 Volunteer Award Winners:

- **Joanna Nichols Volunteen of the Year – Sara Keesler, Belmont, NC** – a student at South Point High School, is the daughter of Scott and Beth Keesler, has been a Volunteen since June 2008 coming in weekly, on days off and during her summer vacation – she shares her time and talents at Moody Place, an ICF group home.
- **Volunteer Group of the Year – The Federal Family, Charlotte, NC** – In 2006 Keegan Federal, Jr. realized that the golf tournament that year was going to fall on the same day as his dad’s, Keegan Federal, Sr.’s birthday. Mr. Federal had passed away several years prior and Keegan thought the golf tournament was the perfect opportunity to honor Mr. Federal, who was passionate about family, golf and Holy Angels. For the past 3 years the Federals’ have served as the Silver Sponsor for Holy Angels Carolina Classic Golf Tournament and raised over \$41,000 for the programs and services of Holy Angels. Not only does the family raise money, most of them participate in the tournament as either a golfer or a volunteer. The award was presented to Mrs. Mary Virginia Federal, Mr. Keegan Federal, Sr.’s widow and family matriarch.

-MORE-

HOLY ANGELS VOLUNTEER AWARDS 2009/2

- **Ed Sabatini Advocacy Award – Jane Collins** –Named in honor of the late Ed Sabatini, this award recognizes an individual or group who serves as an advocate of Holy Angels. Ms. Collins has been involved in Angel Bowl (Holy Angels largest fundraiser) as a company coordinator for nearly 17 years. She has gotten her coworkers at PSNC and their families to participate in Angel Bowl. She has also advocated with PSNC to secure sponsorship of the event. This past year she has stepped up her volunteer involvement with Holy Angels by working with First Baptist Church of Mount Holly in the development of the Holy Angels Hand Bell Choir.
- **Dennis McClain Volunteer of the Year – Jan Laster, Charlotte, NC**, has been a Volunteer since March 2006. As a retired Registered Nurse, it was only fitting to have her volunteer each week in Holy Angels Fisher Health Care Center, with some of the residents who are more medically fragile.
- **The Lynn Leonard Service Above Self Award** was established in 2007 to honor those volunteers who go above and beyond in their service on behalf of the residents we serve at Holy Angels. **Suzanne Fairbairn, Belmont, NC**, began her volunteer service in June 1999 along with good friend Cosi – a pet therapy dog, who was just 19 months old at the time. Since then, they have come twice monthly as part of Pet Therapy for the residents who live in the Morrow Center and the ICF group homes. As Cosi has grown over the past 10 years, so has the love of the residents for their visits. Just before Easter, Ms. Fairbairn and Cosi made their Easter visit complete with bunny ears. Her commitment and dedication are a reminder of the importance of the ministry at Holy Angels - to care for and love deeply those who need it most – the residents who live at Holy Angels.

Holy Angels was founded in 1956 by the Sisters of Mercy. The private, nonprofit corporation located in Belmont, NC, provides residential services and innovative programs for children and adults with varying degrees of mental retardation and physical disabilities, some of whom are medically fragile. Programs include the Holy Angels Residential Center, four Community Group Homes, five ICF/MR homes (Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded), Little Angels Child Development Center, Great Adventures, Camp Hope and Cherubs Café & Candy Bouquet in downtown Belmont.