

Congratulations to Ann Rider Awardee of the Town of Enfield Volunteer Recognition Program October 2010

Date: October 15, 2010

Congratulations to Ann Rider, who received the Town of Enfield Volunteer Recognition Program Award on October 13, 2010.

Ann was nominated by the Debbie Teeter, Enfield Town Board Member.

It is my pleasure to nominate **Ann Rider** for Enfield Volunteer of the Quarter (or month).

I have known Ann for nearly twenty years, and during that time I have been humbled by her sustained commitment to the Enfield community. Ann is a "get it done" person - she sees a need, she figures out how to meet it. As a result of her many efforts, interests and activities, she has developed a large and diverse following of community members appreciative of her labors and willing to step up when she calls for help. Ann has a two-way street approach when she meets people: how can you help our community, and how can our community help you?

The Enfield Community Council has been close to Ann's heart for a very long time. She serves as vice president and is actively engaged in the organization's programming. She runs the kitchen at the annual Harvest Festival chicken barbecue, calling on community members who would again, "Do anything for Ann". She regularly conducts what is affectionately referred to as "cooking with Ann" with program participants of both the afterschool program and summer camp. When the Summer Camp program was in dire financial straits last summer, Ann contacted a local foundation and arranged for needed funding.

Ann has served as a community representative on the Enfield Elementary School Site-Based Council for years. She has been instrumental in helping teachers learn about gardening, arranging for grow lights to be set up in classrooms, volunteering with students to work in the beds, helping write grants for tools and seeds - the list goes on and on. Her commitment to youth in our community is unshakable.

When the opportunity came to form an Enfield Beautification Committee, Ann was a natural fit. She'd already been a one-woman show in making sure the Memorial Garden in front of the elementary school was maintained from year to year. She helped coordinate the acquisition of the beautiful, hand-carved wooden Town of Enfield signs, and after their installation took care of planting perennial flowers, grasses and shrubs around them. Most recently, she has provided oversight for a local young person working on beautification projects in the community,

All aspects of Ann's life provide opportunities to reach out to help people. She recently began volunteering for Sew Green, a local organization to reduce consumer consumption of clothing by reuse and repair. While there she met a young person struggling through a personal crisis; Ann reached out within her network to find someone with a needed contact to help this teen. She has done the same for people struggling with aging family members - provided knowledgeable information and assistance in navigating unknown waters to get needed assistance.

Knowing Ann has made me a better person. She challenges me to be more engaged, with the reward of having fun while giving back to the community. I'm proud to call her my friend, and thrilled to have her as part of my network. I can't think of a more deserving person for the Enfield Volunteer of the Quarter honor.

Sincerely,

Debbie Teeter