

pounds of food has been harvested to feed the hungry, and an average of 175 volunteers each year have been engaged in this worthwhile project.

- Serving on the Franklin County Children's Task Force Board. While Barbara likes to get her hands dirty and directly work on initiatives, she also volunteers her time to set policy and ensure good governance for a nonprofit agency.

Our community would be a very different place without Barbara Marshall's community spirit and investments.

John and Florence Caldwell have managed the Stratton/Eustis Food Pantry for at least fifteen years. They were instrumental in relocating the old food pantry into the brand new Stratton Community Center over five years ago. This location is clean, well-organized and well-equipped, thanks to their diligence, hard work, and Flo's talent at fundraising and grant-writing! They distribute USDA commodities once a month, giving a week's worth of food, many times including tasty recipes, and often delivering boxes of food to those who are housebound. Although Flo and John are able to solicit volunteer help, they are the backbone of this community and this food pantry. If a family is in need, they are there to help in any way they can. During the holidays, they make sure that "their people" are signed up for Operation Santa Claus so that the elderly and the children in their town receive at least one present. They come to Wilton to pick up these gifts for 25 to 30 families (most of them elderly) and see that they are all delivered. I don't know what the Stratton/Eustis community will do when this fine couple can no longer continue in this work, although I don't see them "retiring" in the near future.

Methel Goodwin has been volunteering with SeniorsPlus for over 10 years. She began to volunteering at the Wilton location, and then assisted in the kitchen, through the RSVP program. In 2009, the production kitchen was moved to Lewiston, and the location of the dining site changed, as well. Methel continued volunteering during the transition, but there was a slight lapse between closing the former dining site, and opening the new one at the Masonic Hall in Wilton. Once the new dining site was open, SeniorsPlus was in need of a volunteer to manage and coordinate the site. SeniorsPlus could not provide the nutrition services it does without the service of community volunteers. Several people were contacted without much success, until Methel agreed to give it a try, and has done an outstanding job. As the site coordinator, Methel has increased participation and engagement. She has been able to successfully engage community volunteers to help with tasks at the dining site, providing an opportunity for people to be involved in their community. Additionally, by being a key player in the success of the SeniorsPlus nutrition program, she helps older adults stay healthier and involved in their community. Dining sites provide more than a meal, they provide a place for social interaction, community involvement, and a sense of belonging. Participation has increased by 50% since Methel became the site coordinator. Dining sites are also often the first interaction that clients have with SeniorsPlus. Coordinators and other site volunteers often provide referrals to consumers about the other valuable services offered at no cost. By doing so, and being knowledgeable about those services, Methel has also had an enormous impact by helping people in Franklin County stay in their homes, connecting them with the assistance they need.

The Franklin Volunteer Network is pleased to award the first ever Shining Star and Rising Star Awards for outstanding volunteer service.

The Shining Star award recognizes a seasoned volunteer (or volunteers) who has volunteered a minimum of ten years. Nominees must have made a significant contribution to the lives of Greater Franklin County residents or organizations during his/her years of service.

The Rising Star Award honors an individual (or individuals) new to volunteering. This recipient has also made a significant contribution to improving our communities, and the lives of Greater Franklin County residents. The Franklin Volunteer Network invited nominations from the public and its members, determined eligibility, and selected the award recipients.

Shining Star Award Recipients

Roger and Karyl Condit

Nominated by Nancy Teel

Since moving to Farmington over fifty years ago, Roger and Karyl Condit have made an overwhelming impact in the Greater Franklin County Community. Nominating this dynamic duo is the only way to justly recognize their contribution. Collaboration is the key when successfully raising a family, maintaining meaningful careers, and giving so much of their time to their community.

As a physician, Roger joined Rural Health Associates in Franklin County in 1968, after serving two years in the Navy. Fen Fowler best remembers him "as a physician in the community where he cared for the lowest income families in a compassionate manner." Retiring in 2001, Roger now serves as a hospice volunteer.

Trained as a Social Worker, Karyl, was employed for a period of time with the Children's Task Force. She co-authored a successful book entitled "A Foot in Maine" which describes many activities families can do in our state. She was a founding member of the Western Maine Art Institute. Karyl has been a long-time volunteer on the Franklin Memorial Hospital Auxiliary.

Roger contributed thousands of volunteer hours in labor and Board expertise at the 82 High Street Improvement Project twenty years ago. He has helped out with the Mission at the Eastward housing improve-

ment program for several summers. Scott Planting states, "He'll do whatever is needed no matter how difficult." Roger was the primary motivator in the "Brick Sidewalk Restoration" on Church St., in which the Maine School of Masonry restored the sidewalk to its original splendor. He has served on the Board of Directors at LEAP, 82 High Street, and the Children's Task Force.

Both have been extremely active in their congregation, The United Church of Christ. Roger has served as Deacon, Chairperson of the Ministerial Search Committee, and Finance Committee. Karyl started the well-known drum circle "Inner Rhythms" which she has co-led with the help of Mardy Bogar. She currently serves on several Pastoral Care Teams. Together, they have served for years on the Outdoor Ministries Board, whose primary focus is Pilgrim Lodge, a children's summer church camp on Messalonskee Lake. The Condit's have also been involved with the Outreach Committee at Old South, which administers programs such as the Coat Closet Initiative and raises money for the EcuHeat Fund. They add their expertise in serving others at the Warming Center, the Thursday SeniorsPlus Lunch, and the Old South monthly free Community Lunch.

I have gotten to know them over the past winter when they stepped up to help out with the Community Energy Challenge. They came to Salem together to help build window panels for others. Roger then returned to help build panels for their own home. He also returned to 82 High Street, once again, to help install panels in residents' homes. When I considered the Condit's as perfect candidates for the Shining Star Award I knew they had done a lot for the community. I had no idea, however, the extent of volunteer time they have contributed over the years. I thank Shirley and Dick Waddell, Cathie Wallace, Fen Fowler, and Scott Planting for filling in the blanks for me. In my opinion, Roger and Karyl Condit exemplify the meaning of compassionate giving to one's community.

Rising Star Award Recipient

Ashley Wentworth
Nominated by Rick Dorian

I am pleased to nominate Ashley Wentworth for the Rising Star Award. Ashley is an extraordinary UMF Student in the Community Health Program, who has given many gifts to this community. She is an outstanding Scholar, Athlete and Citizen on Campus and in the Farmington Community. Ashley has donated over 200 hours in 2009 to LEAP through a practicum and research project, and internship on Health & Wellness,

volunteering at a Car Wash and Bottle Drive, and the Golf Tournament. She also works part-time at the Farmington Community Center. Ashley was so dedicated she began to work at LEAP part-time in 2009. She applies her education and interests to make our community a healthier, happier and more satisfying place to live.

Honorable Mentions

Rising Star Award Nominees

Barclays Volunteers have been a welcome addition to WMCA's volunteer force during 2009. Barclays has provided four or five volunteers for each quarterly USDA Commodity Delivery for Greater Franklin County. The majority of the regular food pantry volunteers who come to transport the commodities are elderly, and many times disabled, and so the energy and enthusiasm the Barclays volunteers provide has been a tremendous help. WMCA looks forward to a continued partnership with Barclays.

Shining Star Award Nominees

Carolyn Balsam of Industry volunteered over 50 hours towards a number of LEAP events and activities last year, particularly for the Golf Tournament. She was tireless in her efforts to find sponsors and golfers. She was also on LEAP's Board for over seven years. In addition, Carolyn is an extraordinary volunteer for Literacy Volunteers. She is a caring and committed community member who is especially devoted to those with cognitive, intellectual and learning disabilities.

Barbara Marshall has been a tireless advocate for Greater Franklin County families. Barbara has committed hundreds of volunteer hours:

- Organizing a successful school fundraiser which encouraged school staff and parents to move away from the traditional candy sale to something more creative and community enriching. Barbara contacted numerous local craftspeople and businesses to encourage them to place their wares in a catalogue. Parents, teachers, and friends then ordered items from the catalogue, and supported the artist or business person and the school at the same time.
- Volunteering to organize the Kids Stuff Sale in Farmington. This sale has grown in popularity and now boasts hundreds of shoppers. The proceeds of the kid-friendly items, all of which are donated, go toward a scholarship fund. The fund is managed by the Franklin County Children's Task Force, and helps children attend summer camps. Many recipients could otherwise not afford a rewarding summer camp experience.
- Coordinating the Hope Harvest Garden. Barbara is the mover and shaker behind the garden that is on the grounds of Franklin Memorial Hospital. Barbara not only volunteers her time there, but recruits and trains hundreds of others to help with the preparing, planting, harvesting, and distribution of fresh produce to area food pantries. To date, more than 11,000