



ANNETTE P. SCHMITT UNSUNG HERO AWARD – 2009

**Awarded at the annual Convocation on
Children and Families on March 31, 2009
for significant efforts that have been quietly offered
on behalf of children and families in Belknap County during 2008,
and over a sustained period of time.**

Each year the Annette P. Schmitt “Unsung Hero” Award honors someone who has worked quietly behind the scenes on behalf of children and families in Belknap County without any expectation of recognition.

This award is intended to seek out and recognize someone who has been involved with children and families during the past year and over a sustained period of time but who is not well known by the general public.

Important Guidelines: In determining whether your nominee is a good match for the Schmitt UnSung Hero Award, the following guidelines will be helpful:

- Does this person play a prominent and visible role in the community, either as the administrator of an organization or agency, or as an elected or appointed public official? YES? or NO?
- Does this person appear in the media frequently, either for his/her work with children and families, or for some other contribution he/she has made to the community? YES? or NO?
- Has this person received previous awards or public recognition for his/her contributions to the community? YES? or NO?

The more “NO” responses you check the greater likelihood that your nominee is an appropriate candidate for the Schmitt UnSung Hero Award. Please keep in mind that this Schmitt Award is intended to recognize someone who is committed to promoting the well-being of children and families in Belknap County but who is not already a public and well known figure.

Past honorees include:

- A mother who devoted numerous hours to coordinate P.A.C.T (Parents and Children Together) activities and to support and assist teachers at the Laconia Memorial Middle School (*Deb Williams, Laconia – 2003*)
- A sports coach whose priority was to develop the full potential of the students he coached rather than just build winning teams. (*Paul Plimpton, Belmont – 2004*)
- A young mother who worked tirelessly in her small community to develop resources for children and families (*Dawn McCartney, Barnstead – 2005*)
- A school volunteer who spent many hours each week developing and implementing after-school activities for students. (*Dave Tryon, Tilton – 2006*)
- A community volunteer who has devoted endless hours to support and developed the Belknap County 4-H Program (*Wendy French – 2007*)
- A community volunteer who is committed to programs for youth in Belknap County including the Boys & Girls Club of the Lakes Region, the Belknap County Restorative Justice, and Youth Services Bureau (*Leo Sanfacon – 2008*)

The Schmitt UnSung Hero Award is presented each year by Special Justice Willard Martin, or his designee, on behalf of the Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families, as part of the annual Belknap County Convocation on Children and Families.

More guidelines: Recipients of the Schmitt Unsung Hero Award are low profile individuals who are:

- Community *volunteers* working on behalf of children or families
- *Non-volunteer individuals* who provide services to children and families *beyond* the scope of their employment.

This Unsung Hero Award honors someone who demonstrates the following traits and qualities:

- a. Behind-the-scenes effort to bring meaningful and positive change in the lives of one or more families in Belknap County
- b. Consistent excellence, enthusiasm, creativity, and persistence on behalf of children or families in a manner which generally has not been recognized in any other way
- c. Elicits respect and is a positive role model in the community
- d. Supportive of the philosophy of Community Justice through his/her words and actions. (*An explanation of Community Justice follows on page three.*)

Process: The Belknap County Citizens Council distributes the Nomination Packets for the Schmitt Unsung Hero Award several months prior to the actual award ceremony via a number of channels, including the media and existing agencies and organizations. The completed Nomination Packet must be submitted by **February 20, 2009** for review and selection by a designated committee of the Citizens Council.

The winner's name will be engraved on the Schmitt Unsung Hero Plaque that hangs in the offices of the Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families. He or she will also receive an individual engraved award. While the primary goal is to identify *one* recipient of the Annette P Schmitt Award each year, in some cases more than one winner may be selected.

The Annette P Schmitt Trust Fund, the sponsor of this UnSung Hero Award, supports those projects that improve the lives of children and families in Belknap County and the State. Over the past several years this fund has been the primary resource sustaining comprehensive change in the County system of juvenile justice and the implementation of Community Justice strategies throughout Belknap County.

Submit completed Nomination Packet **before 4pm, Friday, February 20, 2009,**
using one of the following:

HARD COPY VIA MAIL	HAND-CARRIED HARD COPY	ELECTRONIC COPY
ATT: Kathy Calvin One Mill Plaza Laconia, NH 03246	Kathy Calvin Busiel Mill – One Mill Plaza 3 rd floor Laconia, NH	Kathy Calvin kgc@mlolaw.com

QUESTIONS? Contact Kathy Calvin at 527-9182 or kgc@mlolaw.com



COMMUNITY JUSTICE

A Set of Principles Guiding Community Development

What Is “Community Justice”? Community Justice is a set of principles used to develop solutions for community problems that affect children and families. Community Justice combines three major components:

1. The principles of **Restorative Justice** guide how criminal acts are handled by the justice system and the community. *These principles are (1) emphasizing the needs of the victim and the safety of the community, (2) holding the offender accountable, and (3) preparing the offender for a safe and productive return to his/her community.*
2. **Prevention** strategies and programs are highly prioritized by policy makers, elected officials, leaders, and community citizens, and
3. Strength-based **Community Development** activities and programs enhance community life.

What Is The Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families? The Citizens Council is a County department responsible for *promoting* the principles of *Community Justice throughout Belknap County* so that children and families can live safely with dignity and respect. Council members and Council staff work collaboratively with professional service providers, lay citizens, and others in planning, advocacy, networking, and resource development initiatives on behalf of children and families in Belknap County. Council members are residents from all eleven communities in the County who are appointed by the Belknap County Commissioners through an application process.

What Does The Belknap County Citizens Council Do? The Citizens Council works in partnerships with others to:

- ❖ Promote and advocate for the well-being of children and families in Belknap County
- ❖ Develop, support, and facilitate creative collaborations with networks throughout the County and State to improve the status of children and families in Belknap County
- ❖ Seek the voice of citizens throughout Belknap County
- ❖ Encourage active citizen participation and volunteerism in support of children and families
- ❖ Report back to the community on the status of children and families in Belknap County