

Spirit of service shines through CC volunteers

BOISE—Catholic Charities of Idaho recognized Mary Barton as the recipient of the 2004 Spirit of Service Award. The award was presented April 21 during the Annual Volunteer Recognition Reception which took place during National Volunteer Week, April 18-24 at the agency's Boise office.

Barton has been an inspiration to the staff at Catholic Charities of Idaho over the past year.

"Though Mary is faced with her own care giving responsibilities for a husband who suffers from stroke-related memory loss, she opened her heart to a couple dealing with Alzheimer's and offered friendship and respite to the caregiver and her ailing spouse," said Marcia Munden, volunteer services coordinator.

"Respite care is a rewarding and challenging role to take on," she said. "For many people one such volunteer placement would have been quite enough, but CCI was

blessed with Mary Barton. When CCI was faced with an urgent unmet need, due to a shortage of respite volunteers, Mary willingly offered to assist a family caring for their elderly parent."

Mary found time to give the husband and wife a short break and an opportunity to spend time with their young children and be relieved, if only briefly, of their other care giving responsibilities.

"There is a tremendous need for this type of volunteer work, and Mary Barton's generous spirit of service is greatly appreciated by those whose lives she has touched," said Munden.

For the first time, CCI awarded Presidential Service Awards to four volunteers who contributed over 100 hours of service during 2004. These individuals are: Roger Beecher, Mary Ann Beecher, Ellen Texeira, and Gail Makley.

Three of the award recipients provide respite to families with a loved one suffering

from severe memory loss and two of the volunteers have served in multiple capacities for Catholic Charities of Idaho including service to seniors, children, and much needed office support.

The Mattoons—Shannon, Casey, and Marci (a mother and her two children), who offer assistance and friendship to a disabled woman, were also recognized with a Family Presidential Service Award for contributing more than 200 hours of service during the same period.

Catholic Charities of Idaho held recognition events in Boise and in Jerome this year.

"These events provide an opportunity to formally offer thanks and appreciation to all the volunteers throughout the diocese who help to carry out the mission of Catholic Charities to serve the poor and most vulnerable among us," said Marie Hoff, CCI executive director. "In 2004, volunteers contributed 1440 hours of service throughout the state."



SPIRIT OF SERVICE AWARD — Mary Barton, left, a Catholic Charities of Idaho volunteer, accepts the Spirit of Service Award from Marcia Munden, CCI volunteer services coordinator. The award was presented during a Volunteer Recognition Reception at the CCI Boise offices in April.