



# GRINDSTONE AWARD



**2012**

## **Nancy Doutt**

Grindstone Award Winner Nancy Doutt carries on family legacy of helping others.

When Berea Mayor Cyril Kkeem presented Nancy Hudak Doutt with the 2012 Spirit of Community Award, he thanked her for giving so much of her time to volunteer activities.

“You give to us as well,” he said. “We are able to do so much in the community because we have you to help us do it.”

That has been the theme of Nancy’s life, instilled in her and her sister and three brothers by parents who gave of themselves freely to neighbors and community.

“My parents were always there to help other people,” Nancy said. “We didn’t always have a lot of money but they shared what we had.” Father, George Hudak, was a boilermaker and work was seasonal. Mother, Margaret, was a nurse who worked nights part time so she could spend more time at home with the children. Nancy said her father would run errands for the neighbors, clean up the neighborhood, and take groceries to the elderly. Her mother would share vegetables and other food items with those who needed a little extra help.

“Children learn what they live,” Nancy said. She learned the lessons well.

Her selflessness and love for the community in which she was born and raised has earned Nancy Doutt the 2012 Grindstone Award, which will be presented at the Chamber of Commerce banquet on April 24 at the Crowne Plaza.

As a child, Nancy was very active in 4-H and remembers helping her parents put together small stuffed animal toys for children in the Emergency Room at the hospital. “We did it as a family,” Nancy recalls. “We called it therapy.”

As an adult, Nancy has translated that “therapy” into thousands of volunteer hours in the community. She is active with the American Legion Post 91 Auxiliary where she is membership chairman, treasurer and community service chairman. (Husband Steve is a veteran and a member of Post 91.) She organizes the Giving Tree at Christmas time, arranges [or food to be donated to local pantries, coordinates Americanism & Government tests at the high school, organizes Buckeye Girls State and helps select students for American Legion Auxiliary scholarships. She helps organize an annual dinner for women veterans. She also is a member of the Auxiliary Color Guard and plays on the softball team.

She volunteers with Berea Arts Fest, teaches Junior Achievement to first-graders at St. Mary School and Big Creek Elementary School, sings in the St. Mary Church choir and in Bellissimo, a women’s vocal group that performs for non-profits; takes part in Relay for Life, Pedal to the Point and several walk-a-thons for various charities. Nancy volunteers with Southwest General Health Center’s Community Outreach Program. She assists the homebound, frail elderly and disabled residents by running errands, doing shopping and visiting. She drives several seniors to Mass every week at St. Mary’s. She also is a Eucharistic Minister at St. Mary’s.

She collects coats for the Coats for Kids program; collects clothing for Dress for Success, which provides suitable work clothes for women; collects food for Harvest for Hunger; and has donated more than 18 gallons of blood to the Red Cross.

A 1976 graduate of Berea High School, Nancy helps organize the Berea High School All-class Reunion in the Polish Village each year. She organizes the Pajama Walk fundraiser for Berea Animal Rescue. She takes part in Berea’s annual Hand-to-Hand leaf-raking project for seniors. She is a member of the Victory Arch committee, which raised funds to preserve the arch at the Berea Fairgrounds. She collects Christmas gifts and other items for the Berea Children’s Home and is involved with activities for children who are patients at Aristocrat Berea.

In addition to all of these activities, Nancy works full time for Medical Mutual and is vocalist and percussionist with the New Century Beatniks, a local band. One of the Grindstone nomination letters may have said it best. “Nancy is an inspiration to all who know her. She functions out of her convictions and not for recognition for personal gain. She is truly an example of how one person can make a difference”

**Presented April 24, 2012**

**Crown Plaza Hotel, Middleburg Heights, Ohio**