



Felician Village

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Headline: Mullins Wins 2nd Annual Felician Award

On Sunday, May 4, Pat Kaldor, President, Felician Village, announced that the second recipient of the Felician Award is Mary Claire Mullins.

The Felician Award for Excellence in Service to the Elderly has been established to recognize an individual whose advocacy for seniors has had an impact in Manitowoc County. The criteria for the Felician Award are that the recipient will have had a significant impact on seniors in a unique and personal way. Additionally, the person's efforts are to reflect the core values of the Felician Sisters. If the recipient's employment in some way involves seniors, what they have accomplished for seniors should go beyond the normal expectations of their job responsibilities.

During the program, Sr. Julie Weckwerth, Vice President of Mission Services of Felician Services, Inc., congratulated Mullins by saying, "Mary Claire had a calling similar to the Felician Foundress; to be an advocate for seniors and to be a person whose efforts had a significant impact on seniors lives within her own locality. All of us, too, have a calling to be sent to serve the needs of others."

Mullins dedicates her volunteer efforts as an advocate for senior citizens in the community. For many years, Mullins has devoted her time as a volunteer for the Aging and Disability Resource Center where she has assisted the office in various ways. One of the ways that Mullins has assisted the Aging and Disability Resource Center is by serving on the Commission on Aging, a committee that is a vital communications link between elders and the governmental process. Mullins served on the Commission on Aging from 1997 through 2000. She has also spent many years as a state certified facilitator for the Aging and Disability Resource Center's "Powerful Tools for Caregiving" series. She has also been trained as a peer counselor for making in-home visits.

Mullins was nominated by Lynn Scheinoha, Family Caregiving/Alzheimer's Program Manager for the Aging and Disability Resource Center, who said that "Mary Claire's efforts have made it possible to provide education, companionship, and direction to many area seniors. Many area seniors have benefited by Mary Claire's leadership, understanding and her gift of time."

Mullins currently resides in Manitowoc where she has lived her entire life. She has twelve children, nine girls and three boys. In addition to raising a large family, Mullins has shown over and over that she has a large heart, giving back in gratitude to the community that she loves. She has a lifelong involvement with her church, Holy Innocents, now known as St. Francis of Assisi Parish. At both of these parishes she serves as a cantor and song leader. She is part of the prayer network, an active member of the Christian Women's group, the St. Clare Society, and also the Social Concerns ministry at her parish. Currently she is a reader for the local Head Start program – the Wisconsin Bookworms. She is a pen-pal with the RSVP children – her partner is a third grader and they write to each other monthly.

In addition to receiving her own personal award, Mullins's name will be placed on a plaque that will be displayed at Felician Village. The plaque will have spaces where future Felician Award winner's names will also be added.

The announcement was made at a ceremony held at the Courthouse Pub, Manitowoc. Over 50 people attended the event to celebrate the announcement with Mullins. Roeschen's Omnicare Pharmacy was a corporate sponsor for the event again this year.

Other nominees for the 2008 Felician Award were: Shirely Jacob, Kevin Nadeau, Gina Welch, and June Gallagher.

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PHOTO PROVIDED BY FELICIAN VILLAGE

Caption: The second annual Felician Award winner, Mary Claire Mullins (in front), pictured with (back row from left to right) Lynn Scheinoha, Vicky Schneider, and Sr. Julie Weckwerth.

