

## ANNETTE P. SCHMITT UNSUNG HERO AWARD PRESENTED TO BARNSTEAD RESIDENT

LACONIA: The fourth annual Annette P. Schmitt UnSung Hero Award was presented to Dawn McCartney of Barnstead at the 2005 Belknap County Convocation on Children and Families at the Winnepesaukee

Laconia on January Willard G. Martin, this Belknap County who behalf of children and County.

The award is of Annette Schmitt, a and Lebanon area who large portion of her lives of children and Region and in New

Judge Martin committed to the well-families and quietly, busy, and involved in explained that her community, county and



Exposition Center in 11th. Presented by Hon award honors a resident of has quietly worked on families in Belknap

given each year in memory woman from the Hanover at her death awarded a estate to improving the families in the Lakes Hampshire.

described Dawn as “fully being of children and but continually active, her community.” He “amazing knowledge of state resources and her

*Dawn McCartney (R) of Barnstead, the 2005 recipient of the Annette Schmitt UnSung Hero Award, holds the award plaque newly engraved with her name. Shown with Dawn is Alan Robichaud (L), Executive Director of the Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families.*

spirit of compassion and generosity” are all reasons for her selection. According to Martin, one Barnstead describes Dawn as “a silent angel with an uncanny knack for seeing unmet needs and the uncommon courage to do something about it.”

Dawn, a young mother of small children, is a volunteer at the Barnstead Elementary School, a T-Ball coach, a CCD teacher in her church, the Coordinator of the Story Hour at the Oscar Foss

Public Library in Barnstead, and the Chair of the newly organized Barnstead Community Resource Team.

Martin said that Dawn, as a community volunteer, “turns doors into windows and builds bridges across gaps”, explaining how she interceded in a domestic violence incident by taking the child into her own home and then explaining to the courts and others how the welfare of this child and other children in similar situations is often overlooked.

As the Story Hour Coordinator at the Barnstead library, she has expanded this program to be a “jewel in that community”, Martin added. Through Dawn’s efforts, this Story Hour Program now offers information on a number of county, state, and local resources, programs, and services available to children and families.

Dawn has seen ways to combine resources with other agencies and organizations to improve Story Hour. She has partnered with Lakes Region Community Services Council to add the Identikit Program and to create a significant and meaningful role for a young woman in the community who receives developmental services. She has also worked with state officials to become certified so she can assist families in applying for Healthy Kids insurance.

In addition to coordinating Story Hour, in 2003, Dawn participated in a yearlong, grant-funded family literacy planning project. Her co-workers say, “Dawn understands the big picture. Her experience with local, regional and county service systems, and her passionate commitment to community wellness have deeply enriched this committee’s work”.

According to her peers, when this grant ended, she “quietly stepped into a leadership role” to expand into what is now called the Barnstead Community Resource Team that currently focuses on seniors, and citizens who have development disabilities, and on providing opportunities for community service for high school students. Her “collaborative, inclusive and empowering leadership is a key factor in the success of this Resource Team”.

The Schmitt UnSung Hero Award is presented each year in January to a resident of Belknap County who works “behind-the-scenes” to bring meaningful and positive change in the lives of one or more families in Belknap County; demonstrates consistent excellence, enthusiasm, creativity, and persistence on behalf of children and families; is respected and recognized as a positive role model in the community; shows initiative that is beyond the scope of normal volunteer or job duties; communicates effectively in a manner that promotes trust and respect; and supports the principles of Community Justice through his or her words and actions.