

**Nominations for the 2011  
Madison Area Service Clubs Olympics**

**2011 OLYMPIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD**

The Olympian of the Year Award is presented to a person in the Greater Madison area who, over the years, has given freely of his/her time to further athletics in the Greater Madison area.

Criteria for consideration for the award should include:

- ✓ A person who lives in the Greater Madison area.
- ✓ What has the person contributed and/or given back to the community.
- ✓ What activities involving athletics has the person been associated with and what role did the person undertake with respect to these activities.
- ✓ What accomplishments were achieved.
- ✓ What time did the individual contribute, including span and quality of time.
- ✓ What was the impact of the Nominee's activities on youth.

Award Nominee's Name:	Carole Klopp	
Nominee's Address:	22 Appomattox Court Madison, WI 53705	
Nominee's Phone / E-mail	608-833-4561	klopp@chorus.net
Employer:		
Employer Address:		
Work Phone / E-mail		
Nominating Party: If Service Club, Name:	Sauk Trails Optimist Club	
Contact Person:	John Scherer	
Phone Number / E-mail	608-829-1010	john@trinfin.com
If former Award Winner, Name:		
Phone Number / E-mail		

Please complete this page and remainder of document, print off

and return by June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011, to:

## Contributions to the Community:

For the past 25 years Carole Klopp has been an active volunteer on the west side of Madison working with youth from coaching T-Ball to coaching girls softball to Girl Scout leader to active mom in the school district (room mother, PTO president, volunteer coordinator, booster mom, district-wide committee chairperson) to summer basketball coach to her current volunteer activity – lead adviser for the Spartan Youth Service Team at Memorial High School. Throughout all of these activities, Carole has continually given of her time and talents to insure that all children have the opportunity to succeed – whether in sports or community service. Her contributions have been many – 1. organizing summer sports teams; 2. coaching the teams and helping each child to gain the necessary skills; 3. helping athletes to understand how to play together as a team – to support each other; 4. providing leadership training along the way for future success; and 5. helping children to understand that it's not whether you won or lost, but how you played the game that mattered. Carole's teams were consistently at the top of their league and, in many instances, were the top team. But her contributions extend beyond the sports playing field to the service field. For the past 16 years, Carole has been the lead adviser for the Spartan Youth Service Team at Memorial High School. This after school club at Memorial is the largest with over 225 students participating in service activities throughout the community from writing Valentine Day cards for veterans at the VA Hospital to visiting the elderly at Oakwood to helping with the Ice Age Trail to coloring lunch bags for Meals On Wheels to staffing WPT pledge drives...and the list goes on. Memorial students in Spartan Youth Service are everywhere in Dane County helping to make a difference whether it's assisting a non-profit, cleaning up a park, coaching soccer, staffing elementary school carnivals – these students are learning first hand the value of volunteering in our community and the impact you can have. Carole wrote the "Service Begins At Home" curriculum that the students use when they visit an elementary school to talk about service and work with the elementary students to understand what volunteering means. This team also organizes "SPIRIT" Day at Memorial where, every spring, students spend half a day volunteering in the community – doing chores that do make a difference for those they are helping. These volunteer efforts on Carole's part span all ages of youth. Carole would say that the best gift she gets is when a student tells her that "doing service has made my life better." She has been a constant support to this afterschool club and, by the way, Carole is not a paid teacher at Memorial, but a community volunteer. She will tell you that students learn more by watching you do than anything you say...and it's her job to be that volunteer role model, putting in action what she talks about every day.

## Description of the athletic activities and the Nominee's role with respect to those activities:

Carole's role with athletic activities was as follows:

1. Coach of her daughter's T-Ball team which included organizing the team, running practices, and attending all games.
2. Coach of her daughter's softball team which, again, included organizing the team, running practices, and attending all games. It also involved some education for Carole to make sure her team was current with regard to skills and general softball knowledge.
3. Coach of her daughter's varsity basketball team in the summer MATC league. Carole took on this job when no one else would and coached the team to the finals that summer. This also meant running practices, transporting the girls to the games, doing the line-ups, etc.
4. Varsity gymnastics mom for her daughter's team at Memorial which included working with the coach to set-up the equipment, assist with team needs (transportation, etc.), find volunteers for the Spartan Invite, and organizing the end of year banquet.

## What accomplishments were achieved as a result of the Nominee's involvement:

As a result of Carole's involvement these past years with athletic teams...

1. Girls were able to participate in athletics.
2. Girls on her teams were encouraged to excel and did.
3. Teams won and when there was a loss, the girls were coached to learn from the loss. Hence, losing for Carole's teams was always educational, not something to hang your head in shame about. She always encouraged the girls to look at what went wrong – then practice that part of the game to become better at the skill they were missing.

Carole's involvement with Spartan Youth Service has resulted in the following:

1. Over 2,000 students having left Memorial High School with an appreciation and love for volunteering.
2. Students who participated in the leadership of Spartan Youth Service gained valuable leadership skills for a life time. They learned how to coordinate a project, how to handle adversity, and how to work as a team to make a difference. One Carole's student told her (after one year of college), "Mrs. K – my time in Spartan Youth Service really made a difference in my life and especially having been president. I'm currently president of my club at the university and we're more organized than we have ever been. The other kids didn't know anything about how to get things done, but I did – thanks to you and Spartan Youth Service!"
3. A lot of community service has been done over the past 16 years that never would have been done – whether around the school, at other schools, in parks, at non-profits, in the community. It takes a lot of time and patience to help students get organized and Carole has devoted that time and patience to this team – just as she did with her sports teams.

## Summary of time period of involvement, including span and quality\* of time:

Carole began volunteering in 1984 with the Madison Metropolitan School District. In 1986 she organized her first T-ball team while also leading 2 girl scout troops. From 1986 to 1993, Carol coached softball. In 1998, Carole coached her daughter's team in the summer basketball league. In 1994 Carole began her work with the Spartan Youth Service Team and has been working with them ever since. All of the athletic commitments involved anywhere from 5 to 10 hours per week. Spartan Youth Service is a 3 hour weekly commitment during the school year and a 60 hour summer commitment for Carole as she leads the leadership team, a group of 16 teenagers, on a retreat. The summer retreat for Spartan Youth Service involves leadership training in addition to planning for the upcoming school year. Carole has led this retreat for the past 10 years.

\*Quality of time examples: Was the Nominee's involvement volunteer or salaried time; leadership or passive role; monetary commitment or time commitment.

All of the time given on Carole's part was as a volunteer in a leadership role. As a coach, Carole spent the requisite number of hours each week with the girls in practices and at games. As an adviser, Carole commits, as already mentioned, a minimum of 3 hours per week during the school year to the Spartan Youth Service Team and more in the summer months.

What was the impact of the Nominee's activities on youth\*:

Whether teaching a student the rules of the game or working with students to organize projects, Carole's impact has always been that of a guide – helping students to find the answer and learn. The teams Carole coached won, but it wasn't just the winning that made the difference, it was the fun the girls had that was important. Carole's impact on the youth she coached has always been positive, encouraging, and brought the best in each youth that she coached in both athletic activities and community service activities. Carole was able to build the confidence of the youth she has coached. Carole has taught the youth she coached how to overcome adversities and to be humble in victories and successes. This Optimist Club knows that Carole's impact on the youth she coached and is now coaching is very highly regarded by the youth. That is why this club is honored and privileged to nominate Carole for this honor which she truly deserves.

**Other Comments:**

Not only is this Optimist Club honored and privileged in nominating Carole for this award, but can think of no person more deserving of this award than Carole. Carole's positive and uplifting impact on youth is something that all Optimists should emulate and strive to achieve. Recognizing Carole's achievements with the youth she has coached by giving her this award would be very meaningful to Carole and say "Thank You" to a person who loves to see youth succeed and takes great joy in seeing all of the youth she has worked with throughout the years succeed in all aspects of their young lives.

**\*While contributions to athletics for all ages are recognized, youth is an area of emphasis by the evaluation committee.**

