

**NOMINATION
for the
MADISON AREA SERVICE CLUBS
RUTH GORDON SERVICE AWARD**

Concept/Criteria

To honor a current or past individual member (living or deceased) of a service club who, over a period of time, has exemplified the concept of volunteer service for the betterment of the community, either individually or through their service club.

The Award is presented at the annual Madison-Area Service Clubs Fall Luncheon on **Wednesday, November 16, 2011**. The members of the Service Clubs Olympics Committee will select the 2011 winner of the Ruth Gordon Award at its **November 4, 2011**, meeting.

Our Service Club nominates:

Name: Jeannine Desautels Home Phone: 238-9273

Address: 415 Virginia Terrace, Madison, WI 53726

Employer: Retired - Nurse Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: jeannine.mbd@gmail.com

Please describe volunteer's community/club service. Use dates and examples. (Time spent in club office or committee positions are not relevant.)

See Attached.

(Use back side or extra page as needed.)

Name of Service Club Rotary Club of Madison West Towne - Middleton

Contact Person Rich Cooper

Work Phone: 824-3233 Home Phone: 846-3123

Email: rcooper@middletonbank.com

**Return by October 19, 2011, to:
Glenn Rindfleisch, 2301 Tawhee Drive, Madison, WI 53711**

Jeannine Desautels has spent her life in service to children and people in need. She has put her nursing degree to great use in providing medical assistance to people around the world. Her activities are too numerous to include them all, but the following list is representative of her efforts to improve her communities and the world at large.

She has been a tireless worker for our Rotary Club. She has been an active volunteer in service projects such as Paint-a-thon, Habitat for Humanity, Polio Plus and Orphan Train.

The Orphan Train matches international orphanages with domestic service clubs, churches, schools and youth groups (conductors) who provide ongoing support to the orphanages, both financial and volunteer. She has been on numerous Orphan Train visits to provide service to orphanages in Bulgaria, Guatemala, Peru and Nepal. She and her husband, Ed, lived in Bulgaria for a year. During that time she volunteered at six different orphanages, and through her connections back in the U.S., successfully matched those orphanages with Orphan Train conductors.

Polio Plus is an effort by Rotary International to eradicate polio around the world. Besides being an active donor to the effort, Jeannine volunteered her time in India to administer vaccines in areas of need.

She has been on Medical Missions providing aid to the needy in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico and Costa Rica. Because of her visits to Nicaragua she became the President of Wisconsin Nicaragua Partners. During her tenure as President she successfully received and administered a \$1,500,000 grant used for medical and educational needs in Nicaragua.

Jeannine and her husband, Ed, have been foster parents to numerous children. They have also opened their home to countless international students through her association as Past Chair of the Madison Friends of International Students.

Jeannine and Ed also opened their home, and became primary caregivers, to two Nicaraguan children in need of heart surgery. One of those children, Ilse, went through three open heart surgeries, and physically lived in the Desautel home for over four months. Ilse, and the other child, Maria, both are living happy and healthy lives in Nicaragua today, in part because of the care provided by Jeannine and Ed.

Jeannine was so moved by the needs of the children she met in Guatemala that she founded the Oliveros Scholarship Fund, a 501(c) 3 organization that provides scholarships to children who otherwise wouldn't have the financial ability to continue their education beyond the 6th grade. Last year the Oliveros Fund provided 35 scholarships to children in need. She continues as the President of the organization.

Last but not least, Jeannine volunteers for the Red Cross and has lead disaster relief teams providing aid to flooding victims in North Dakota, tornado victims in Tennessee and Wisconsin and hurricane victims in South Carolina and Louisiana. She was also a Red Cross volunteer in New York City following the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Wherever she is Jeannine sees the need, and through boundless energy and desire, she finds a way to help. She is a true credit to our club, and we believe, a community treasure. She is truly deserving of the Ruth Gordon Service Award, and the recognition that goes with that. We hope you will agree.

The Rotary Club of Madison West Towne-Middleton