



**Ruth Gordon Award Nomination**  
**Patricia J. Gadow, R.N., B.S.N., M.P.H.**

Patricia "Pat" Gadow has a long history of service to others. Her early experience in the "caring profession" of nursing shines through in her commitment to serving people who need a helping hand. As a retired colonel in the Army Reserve Nurse Corps, she is no stranger to clients in distress. Although she retired from full time public health work in 2001, Pat's daily schedule is filled with volunteer service to others.

In her professional career, Pat served in public health positions at the state, county and city level. Her 16 year tenure as Madison's Director of Public Health was marked by the introduction of innovative programs that reach out to needy families. She was a driving force in establishing the South Madison Health and Family Center (Harambee), which combined services from multiple agencies to deliver preventive health care and education to low income people. She continues to provide expertise to groups that deal with preventive health care.

Pat is a long time member of Madison Downtown Rotary Club, and a Paul Harris Fellow. She participated in volunteer events for her own club, as well as for her husband's Optimist Club.

She has volunteered at Hospice Care since 2005, most recently in an innovative program to record and publish life histories of hospice clients. She conducts personal interviews and creates bound volumes and scrapbooks for Hospice clients to share with their families. In 2010, she was honored by the statewide hospice organization as one of two "volunteers of the year".

Pat has been a Board member for the Madison Senior Center since 2002, and serves on several volunteer committees developing improvements for services to Seniors.

She has also volunteered at the Madison Children's Museum "doll hospital", refurbishing American Girl dolls for resale to raise funds for Museum programs.

Pat serves on the Board of Directors for Group Health Cooperative, and chairs a newly established GHC Member Advisory Council which seeks better ways to serve their membership.

She has a long history of volunteering at her church, including singing in the choir and participating in the *Interfaith Hospitality Network* program for homeless families (now renamed *The Road Home*). She applies her quilting talents to liturgical decorations for the church sanctuary, and makes quilts and knitted garments for friends and needy families. Her extended family grandchildren affectionately know her as the "birthday cake and quilt grandma".

From 2006 to 2009, Pat served on the Board of the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc, an institution which preserves Great Lakes maritime history and emphasizes educational programs for school children. She is also the immediate past president of a Great Lakes boating association.

Pat has a long history of musical participation, dating back to her high school days when she won statewide recognition for excellence in instrumental performance. For the past 12 years, she has sung in the Yahara River Chorus, a local affiliate of the national "Sweet Adelines". She participates in fundraising for scholarships to women who cannot afford membership costs.

Pat Gadow continues to devote her energy and talents to serving others. Her crowded calendar reflects her commitment to making this community a better place to live, in the spirit of the Ruth Gordon award.