



Harold and Junice Wusterbarth Volunteer Service Award 2023 Nomination Form

Framed Certificate + \$500 for Library Materials Identified by Bookplate(s)

Please answer the following 3 questions using this form. Make your answers descriptive and concise as you describe the contributions made to foster library services in your community. This written part of the application should be no more than 2 pages total. Please focus on activities that took place over the last 3 years.

You may add up to 2 additional pages of support materials – photos, publicity materials, news stories, etc. The application package may not exceed 4 pages total.

Staff members of individual libraries and of the MVLS are ineligible for consideration

I nominate Jean LaPorta affiliated with the Gloversville Public
Library, for the MVLS Volunteer Service Award

Submitted by Merry Brown

Submit nomination via email to kclingan@mvls.info by Friday, September 1, 2023

1. What was the focus of this volunteer effort and why were these activities important to your library?

As president of The Friends of the Gloversville Public Library for several years, Jean has made fundraising and promotion of the library her priorities. As a result, the group has donated \$10,000 each year towards the library's operating budget. She has also found ways to thank the community and staff, as well as to invite them to participate in library-related events. This has resulted in more positive feelings toward the library and has encouraged community members to become more involved with it.

2. Where and when did the volunteer activities and services take place?

This form isn't long enough to list all Jean as accomplished over the years. But just this year alone, under her very competent leadership, several activities have taken place at the library. Some of these were: assisting as aides during the library's year-round Club Baby infant early literacy program, helping with the Friends' annual book sale, as well as the pie sale, helping lead the annual Friends' Week community basket raffle, organizing appreciation gifts for the staff twice a year, hosting two local theatre performances -- one play and one holiday music concert -- for free at the library (as a thank you to the community), decorating the library inside and out for the holidays, donating time and materials for the library's landscaping and grounds maintenance, providing an annual scholarship for a local high school student, and going above and beyond to promote the library to the community in order to assure turn-out for the tax levy and trustee vote each May.

Other activities she has helped spearhead have been outside the walls of the library: a spaghetti dinner fundraiser and a barbecue dinner fundraisers, the creation and delivery of a basket of books and baby items donated to the first baby born during Friends' Week at our local hospital, and a theatre fundraiser at The Colonial Little Theatre in Johnstown.

3. How did your library/community benefit from this volunteer effort? How was it successful?

Donating \$10,000 to the library's budget each year has been critical in keeping the library solvent! Landscape and grounds maintenance has helped to ease the library budget as well, in addition to ensure that the library shines as a community jewel. Culturally, the community continues to benefit from the well-attended plays and concerts she makes happen, and she ensures that the next generation of Gloversville residents grow up to be library and literature lovers by assisting at Club Baby and acting as a guest reader at our Story Time. Our college-bound kids benefit as well, with the scholarship. And the gifts for the first baby born during Friends' Week provides good feelings, as well as much needed infant items to the lucky family. Recipients of all of these efforts have been truly grateful.

With Jean's wonderful organizational skills and her generous gift of time and inspiration, the library has become a more welcoming place!