

A TRIBUTE TO ROSEMARY MURRAY

By Jim Sullivan

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On behalf of current and past members of the Good Shepherd Housing (GSH), I would like to highlight the life and commitment of Rosemary Murray. Rosemary, in her professional career, was a Vice President for US Airways. She was a highly respected manager, supervisor, counselor, recruiter, and business developer. One summer Sunday when Good Shepherd Housing members of the Board of Directors were speaking about the agency's activities at Good Shepherd Catholic Church the speaker mentioned that after the service, we would be available in the narthex to answer questions and/or go further into help needed to further the programs.

Rosemary stopped by to talk and mentioned that she was with US Airways and was to retire shortly and was looking for something in which to become active. She further mentioned that the activities mentioned appealed to her and she would like further information on how she might help.

Over several years, Rosemary became a member of the Board of Directors, President of that Board, member of the Community Leadership Council, sponsor, and donor. For those many years she became the heart and soul of the agency. In fact, she was responsible for the continued growth and financial success attained by GSH. She collaborated tirelessly with the Board, the Executive Director and staff to find the right path to continued financial success demonstrated by the many awards and grants provided by support agencies to non-profit agencies in the metropolitan Washington DC area.

As President, Rosemary sought successful professional achievers who were leaders in both their occupation and Mt Vernon/Fairfax County to become members of the Board. She strengthened all aspects of Board operations and provided for an exceptionally smooth relationship with the Executive Director and Staff. All the time this was developing and strengthening, Rosemary assisted the fund-raising efforts which drew funds from the State of Virginia, Fairfax County, and corporate and individual donors, consistently increasing donations. These increases led to the agency purchasing properties reaching nearly one hundred this past year.

When Rosemary stepped down from the Presidency, she remained on the Board as President Emeritus and became instrumental in the formation of the Community Leadership Council. That Council brought in several prominent community leaders who contributed to the progress of the Board of Directors, Executive Director, and Staff.

Rosemary was active in making the annual Gala, held locally in November, a primary fund raiser. The net profit soared from fifty thousand to over one hundred thousand in recent years.

Rosemary never let down or stopped contributing. She was recognized recently with the Joe Adinaro Award presented to one person each year whose contributions were "most significant in GSH achieving its goals and mission."

It is with profound respect, privilege, and honor to list the contributions over many years of Rosemary Murray to GSH.

Jim Sullivan