

Volunteer of the Year

The Quota International of Candlewood Valley club has selected Louise Fornabaio as the member who embodies the true spirit of volunteerism and makes the world a better place.

Although, Louise is currently enjoying her sixth year as a QICV member; she was, in fact, one of the club's charter members. Louise left Quota for several years and rejoined in 2005. We were delighted to welcome her back as a member.

Louise has been very generous with her time. In the fall of 2010, she co-chaired the Book and Author Luncheon. This event has been our major fundraiser for six years and Louise was the first to suggest that we try this type of fundraiser. She worked with the very first committee to organize the event and has offered her help to every Book and Author committee, since then.

This fall, Louise was able to make time in her busy schedule to co-chair the event. We had the most successful Book and Author fundraiser ever. The attendance increased, book sales increased and raffle ticket sales increased. Louise was a key factor in the success of this event. In addition, Louise has already volunteered to chair the event next year!

The next project Louise volunteered for was the Ability Beyond Disability Holiday Project. This organization is Connecticut's largest private provider of residential services for people with disabilities. We obtain wish lists from their consumers. Then we purchase, wrap and deliver gifts that help make their Holiday wishes come true. Louise organized members to accomplish the shopping, wrapping and delivery of the gifts.

Simultaneously, Louise volunteered to help with another, similar project that was underway. It was a gift giving project for the family that our club "adopted" from the Women's Center of Greater Danbury. This organization provides free and confidential services to prevent or lessen the trauma associated with domestic violence, sexual assault and other major life transitions. Again, Louise took time from her own Christmas preparations to shop for the mother and child we "adopted."

These are some illustrations of why our club recognizes Louise Fornabaio as Quota International of Candlewood Valley's Volunteer of the Year. We are very lucky to have such a wonderful model of the true spirit of volunteerism for all of our members to emulate.