

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER NOMINATION

Marilyn Jones-Haunted Fairgrounds

In early August of 2009, a valued volunteer and friend to many staff and volunteers, Marilyn Jones, suffered a series of devastating strokes. Currently, she is battling the long hard road to recovery. She is currently staying at the Good Samaritan in Puyallup. Marilyn has been a tireless volunteer for the Kitsap County Haunted Fairgrounds for the past seven years.

Ironically, one of Marilyn's duties for the Haunted Fairgrounds is coordinating all the volunteers for the event. With over a 100 volunteers to schedule for work nights and actual haunt nights, it is a daunting task. Many times during the building process of the haunts, Marilyn would use her own money to purchase food for the volunteers Marilyn also assisted in almost every aspect of the Haunt including planning, record keeping, purchasing, building, painting and line control.

Each year, Marilyn would be the one who would greet all "victims" entering the haunt. Despite working at least 10 hours straight each night, her friendly, enthusiastic personality shined through despite whatever gruesome outfit she was wearing. She would help calm down scared youngsters, pass out candy to the children and make everyone feel welcome.

Even though the Haunt is held only six nights every year, the volunteer staff works year around to make it the incredible success that it is.

Despite the tremendous work load, the long hours, standing outside every night of the haunt taking tickets and greeting customers, Marilyn never complained to me once! Marilyn loved working the Haunt and really enjoyed working with the volunteers and customers. We know that once Marilyn recovers enough to come back, she will have the same passion and enthusiasm that she has shown over the years.

Marilyn Jones has been an incredible volunteer over the years. She was dependable, helpful, and always ready to help out in any way. Without Marilyn's help and guidance at the beginning, the Kitsap County Haunted Fairgrounds may have never been created. Fortunately, with her concise record keeping and information she has compiled over the years, we are able to use her "blueprints" to keep the Haunt running.

Marilyn has also been a stellar volunteer in the community for many different organizations. She started the PTA at Cougar Valley over 20 years ago!

As a person who shuns the spotlight and doesn't try to take credit for all she does, Marilyn is exactly the type of person that we should recognize. Even if Marilyn had not been hospitalized, I would have still nominated her for this recognition. She is a kind person with a big heart who loves to help organize the Haunt to scare and entertain the citizens of Kitsap County.