



Association of Adventist Women

Kathlyn Waldrip Severance

— Woman of the Year —

Community Life

2003

With a background in both social work and community practice, Kathlyn Severance initiates and manages a number of salient community and inner-city programs. Kathlyn states, “My personal goal is to use my education and training in serving my community for the Adventist Church.”

In 1995 she founded the Metroplex Adventist Community Services (MACS) that serves the Metroplex area of Dallas-Fort Worth in Texas. The MACS program renders services in crises shelters that deal with domestic violence, mental illness, and divorce recovery. She initiated emergency shelters and assistance for homeless, evicted, and abused persons.



She founded the Youth Emergency Service (YES) that provided anti-drug, anti-violence, and youth gang prevention programs in which she addressed such areas as poor peer relationships, stress and anger management skills, and disaster response.

She is particularly esteemed for establishing eighteen tutoring sites that serve hundreds of disadvantaged children lacking reading and other essential life skills. She also spearheaded a unique project with the Burton Adventist Academy where teachers and students assemble personal “comfort kits” containing items that are given to homeless children who “clean up” at school. Kathlyn is known as an

indispensable member of the Interfaith Committee of the National Alliance. The Alliance is composed of church organizations that serve the mentally ill living in the Metroplex area. She has been honored with the Distinguished Service for Children and Youth Award by the Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers; the Outstanding National School Volunteer Award by the National Association for Partners in Education; and the Award of Excellence by the Adventist Church.

The professional integrity and generous spirit of Kathlyn Severance continues to have a powerful impact upon the way many within Adventism view volunteerism and how it can render service for God.

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