

Jolly Dozen FCE members win awards at state convention

Written by Holyoke Enterprise



Two FCE members Marianne Sullivan and Clara O'Connor recently received awards at the state FCE convention in Greeley. Sullivan won the Outstanding FCE Family award and O'Connor won the FCE District North Star. —Enterprise photo

Two members of Holyoke Jolly Dozen FCE (Family and Community Education) Club recently were recognized for their efforts with state awards.

Marianne Sullivan received the Outstanding FCE Family Award and Clara O'Connor won the FCE District North Star award. Both were presented at the State FCE convention in Greeley on June 12.

O'Connor's award is given to "behind the scenes" workers. The members of the committee who get things done, and are always there when needed, is another quality of the award. These people are always there when needed, always keep things going, but never receive the recognition they deserve.

Three FCE members wrote nomination letters for O'Connor and said she is not comfortable being in the limelight but is one of the busiest people they know. They continued by saying she accomplishes much of her work behind the scenes and dedicates a large amount of her time and energy to get work done.

O'Connor facilitates the Books for Newborns each year, sews and mails a yearly average of 100 baby quilts to Children's Hospital in Denver, sews lap robes for hospital patients and sews cloth

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pads that are used specifically for newborns.

Additionally, she collects aluminum can tabs which are donated to kidney patients to use for exchange in receiving dialysis treatment and collects new and used paperback books which she delivers to Veterans Hospital in Cheyenne, Wyo.

Her nominators also said she quickly found a trailer so the group could construct a parade float.

“In this community and in the club, she is always willing and ready to lend a hand, supply a need, or to offer assistance when an opportunity arises,” nominator Wilma Halbert said.

Sullivan earned the Outstanding Family Award. She has been deeply involved with many organizations throughout her life and held numerous offices within them.

The purpose of the award is to inspire families across the nation to strengthen family relationships and contribute to the quality of American life through community service.

She is a 38-year member of the Holyoke Jolly Dozen FCE Club and is one of the drivers behind the Holly Daze Craft Show. Sullivan is a past winner of the North Star and Master Homemaker awards. She has held numerous offices within the club and currently serves as the president.

In February, she along with the Jolly Dozen Club, received the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce Star Award at the Chamber Gala, an event she was instrumental in developing when she was Chamber president in 1993.

While involved with the Chamber, she also helped with Community Night, Cinco de Mayo and the Christmas Parade of Lights.

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She has also accrued 3,000 plus hours as a volunteer with the Colorado Welcome Center in Julesburg.

Before arriving in Holyoke in 1972, Sullivan was involved with 4-H, Colorado Home Demonstration Club, The Hill and Dale Club, Big Thompson Home Demonstration Club, Carter Lake Club and Cowbelles (now known as Cattle Women).

Sullivan's husband and children were deeply involved with many different things both in high school and beyond. One thing that ties the family together is their involvement in 4-H.

"All the volunteer hours of serving in their state, county and town has enriched each of their lives and strengthened their family bond," Sullivan's nominator stated.

Attending the conference with Sullivan and O'Connor were Joyce Harms and Mary Tomky. The annual state convention was held in Holyoke last year.