

legacy

SCHAUFFLER ALUMNA HONORED

Frannie Millward '47 was recognized recently with the 2009 Schauffler Legacy Award

by Michele Tinker, Director of Annual Giving

Enthusiastic, compassionate, loved and loving, and endlessly energetic. This is how colleagues describe the 2009 recipient of the Schauffler Legacy Award, Frannie Millward, Class of 1947 of the original Schauffler College in Cleveland.

The Schauffler Legacy Award recognizes the important relationship between Schauffler College, which closed in the late 1950s, and Defiance College, which was the recipient of Schauffler's endowed programs and archives.

Millward's education at Schauffler was an experience that she describes as absolutely amazing. "Religious education and social work together, plus hands-on experience!" Millward explains this was the foundation of the college's mission. From the very start, Schauffler students worked with social service agencies to meet the greatest needs of the Cleveland neighborhoods. This was grassroots ministry, and Millward firmly believes it is the way to provide service.

Her mother was a minister, and her father was a lawyer. They also showed her how grassroots ministry worked, and it was through her parents that she developed what she calls her most favorite life - youth ministry. She remembers with a laugh, "They were always opening their doors to young people. Our house was like Grand Central Station!"

A big part of her work with youth is introducing the young people to service. "I will die with my boots on in a work camp," Millward contends. Every year, she takes groups of young people to work camps either here in the states or overseas, where they build houses, work with schools and tackle other much-needed projects. For 35 years straight, she has spent part of every summer working in the impoverished mountains



Frannie Millward '47

outside of Hazard, Kentucky, a place for which she has great affection.

According to Millward, the key to working with people is to see them first as a child of God. "That person is a child of God, as you are. That's where we start." And it is this personal respect and love for others that has guided her work as the minister of outreach for Church Street Ministries of Berea for more than 24 years. Church Street Ministries was born when Millward came to the First Congregational United Church of Christ and asked the minister if she could start a secondhand shop. Her goal was to raise funds to help people with medicine, utilities and rent. He pointed her to a little room in the church and agreed to give her six months to try it.

Thousands and thousands of dollars' worth of ministry have grown from that little

room, which has developed into a clothing store, a furniture store and a housewares store. "The idea works. We recycle everything anyone gives us." A food pantry, which Millward also oversees, is another part of Church Street Ministries, as well as neighborhood clothing distributions.

"We are just here to do what God tells us to do. That's what Schauffler means to me - learning the faith and living it," She explains. She readily shares that her favorite scripture is Matthew 25:35, and it's one that she lives by. Over the years, her family has strongly supported her work. Her late husband, Hal, whom she describes as a saint, took care of things at home while she was off with her various projects, and her three adult children and their spouses continue to encourage her work with the community.

Millward has been able to connect with Defiance College social work students and provide them with urban experience. "We invite them to come with us and get hands-on experience working in a Spanish community, where Church Street Ministries has strong ties, and talking with refugees, who have experiences no one can ever believe."

Her work with Defiance College also includes being on the Schauffler advisory board, ensuring that the historical mission and spirit of Schauffler continues to exist in the Christian Education and Social Work programs.

When presenting the Schauffler Legacy Award at Homecoming 2009, Professor Jeff Weaner stated, "Frannie's ability to energize students' interest in working with people's most basic needs is in the true Schauffler spirit. Her passion and commitment to the ideals of Schauffler College, and her desire to share that heritage with our students have never changed." ♦