

2008 EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION RECOGNITION AWARD

Jan Maloff

As a sixth grader in the Syracuse City School system, Jan Maloff used to ride his bike to school, past the Onondaga Orphan's Home (now Elmcrest Children's Center) on Salt Springs Road. He observed that very few of his classmates or children in the neighborhood had bicycles. From this early experience the seed of an idea was developed... that every child should have a bicycle. Jan often says, *"I feel the freedom a bicycle represents, it is a rite of passage from infant to young adult"*.



Twelve years ago, Jan Maloff started buying bicycles from thrift stores and garage sales. In that first year, he collected, repaired, and distributed 175 bicycles from a parking lot at St. Joseph's Hospital to children that didn't have bikes. He had informed the media of his plans, and the bikes were gone in 20 minutes. The following week, he gave away another 200 bikes, and thus started an annual tradition.

Since those early days, Jan has given away thousands of bicycles to city children each year. During the week before Christmas city children without bicycles eagerly look forward to the "Bicycle Man" and his annual giveaway. In 2007, Jan distributed 2,100 bicycles! He acknowledges that each year the needs are always more than the donations can provide.

This summer, Jan will be partnering with the Syracuse Police Department to host bicycle rodeos where he will repair children's bicycles. Community bike rides with police officers will be available to encourage children to establish good relationships with city police officers.

Four years ago, the Syracuse City School District got involved in the bicycle giveaway when administrators at Fowler High School offered Jan the use of the school for his event. An additional benefactor of the giveaway has been Doug Burns of Fayetteville Dodge, who has donated 500 bicycle helmets to children at the event for the past eleven years.

Jan has been honored with the national Jefferson Award in Washington, DC for his bicycle giveaway program. He attended George Washington and Charles Andrews Elementary Schools, H.W. Smith Junior High School, and is a graduate of Nottingham High School. He is the owner/operator of the Dewitt Memorial and Ginsberg Maloff Funeral Homes in Dewitt.

Crouse Hospital

"To promote community health" is a major part of Crouse Hospital's mission statement, and over the last several years, the hospital has reached more people in the community where we live, do business, and care for our neighbors. After the hospital rededicated itself to taking community outreach to a new level, these initiatives have become more formal, comprehensive, and visible.



The way in which Crouse achieves outreach most often comes in the form of health screenings and community education. Partnerships with the Syracuse City School District,

Kinney Drugs, the Susan G. Komen Foundation, Onondaga County, emergency medical crews and local legislators like Sen. John DeFrancisco, among others, help Crouse screen wide segments of the county's population—many uninsured or underinsured—for diabetes, heart disease and breast cancer. Last year, involvement in community health and wellness events reached record numbers, and Crouse implemented an education series for emergency medical technician crews.

In addition, Crouse's community health forums, (free and open to the public), help educate people about help topics ranging from women's healthcare and orthopedics to end-of-life care and issues for senior citizens. One of the most popular has been its Integrative Medicine series, begun last fall, with more than 800 attendees learning about complementary treatments such as Reiki, acupuncture and mindful living.

The hospital is most proud of its partnership with Hughes Magnet Elementary School in Syracuse, which has been cited both statewide and nationally as a model community service program. It involves the promotion of health and wellness for students, staff and parents, including monthly health and wellness speakers at the school. Most recently, Crouse employees, along with Kinney Drugs and Buffalo Medical Supply, donated more than 550 hats, mittens and gloves to the students. A health and wellness section for the school's library, funded by donations from Crouse employees, will be dedicated this spring.

Crouse has also supported health and wellness improvement efforts for the Syracuse City School District, providing ongoing screenings in a variety of community settings and speakers to educate nursing staff.

Other outreach initiatives include Visit to Hospital Land, a free program funded by the Crouse Hospital Auxiliary, which reaches 165,000 first-grade students each year. Crouse also participates in major walk/runs for various national and local health initiatives, sponsors quarterly blood drives for the American Red Cross and is a corporate sponsor for the annual Vera House White Ribbon Campaign.