

Local Teacher Honored as Humanitarian



Donna Villanova (left) received an award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service from Tina Lisa, fellow teacher at St. Ann School and member of the Sgt John F. Basilone Chapter of the Columbiettes.

Donna Villanova, a 1st Grade teacher at St. Ann School in Raritan, was recently honored by the NJ State Supreme Council of the Columbiettes for Distinguished Humanitarian Service. She was nominated by members of the Sgt. John Basilone chapter in Raritan.

For many years, Villanova has dedicated herself to helping the sick and disadvantaged. She is a parishioner of St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church in Bridgewater where she serves as a Eucharistic Minister and had served as a CCD teacher for over ten years. She is active in the Interfaith Hospitality Network providing meals to the homeless and serves as a Eucharistic minister visiting the homebound. She has donned her sneakers for the CROP Walk, a fundraiser that benefits local food banks, and raised a hammer to support Habitat for Humanity.

Firmly believing that “education eliminates the cycle of poverty,” Villanova worked with others to found the “New Moms, New Expectations,” a non-profit organization in Bridgewater that supports new mothers & their babies. The program offers free child care for infants of new mothers so they can pursue high school, college or vocational training. In addition, the new moms are also given monthly classes and training in parenting and life skills.

Principal Sister Gloria Caglioti, commented on her recognition stating, “Mrs. Villanova is a living example of our school mission, ‘Enter and Learn, Leave and Serve.’ We are blessed to have such a wonderful role model for our children. She is so dedicated to her students and the love and patience with which she interacts with her class is nothing short of inspiring.”