

## Lamar Nomination for 2014 Adult Leadership Award

### Missouri Community Betterment

Marilyn Selvey is the Lamar Community Betterment nominee for the Adult Leadership Award. She is a retired language arts teacher and school counselor serving Lamar High School for 31 years. Marilyn and her husband Robert reside in Lamar, Mo.

#### **Leadership In Civic and Community Organizations**

Marilyn is a leader in the community and has given of her time to enhance the leadership and growth of Lamar. Marilyn has been elected by her community to serve on the Lamar R-1 School District Board. She has been a board member for 8 years and currently is the vice president. Her skills as a retired teacher have proved essential as the school is now experiencing major renovation to ensure our community will continue to provide the best of education to all students. Her leadership abilities can also be found as Lamar City Parks Board of Directors where she has served for 19 years. Working on the community project of historic light poles replacement that updated the park and continued it's safety needs for Lamar citizens. One of her favorite roles is the planning and continued funding for the various flowers beds and shrubs in the parks where she has served as chairperson. Marilyn is a member of Retired Teachers, Barton County Humane Society, and the Lamar United Methodist Church. She is a Master Gardener and has been in charge of the Master Gardeners' "Yard of the Month." Her efforts are to make the community a desired place to live and for the enjoyment of those who live there now.

#### **Participation In Civic and Community Activities**

Marilyn enjoys utilizing her leadership abilities to carry on projects. She is the acting president of the Barton County Humane Society. Her mother was president for 50 years and Marilyn has now stepped into the role continuing her work. The animal shelter was updated a few years ago with a new building and now there is a dog park nearby that was named in memory of her mother,

Trula Cain. Marilyn and volunteers are responsible for providing pets in the community with bedding in the winter, food and water when needed, and they also photograph and post animals from the animal shelter on "Pet Finder.com" to secure good homes for these lost creatures. Marilyn is also a member of Col. Potter's Cairn Rescue an international organization that rescues Cairn Terriers--"TOTO" dogs. This organization places over 300 dogs yearly in new forever homes. She helps with transporting of dogs and in checking references for potential adoptive families.

### **Leadership with Adults**

Marilyn takes great pride in the Lamar community and working with fellow leaders. She is a role model as she represents the Lamar Community Betterment promoting its Mission: To help make Lamar a better place to live, work and raise families. She is a member of L.I.F.E--The Lamar Independent Foundation for Education Board of Directors serving for 18 years. This foundation works with the school to improve facilities, equipment, and activities at the school that will benefit the students of Lamar R-1. They distribute thousands of dollars each year for school activities and projects. Marilyn has served as head of the L.I.F.E. Scholarship Committee for many years awarding scholarships totaling more than \$10,000 annually to Lamar School seniors advancing into higher education. Similar efforts continue with the P.E.O. Sisterhood scholarships one of the pioneer societies for women. Her leadership abilities have been instrumental in securing and overseeing funding of over \$10,000 annually to help young men and women in the field of education. Her leadership skills are built with honesty, knowing what is right, and she always has a plan of action when working with individuals or organizations. Marilyn is willing to extend her hand along with the kindness of her heart for the citizens of Lamar.

### **Leadership at Region and State Level**

Marilyn's leadership role advances outside the Lamar community by serving the Barton County Libraries on the Board of Director for 12 years. She has committed her time to making

positive changes at all three locations in Lamar, Golden City and Liberal. The Barton County Library works with an approximated budget of \$200,000 that is funded from state, local and grant funds. The library is a central hub for youth and adults in the community providing reading programs, movie matinees, and the latest in technology all geared to the needs of the community. The library has recently been remodeled and is a very busy location. It is a haven for both the youth and the adults in our community.

### **Awards and Recognition**

Marilyn is a quiet worker with recognition coming from her service to the community. Marilyn is a member of the Lamar United Methodist Church where she serves on the Worship Committee, a member of the Lay Leadership Committee, a teacher of the Ambassadors Adult Sunday School Class and has even been an usher. The Church Pantry Committee has been one of her favorite venues. Her leadership and work effort has been instrumental in helping families throughout the community with emergency food items. The church provides a food pantry for families in the community that helps out when economic times may come up short.

Leadership is the effectiveness to create, direct and succeed. Marilyn is a leader, best described by this quote "when I think of the past and look at the present, then dream of the future, I am filled with hope and great expectation lures me onward. I trust that my little effort will widen and extend our community".

Marilyn is community volunteer, businesswoman, mother, and grandmother. She has spent many years building our children through education. Marilyn continues to make various areas of the community a priority connecting all the areas and making a difference in many ways. Her character qualities help her to work well with others, successfully, yet still maintain a learning basis for programs to come. Lamar Community Betterment is proud of her many services to enhance the lives of others.