

ST. JUDE HOUSE VOLUNTEERS HONORED

The annual recognition of St. Jude House volunteers was celebrated at a special luncheon held Sunday, April 17, 2005 at Avalon Manor in Merrillville. Fifty-five attendees enjoyed the luncheon, which honored active volunteers who assist the St. Jude House staff with numerous tasks throughout the year.

Executive Director Mary Govert praised the volunteers for their “incredible dedication to the mission of St. Jude House.” She also pointed out that the programs at St. Jude House would not be as successful as they are without the ongoing commitment that volunteers make to the organization. During the past year, more than 4600 volunteer hours have been donated by committed people of all ages.

The Volunteer of the Year award, annually given to a volunteer who has provided outstanding service to the organization, was shared this year by two people who have given many hours to a number of projects that have greatly benefited St. Jude House programming. Lois Grzych and Gene Bissing were named 2004 “Volunteers of the Year” for the outstanding initiative they both have shown in coordinating the cell phone project, which has generated needed funds to continue services for adults and children at St. Jude House.

Volunteers were cited for their dedication in a variety of capacities, such as donations, administrative tasks, fundraising events, nutrition program, rape response team, court observation, and others. Each volunteer was presented with a token of appreciation and was reminded how valuable their contributions are and how much they are appreciated by the staff and board of directors.

St. Jude House has been providing temporary housing to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault since 1995. There is never a charge for any services or programs that are provided at the facility.