

IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Despite rain, spirits ran high at Good Wil Ginny White honored for her caring of community

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CHARLES STERNAIMOLO

Good-Wil sponsored their first annual "Ginny White Good-Wil Service Award" on Sunday at the Fitchburg Armory Senior Center. This was the final event of the season for a social enterprise initiative that brings non-profit groups together for a greater good. Although originally slated to take place outdoors on Memorial Park, the constant drizzle forced the event inside. Those who braved the cool temperatures and constant misty conditions were welcomed by the site of several outdoor games, including a large Moonwalk set up on the corner of Wallace Avenue, next to downtown Fitchburg's Monument Park. Inside, local vendors were set up around the perimeter of the Armory, providing everything from family amusements, raffles, food and a Chinese auction. A large stage was set up for the entertainment, which was provided by Wil Darcangelo and his five-piece infused jazz band. "I was so preoccupied with the attendance", said the relieved co-founder and jazz crooner, Wil Darcangelo, while

these things have stopped our volunteers and community members from coming out to support our cause." While holding a roll of raffle tickets, one of the groups three co-founder's, David Roth, added, "In a down economy it's even more important that we walk the

Farinelli, was also busy making sure the event went off without a hitch. She explained why the trio got together to create such a caring organization. "We wanted to set up something that would benefit everyone. Businesses are not just making a cash donation, but are

at Fitchburg's Destare. CD's were available at the event. "I'm not a mercenary. I'm selfish in that I want a nice community - and to make a change." The festival is the culmination of Good Wil's very first season. This event will show appreciation and give thanks to the tireless efforts of Leominster's Ginny White, of Ginny's helping hand, Inc., by naming an annual award for her. Along with White's supporters, friends, and family, as well as the many businesses and organizations represented in the audience, many local politicians were there to show their support as well. Presenting the award, Darcangelo was joined by Mayor Lisa Wong, Stephen DiNatale, and Leominster Mayor Dean J. Mazzarella. After presenting the award, Mayor Wong stated that "[She] couldn't think of a more appropriate person to receive this award than Ginny White. I know she likes to be behind the scenes but we need to let the community know that we honor and support her hard work." Mayor Mazzarella added that "this event "[was] fabulous! Good Wil does a great job creating attention for what's really important in our local community." After the ceremony White tried to leave unnoticed so she could attend another charity event in Leominster. Of course supporters continually approached her to give hugs and show their appreciation. When asked to say a few words about herself, White made it obvious that she would rather shift the attention to her many friends in the community who have aided her organization to help those in need.

She pointed out that her slogan is "A Hand Up - Not A Hand Out." She added, "I appreciate everyone who cares enough to make donations and volunteer their time. I couldn't do it without them." While walking out the door to attend another event she said quietly, "We're all in this together."



Ginny is pictured with her grandchildren at the Good-Wil event on Sunday. Ginny was honored with the Ginny White Good-Wil Service Award for all her work she does in the community.

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— Ginny White

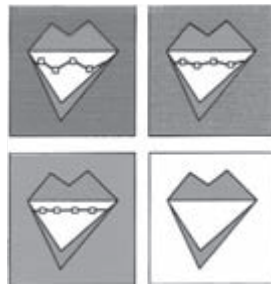
hastily taking care of final details and greeting guests. "The worst ice storm - ever, the worst economy since the great depression, a blizzard...none of

walk regarding what we care about. Society has had enough of businesses that don't care." Roth is responsible for bringing the idea of 'Cause Marketing' to the organization. It is a way to do business that benefits all - by working together to donate time, money, and expertise to help a cause, businesses and charitable organizations make the community a better place while also promoting themselves. Co founder and organizer Corinne

actually involved in making this a better community. It's not just a one-way street, either, because charities have a part to play in helping local businesses." Along with the charities and local business that Good Wil helps, Darcangelo benefits too. "As a singer, this is a great way to build up credibility" he said. He is currently promoting his latest album titled, "Tuesday is the New Saturday", which he often performs live

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