

United Way of Southern Chautauqua County

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Karen Frucella-Olson Receives Mason Award

Karen Frucella-Olson was honored Wednesday with the United Way of Southern Chautauqua County's Joseph H. Mason Community Service Award for 2011. Frucella-Olson becomes just the third woman to receive the award in its 30 year history.

"Wow," said Frucella-Olson, "there are a lot of good people doing good things in this community. This award could have gone to so many deserving people. For it to go to me, I consider it both an honor and privilege."

Frucella-Olson lives in West Ellicott, and has worked at SKF Aeroengine in Falconer for 26 years. She's a member of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 338. She also serves as secretary for the Jamestown Area Labor Council (AFLCIO). Frucella-Olson is active in the Celoron Fire Department Auxiliary, helping out with weekly bingo and the annual Rib Fest. She also serves as Chaplin and Junior Regent for the Celoron Moose Auxiliary. She's volunteered at Christmas and Halloween parties for children of VFW Post #53, and serves dinners Wednesday and Friday nights at the Celoron Moose Club.

In nominating Frucella-Olson for the award, former Mason Award winner George Spitale of the Jamestown Area Labor Council said, "Karen is a dedicated and giving person. The word no doesn't seem to be in her vocabulary. She represents what the late Joseph Mason believed in: by volunteering, you can make this community a better place for future generations."

The award was presented by the son and daughter of Joseph H. Mason, Joe Mason and Deborah DeAngelo, during the annual United Way Salute to Labor Dinner, held at the Jamestown Elk's Lodge. The United Way of Southern Chautauqua County presents the Joseph H. Mason Award annually to a union member or staff person whose volunteer service to the community honors the spirit of involvement exhibited by the late Joseph H. Mason. It is given to a union member or employee who is actively involved in community service. The award recipient is chosen each year by a committee of past winners led by United Way board members Gary Sorenson, IBEW 459, retired; Steve Skidmore; CSEA 807; and David Wilkinson; IBEW 106.

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