

Golden Apple Foundation

NEWS RELEASE

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Golden Apple to honor Beverly Shaw for service to education

(Chicago — April 1, 2005) Beverly E. Shaw of Winnetka will be honored for her service to education May 7 during the 20th Annual Golden Apple Awards Ceremony at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers.

While the focus of the Golden Apple Foundation is to honor classroom teachers, the organization also recognizes outstanding educational advocates in the Chicago area who are serving the community through their vision, generosity and support with its Stanley C. Golder Community Service Award.

For the past 25 years, Shaw has worked as a professional reading specialist, teaching children in Chicago's Rogers Park community. Her primary efforts center on directing the Good News Reading Program, an initiative that provides one-to-one tutorial instruction to second-, third-, and fourth-grade students who typically read two grades below their peers. These children often experience frustration in the classroom and lack self-confidence as learners.

By working individually with a supportive volunteer tutor and an instructional plan, students improve their reading competency along with their overall academic achievement. Shaw's program is based on research showing that early intervention can prevent future school failure and that trained volunteers can significantly improve a student's success.

After spending years as a volunteer in her own children's classrooms and assisting at a parochial school on Chicago's West Side, Shaw returned to school and earned a teaching certificate and master's degree at National-Louis University, where she concentrated on remedial reading instruction and clinical practice. After receiving her degree, she worked at the National-Louis Reading Center and then went on to direct the Good News Reading Program, which has helped 1,000 children learn to read. Shaw has taken great pleasure in seeing students progress from struggling, frustrated readers to confident, successful learners.

Realizing the ongoing need for literacy instruction and reading specialists, Shaw and her husband, Charlie, recently endowed the Shaw Family Institute for Early Literacy, a partnership between the National-Louis Reading Center and the Good News Reading Program. This collaborative effort enhances existing urban literacy programs and provides scholarships for graduate reading specialists.

The Shaws also have worked to provide affordable housing to low-income families. Through the Shaw Company, they have spearheaded an urban-renewal project in Chicago's North Lawndale. Known as Homan Square, the development has had a significant impact on improving the quality of life in a community previously suffering from high crime rates and general neglect.

Bev Shaw's expertise has benefited numerous boards and organizations. She is a member of the Board of Trustees at National-Louis University, where she serves on the executive and development committees. In the past she was a member of the Joseph Sears School Board in Kenilworth and former founder and chairman of the Kenilworth Public Library District.

The Shaws have five children and nine grandchildren.

Previous winners of Golden Apple's Stanley C. Golder Community Service Award include William J. McCarter of Wilmette; John and Martha Mabie of Winnetka; Arnold Weber, President Emeritus of Northwestern University; and Martin J. "Mike" Koldyke, Founder and Chair Emeritus of Golden Apple Foundation.

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