



Connie Steele

Samaritan Counseling Center of the Fox Valley is seeking nominees for its **2017 Connie Steele Woman of Strength Award**.

The award is named for the late Connie Steele, former Samaritan board member and senior legal counsel for Thrivent Financial. **It honors a woman from the Fox Cities, Heart of the Valley, New London, Oshkosh and surrounding areas** who embodies the following traits in much the same way that Connie did.

Strength of character Connie overcame personal challenges and adversity. She moved to the region from the Twin Cities in the midst of cancer treatment, made new friends, found new medical providers, got involved – and thrived.

Integrity Connie treated everyone fairly and honestly in her work with courts and families as a guardian ad litem. Unswayed by emotional situations – she put on a smile, strongly encouraging others to get their lives in order.

Generosity Connie was an “everyday” person who loved to help out without the need for accolades or a “thank you.”

Faith Connie engaged deeply in her faith community and served on her church council. Her faith was a part of her being, and she shared it with others.

Courage At the request of her employer, Connie courageously moved herself and her granddaughter to a new, less diverse community, where she developed a support network from scratch.

Optimism Connie believed in possibilities. When Samaritan’s board planned to raise \$100,000, she said, “Why not \$1,000,000?” Connie portrayed personal and professional challenges in a positive light.

Persistence Connie fought back against her cancer. She continued working by using a walker (adding ‘bling’ to make it hers), made her home a place she could continue to live alone, and accepted help from others as needed.

Community service Connie made an impact in her short time in this community. She worked hard and thought big on behalf of Samaritan, Harbor House Domestic Abuse Services and St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Nominations will include:

- Three letters or essays of one page or less, each written by a different nominator.
- Specific examples and illustrations of how the nominee lives out the eight traits listed above.
- The name, mailing address, e-mail address and phone number of the nominee and each nominator.

Compiled nominations may be sent to Jill Harp at jharp@samaritan-counseling.com or Samaritan Counseling Center, Attn: Jill Harp/Woman of Strength, 1478 Kenwood Dr., Suite 1, Menasha, WI 54952.

Nomination deadline is March 15, 2017.

Samaritan Counseling Center will present the award at the Silent Samaritan Luncheon on **May 4, 2017**, at **Bridgewood Resort & Conference Center, 1000 Cameron Way, Neenah**. The luncheon culminates the Silent Samaritan Campaign, themed “Women of Strength Helping Women in Need.” The campaign supports counseling for low-income women.

Previous winners of the Connie Steele Woman of Strength Award include:

2010	RoseAnn Blair, Neenah	2013	Dorry Wilner, Oshkosh
2011	Miriam Douglass, Appleton	2014	Kathy Flores, Appleton
2012	Shirley Bender-Gehrt, Oshkosh	2015	Dawn Malcom, Appleton
		2016	Beth Heuer, Oshkosh

Samaritan Counseling Center of the Fox Valley connects mind and spirit so individuals, families, organizations and communities thrive.