

John and Mona Martin - Kindness

The Martins have always been involved with children. Mona was a teacher. John has bought many used bicycles, fixed them up, and given them to children who might not have been able to have a bike otherwise. They have served as Sunday school teachers at St. Anne's for many years. It is easy to see how children gravitate to them. Mona and John always have a smile, a hug, and a word of encouragement for any child in their vicinity.

While these activities are admirable.. I am pleased to nominate John and Mona for this award based on their service at St. Michael's Necessity Pantry. We cooperate with St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Independence to operate the Pantry 4 hours each month. The Pantry provides families who are referred there with cleaning and personal hygiene items, as well as used clothing and food. Last month the Pantry served over 130 families.

Mona greets each client with a warm smile and goes over requests for assistance. John usually works in the Pantry store room. They coordinate between St. Michael's and St. Anne's to be sure that each parish provides items so that shelves are stocked. They recruit volunteers to ensure adequate staffing. They have gone to garage sales to find used clothing for the Pantry, sometimes encouraging people to donate these items. They continue to serve here even though both have dealt with health problems.

Perhaps most importantly, John and Mona are role models of kindness for members of our youth group who work at the Pantry each month, some of whom are children who have known and loved John and Mona for many years. They act humanely with consideration of others daily. God Bless