

Diane Seif

Responsibility

Diane Seif embodies responsibility, cooperation and citizenship. She motivates others to do what is right and holds herself to the highest standards of behavior, demonstrating a unique talent for displaying Responsibility as she gives back to the community.

Diane has been a tireless supporter of many local charities and organizations. She has been honored as a Lifetime PTA Member and has dedicated a great deal of time as a supporter and Board Member of the Lee's Summit Educational Foundation, where she currently serves as Secretary. Diane also volunteers for the Lee's Summit Career Pathways Advisory Council and has worked as a table leader for the School District's Ethics Leadership Conference. An active member of the Lee's Summit CARES Character Council - Business Sector, she is a past President for that group.

As an Ambassador for the United Way, Diane has served on the Board of Trustees for United Way of Greater Kansas City, been awarded the Circle of Caring Award and Community Builder Award, as well as acting as Chair of the Eastern Jackson and Cass County United Ways. Contributing time to the local business community is another passion. Diane has served in virtually every capacity in the Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce, including being the Chairman of the Board of Directors in 2007. This year alone, she is a member of the Strategic Planning, Oktoberfest, Emerging Entrepreneurs, Legislative, and Governmental Relations committees.

She is a member of the Lee's Summit noon Rotary Club, an Advisory Director for the Lee's Summit Economic Development Council, participant in the Civic Roundtable, and part of the Lee's Summit 360 Strategic Planning and Implementation Process. She is also a Board member of Summit Bank of Kansas City and serves as a Lee's Summit Planning Commissioner, having been appointed by Mayor Messerli.

Diane promotes responsibility in her commitment to her community and by emulating her mentor, Ewing Kauffman. Her goal in community volunteer activities is to promote cooperation and team unity. For example, at this year's Oktoberfest, she volunteered at the Chamber Booth on Kid's Street, where more than 1500 kids decorated pumpkins. Whenever she witnessed a young person exemplifying a character trait while working on his/her project, Diane would acknowledge the behavior with a character card. In one instance, an older sibling was cheerfully helping her three younger brothers. Diane was able to reinforce the girl's respect for others with a kind word and character card. The teenager was delighted by the recognition. It was a moment when you realize that the school and community can work together to teach character.

A few months ago I noticed a colleague had brought a guest to the Chamber's monthly luncheon. This event can be overwhelming to a newcomer, as there are often more than 100 in attendance, and the business men and women who attend usually come with a group from work or sit with others from their social and professional networks. However, when my colleague introduced his guest to Diane, she immediately engaged her in conversation and asked if she would like to sit together during the lunch event. Diane was sincerely interested in learning more about this person and making her feel comfortable.

The lifetime achievement award is dedicated to recognizing individuals who have built a legacy of service and self-sacrifice, whose daily words and actions have encouraged and motivated others, and whose involvement has left an indelible impression upon our community. Through her commitment to serving our community in multiple organizations and various leadership capacities, Diane Seif embodies the essence of character, and it is our pleasure today to recognize her with the 2010 Lee's Summit Community of Character Lifetime Achievement Award. Diane, would you please come forward.

