

RAMSEY SUBURBAN NEWS

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Several Sources Founder, Kathy DiFiore (left), recently received the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award for dedicated leadership and service in the greater Newark community. The award was given at St. John's United Methodist Church in Newark on Jan 16, 2005. From left: Kathy DiFiore, Talyina (age 3), Nawal Taha, Zelda Chandler and her daughter Alexa (age 11), Debbie Hart and Pastor Rev. Noah Reid III. The woman and children in the photo are currently participating in the Several Sources Shelter programs.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Several Sources founder gets award

RAMSEY- Several Sources Foundation founder Kathy DiFiore was in shock when she received a community service award named after one of her heroes- Dr. Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.

DiFiore was given the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award at a memorial event last week at St. John's United Methodist Church in Newark.

"I really never in my life thought it would possibly happen- I was just totally shocked," DiFiore said. "Since Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is a man of my lifetime, it's just amazing to think that the work that we are doing could in some small way be an example of his courage and his peaceful lifestyle."

Bernita Waller, chairwoman of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Event, said during the ceremony the DiFiore was chosen because of "her tireless work in the Newark Community for needy women and children."

"Kathy has has 10 years of almost unrecognized service in the Newark area." Waller said.

DiFiore began helping the less fortunate in 1981 out of her own home in Ramsey. Since then, DiFiore has opened four shelters serving young mothers and their babies- two of the shelters are located in Ramsey. Over 2,000 needy pregnant teenagers and their babies have been helped in the past 24 years at Several Sources locations.

In 1997, Several Sources with the help of three businessmen's donations, opened a daytime shelter on Central Avenue in Newark called "Ladies Rest." The day shelter assists approximately 200 homeless women every year.

'Since Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is a man of my lifetime, it's just amazing to think that the work that we are doing could in some small way be an example of his courage and his peaceful lifestyle.' **Kathy DiFiore, Several Sources Foundation Founder**

The award, given to an individual who's had more than five years of some community involvement in the greater Newark area, was based mainly on DiFiore's contributions involving the Ladies Rest shelter.

"I am humbled to be given the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award and share it with those dear women who we are honored to serve through the support of our Several Sources benefactors," DiFiore said.

As DiFiore accepted her plaque at the award ceremony, she asked several of the Ladies Rest women to join her in the front of the church to share in the honor.

"Dr. King would want you to be here with me because we need you as much as you need us - maybe even more," DiFiore said. "You bring us closer to God each and every day. As we try to help you, he helps us to become better people and we thank you for that."

Rev. Noah Reid III, the Pastor of St. John's United Methodist Church, closed the ceremony by thanking DiFiore for her dedication to the community.

"Our Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award is for Kathy's dedication leadership and service in the greater Newark community," Reid said. "Kathy is where it counts by helping people when they ask 'where am I going tomorrow?' We now have an answer for that kind of question. We are grateful to be able to recognize the good work that is accomplished at Ladies Rest.

Ms. DiFiore is making a difference as she helps to make change happen in the people's lives."

The ceremony also included several narrated reenactments of scenes from the Civil Rights Movement.

"It was very inspirational," DiFiore said. "A very moving ceremony."

Waller said it is important to give the King award out every year to help extend his legacy.

"It's not just lip service to it but it's an active living person that you can see carrying out the legacy," Waller said. "Kathy DiFiore is a person who definitely addresses diverse issues, but she also practically has blinders on as far as color, race and creed."

DiFiore said the award she received really is an award for the entire community.

"We need each other to make this a better world, and the women and children that we serve at Ladies Rest make us better people - they make us more generous," DiFiore said.

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Of Suburban News