

Dorothy 'Dee' Stergios has been a fixture at Missoula Catholic Schools for nearly 50 years. Starting in 1961, Dee and her husband, Steve, began a commitment to Missoula Catholic Schools that continues to this day. Dee's presence began at St. Anthony Grade School and moved through the schools as her children grew and the buildings changed: Loyola High School, Sacred Heart Academy, Loyola Sacred Heart, and finally St. Joseph School. An education ringleader for 96 student-years, Dee has been responsible for approximately 17,280 lunches, 72 proms, 768 folders, and perhaps a detention or two.

Through this long history, Dorothy has always known what it takes make the schools work—dedication, hard work, faith . . . and love. Lots of love. So many individuals have been affected by Dee in some delightful way over the decades, perhaps even over the past couple of years as Dee continues to be an active volunteer with the Foundation and with Missoula Catholic Schools—and with St. Pats, and with the Aging Services, and as an election judge . . . you get the picture. Her impact on our school community is immeasurable. She continues to be an inspiration today as a fundraising chairperson, board member, and mother of eight children—all of whom were in attendance when her award was announced at BASH.

During the 60s, 70s, and 80s, Dee and Steve chaired just about every event there was, all in an effort to keep the schools going. Twice a chair of BASH, Dee has a special fondness for the annual auction weekend. Two years ago, a mere 36 hours after suffering a heart attack, Dee convinced her son, Tom, to stop by BASH on her way home from the hospital just to see how things were going. In spite of her weakened condition, she visited the workers and eased their fears and concerns with assurances that it was going to be a great BASH. These stories and numerous others have become BASH and MCS legends; perhaps more important are the special moments and memories that so many people have of this one-of-a-kind lady.