

**2007 MAX & PEGGY BECKER  
-LIFETIME AWARD-**

**BETTY SHOEMAKER**

Betty Shoemaker is one of my heroes. She has been an integral part of the Fort Collins International Center (FCIC) for as long as I have known her. She loves our international students and scholars and connects with each one in a very special way. She actively builds connections between CSU and the Fort Collins community and all benefit from her quite volunteerism.

I first met Betty when she resolved our visa problems when Bob exchanged jobs with a forester from Australia. After several days of frustrating phone calls between the two countries, the US State Department and our congressman, Betty got involved. After a five minute conversation, she assessed the situation and determined that she could provide the appropriate paperwork, at no cost, the same day!

Returning from Australia and looking for a way to stay connected internationally I began to volunteer at the Office of International Programs. Jim Graham, Jean Griswold, and Betty Shoemaker became my mentors and role models. Whether traveling to NAFSA conferences or Day in the Mountain retreats, Betty was always there – cooking, leading folk dancing, and always connecting students with community. At one NAFSA conference, Betty and I shared a hostel room in Miami Beach. The party scene there starts about 9 pm and continues until at least 4 am - every night. Instead of being frustrated with a lack of sleep, Betty embraced the experience, relishing the music and the culture!

Once Betty retired from the Office of International Programs, she quietly became a full-time volunteer. She loves Estes Park and the Rocky Mountain National Park and spends countless hours volunteering there. But more than that, she actively shares that love with our students and community. Whenever there is an Outdoor Activity that needs another leader or driver, Betty is there.

Betty loves the Friday Afternoon Club (FAC) and our summer BBQs and has become the backbone of both in the past few years. She is always there; setting up for the potluck, greeting old & new friends, and helping people connect. Afterwards you will always find her in the kitchen packaging left-over food for give-away and doing the dishes. During the summer BBQs, she stocks the food supplies, ensuring that there are

always enough hamburgers and just enough buns, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, etc. She is like the good elf that quietly does all the work when no one is watching!

Several years ago FCIC decided to become more formal about coordinating home stay opportunities at the beginning of each semester. Betty asked to be the coordinator for all degree-seeking students, scholars, and families. She takes every request, immediately responds to the student and works tirelessly to ensure that each student's unique needs are met. But she does not stop there; she continues this service in an informal way throughout the year. She is the first person OIP calls when they have a student in need of community help.

Betty is particularly interested in helping visiting researchers & scholars on short-term internships feel welcome. Because these scholars can arrive sporadically throughout the year, finding housing and connecting with others is particularly challenging. Betty actively invites OIP staff and CSU faculty to make her aware of these situations and when funds are scarce or housing difficult to find, she opens her own home! In the 15 years I've known Betty, she has always had one or more students or scholars living at with her. I suspect they pay little or nothing for the opportunity. They all love Betty and marvel at their good fortune in getting to know this incredible lady.

For every person that you talk to about Betty's incredible volunteer ethic, you will hear about a different aspect of her volunteerism. I'm sure I've only scratched the surface of examples. Recently I heard that she was appalled at the condition of the Loan Closet in Lory North. But she didn't tell anyone, she just recruited an assistant and began cleaning it up; even stocking it with additional items she's purchased at Good Will!

I am honored to nominate Betty Shoemaker for the Becker Award for she truly connects campus and community and makes a difference in the lives she touches every day!