



## **Making Democracy Work Award Congratulations Kathy Groat**

*The Making Democracy Work Award celebrates community members who have envisioned a way to improve the Fox Cities community and have mobilized others to work with them to affect change that benefits the broader community.*

***The following testimonial was given by Kathy's nominators, Helen Nagler and Nadine Miller***

***"Dedicated to giving back to her community." "Passionate about helping people move up in life." "An articulate advocate for all families who have difficulty speaking for themselves." "An unknowing mentor to her peers."***

***These are just some of the phrases that have been used to describe Kathy Groat. Kathy has provided excellent leadership in her public service roles for a significant amount of her lifetime. In 2003, she was appointed by Governor Dolye to the Wisconsin National and Community Service Board and in 2006 was elected to the Vice President position. Kathy has served as a volunteer on the Appleton Housing Authority Board since being appointed by the Mayor in 2006. Nothing slows Kathy down, now in her 70s, her spirit is strong as she recently walked the streets of Appleton campaigning and talking to people to retain her position at Outagamie County. The Appleton Housing Authority, a non-profit organization that is the largest provider of housing opportunities for residents has been fortunate to have Kathy (the Board Chairman) as a true source of advocacy, leadership and talent for over ten years.***

***Because of her dynamic inspiration and involvement in shaping local government, Kathy has been a great influence to all citizens of our community. Kathy has significantly made an impact through her unparalleled contributions in working above and beyond helping empowering people and mentoring individuals to become community advocates by way of involvement at the local and state government level.***

***Kathy has served as an effective community leader in the Fox Cities through her work as an Outagamie County Board Supervisor, a former City of Appleton Alderperson from 1996-2006 and served as the vice-chair of the Regional Transit Authority Workgroup. In addition, Kathy was instrumental during her long term participation on the Fox Cities Housing Coalition and as the former Director of the Fair Housing Center of Northeast Wisconsin. Kathy earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Masters of Administration from the university of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Through her life-long public service and giving back to her community, Kathy exemplifies the leadership of the "Making Democracy Work Award."***

***Through Kathy's insight as our board chairman, understanding of community needs and high level of support, the Appleton Housing Authority was able to pursue non-traditional and innovative collaborations with other partners. Though many examples exist, one example in particular, would be the creation of our non-profit Neighborhood Housing, Inc , which has become the catalyst for our future in developing the affordable housing needed for all citizens.***

***Kathy helped to reshape the focus of affordable housing by encouraging agency collaborations with the forces of business and government through "A Place to Call Home" campaign. Kathy's leadership abilities***

*and sensitivity helped facilitate the interaction of individuals who normally would not be working together to meet the needs of the community. Kathy has mentored individuals to run for office such as Amanda Dietrich, who became a Wisconsin State Representative. Kathy was also instrumental in making sure our residents were registered to vote and allowed candidates of all parties to conduct a forum where our residents could weigh the issues before them. As a mentor, Kathy didn't just teach to vote once a year but to volunteer for community involvement, thus making effective change year round. That's democracy!*

*In summary, Kathy exemplifies the many facets of "Making Democracy Work", and what it takes to successfully lead others. Kathy not only sees visions of community needs, but acts like a catalyst to help these visions come to life resulting in a strong, vibrant and fair community.*