

2010 Tribute to Women Honoree – Kathy Fitzgerald Grandsaert



For 13 years, Kathy Fitzgerald Grandsaert has worked for Catholic Charities. As the first Senior Director of Development, she has raised millions of dollars and created an extensive and active donor list when none existed before. She has made the public aware of the need in our city for the assistance to those who are marginalized by society.

Her parents, Mary and Wynn (William) Fitzgerald, raised her with the social responsibility to serve all members of her community, especially those who are downtrodden and miscast because of circumstances beyond their control. After raising two children of her own, she has taken that task to heart with the belief that spiritual devotion is the key to doing goodwill and helping others.

Over the years Grandsaert applied what she learned using her talents and skills to make a difference in the lives of others serving in governing roles on boards for many organizations including schools, churches, hospitals and arts organizations.

Other community leaders use words such as *dedicated*, *clever*, *devoted* and *committed* to describe what she does so well in the community. She has chaired over 23 fundraisers for Omaha non-profit organizations. As one person put it, “I know that there are those who run the events and those who serve – but rarely do any float so gracefully between the two roles like Kathy.”

Having the connections in the community from all of her previous endeavors, Grandsaert has connected and attracted volunteers and funders to help the programs and the clients they serve. One example of her many accomplishments is her skills in converting Irish Fest, an old and small fundraiser for Catholic Charities, into one of the largest fundraisers in the state. To date, 900 to 1,400 people have attended raising as much as \$750,000.

Grandsaert has received the Ancilla Domini Award from Creighton Prep for her 30 years of service and the Junior League of Omaha Sustainer of the Year Award. This Tribute to Women award represents her work with people from all walks of life in her human services role. She works to give respect and dignity to those less fortunate and has learned so much from them.