

With Our Youth Awards for 2008-2009

The With Our Youth Program began in 2002. The goals of the program are to provide resources to youth through 5 key areas-a caring adult, a healthy start, safe places to learn and grow, effective education and an opportunity to give back to the community.

One RTA Unit has tried to help children reach their full potential by providing services by mentoring students at schools and in sports, Big Brother-Little Brother Program, Youth Space Day, helping an Iraqi family with three children, plus collecting and distributing school supplies to area schools for needy children.

I am pleased to present an outstanding service to youth certificate to the **Watertown Area Retired Teacher Unit** for their dedication to making a difference in the lives of many of their area youth. (Community Service Chair Ruth Olson, President Annette Belkonen)

Another RTA Unit has made an impact on the lives of many of their area youth by believing in the motto of “ You never stand so tall as when you bend down to help a child.” This RTA provides a variety of services to youth in Reading Buddies Program, reading to students, tutoring students, community theater, health screenings for students, food pantry holiday baskets, Gems Program of restocking math and science materials for children’s use and assisting with a new program called PARS Weekend Food Backpack Program for needy children. The weekend

food backpacks were presented to needy students in two elementary schools this past year with plans to implement the program to all schools next fall.

I am proud to present another outstanding With Our Youth service certificate to the **Pierre Area Retired Teacher Unit** as they provide resources to the key areas of caring adults, a healthy start and safe places to learn and grow.

(Community Service Chairs Nancy Baker & Barb Hillestad, Co-presidents Jean Easland and Nancy Baker)