

Jackie McAdam

Jacqueline McAdam (a RSVP member from Millinocket, Maine) is an example of what just one person can do to change a community. In the late 1980's, she created and became the chairperson for the Katahdin Area Support Group for those with cancer. Inspiration for the group came when her husband passed away of cancer. Jackie saw just how few resources were available. Jackie joined RSVP in 1994 and the Support Group has been a RSVP station since 1991.

To the people in Millinocket, she is referred to as their Guardian Angel. She established the Support Group as a non-profit to assist cancer patients, their families and friends with the services provided by volunteers, recruited and coordinated by Jackie. These services are free. Jackie has maintained this integral support network and leads by example.

Various components of the community have been successfully integrated into her service system – churches, businesses, service clubs, other non-profit agencies and schools. She has received accolades from the Millinocket Town Council and other public service providers. She was a “Daily Points of Light Award” winner for May 2002. In addition, several other communities across the state have sought her assistance in establishing similar programs.

The following are services provided by the Katahdin Area Support Group. **Operation Breadbasket** – once a month cancer patients are treated to home delivery of bread, muffins, cookies and special treats. **Education Programs**- “I Can Cope” program offered in cooperation with the American Cancer Society each year. Programs are sponsored not only for cancer patients but for the community at large. A reference library has been created regarding the latest cancer treatments. **Transportation-**

Volunteers transport patients to medical appointments, whether local or out-of-town. Volunteers also run errands with or for the patients. **Equipment Loans**-The group maintains an extensive inventory of patient care equipment which is delivered, set up and loaned free of charge. **The Love-One-Another Sharing & Caring Family**- Once a month, a gathering of patients and family members is held at a private volunteer's home. This provided a time to share, in confidence, the successes and disappointments of battling cancer. Outside speakers are invited to present information on pain management, legal advice, emotional concerns, etc. A recent addition to their services includes **Funeral Assistance**. All the above is accomplished with donations and one major fundraising effort. Thanks to the caring and loving ways of Jackie, the greater Millinocket area has been blessed with a Superwoman who has motivated hundreds of volunteers over the years to provide emotional and physical supports to cancer patients and their caregivers.