



## **CORINNE BRENNAN COMMUNITY MEMBER**

After graduation from Ocean Road School, St. Rose High School, and College Misericordia, Corinne Brennan returned to Point Pleasant during the early years of the High School to teach French and English. During those early years, she started the Future Teachers Club and the Keyette Club, and enthusiastically cheered sports teams.

She married her college sweetheart, Tom Brennan, and settled in Point Pleasant Beach. There they raised two children, Sarah and Tom, who shared athletic and social interests with friends from both Point Boro and Point Beach. On holidays, the family delivered meals from Pantry dinners to shut-ins and transported guests to the Friendship dinners. Today, Sarah lives with her husband, Bill Brazill, and sons, Finn and Cormac, in Media, Pennsylvania; and Tom lives with his wife, Katelee, in Bordentown, NJ.

Corinne spent her entire 39-year professional career in Point Pleasant Schools, teaching French and English, becoming Chairperson of the English Department, Supervisor of World Languages, and for the final 8 years, Supervisor of Extended Day

Programs. Throughout this time, she thoroughly enjoyed interactions with students, teachers and parents and was active in education associations and various committees.

Early in the 1980's, she was presented with the opportunity to bring her senior students to Saint Gregory's Pantry after school to carry and deliver groceries to families who lacked transportation. This holiday work provided an ideal vehicle for them to learn first-hand community service and the complex nature of the term "community."

Over the years, the needs of the Pantry grew, and with them, the involvement of Point Pleasant students, until today two class trips for each holiday distribution involve the carrying and delivering of groceries, from 50 pound bags of potatoes to groceries for a family of 9 lacking transportation. This work is physically and emotionally exhausting, but done with a ready smile.

Since her retirement from Point Pleasant Schools in 2008, the organization of this student involvement in Saint Gregory's has been picked up by her fellow teachers at the High School who share her belief in this job.

In her retirement, Corinne expanded her involvement in the Pantry, helping with their office and monthly Friendship Dinners, and also discovered a need for her help at The Center in Asbury Park, which provides assistance to HIV positive people in the area. This work has drawn her into yet another community whose needs have taught her so much.

Her family, the community, and travel fill her life, even in retirement.