



THANKS FOR CARING AWARD

*honoring outstanding commitment to neighborhood, grassroots
community philanthropy*

Susan Elko of Exton

Susan Elko has a quiet knack for seeking out and encouraging others to volunteer and give their time, talents and treasures, much as she has for over 40 years. Volunteering as a young mother with the Green Circle, a Quaker program of inclusiveness, enabled Susan to better understand how to bring others into the fold.

As a board member of the Chester County Fund for Women and Girls, Susan used her education background to design the program for an annual Girls Conference, and lead the way with the Fund's first By Girls, For Girls Advisory Group.

A sermon at First Presbyterian Church moved Susan to run a coat drive. This was just the beginning. In 1991 Susan became one of the Church's Mission Advocates; in 2003 she became Mission Advocate Coordinator.

Barbara Kirby at St. Agnes Day Room became a pivotal person in Susan's life, leading her to further volunteer opportunities—this time to find shelter for Homeless Single Women. With quiet determination, Susan helped coordinate a winter emergency shelter by involving her congregation and 12 other communities of faith while Safe Harbor renovated and added shelter for women.

Susan's deep commitment to helping homeless women continues with Bridge of Hope, which ends and prevents homelessness for single mothers and their children. Susan continues to be a powerful example of how one person's dedication and passion helps, now and forever.