

Mrs. Marne Dyer

I had the privilege of knowing Mrs. Marne Dyer not only as one of my high school English teachers but also as a colleague here at Rochester High School. It is very fitting that her family has decided to work with the Northern Indiana Community Foundation, Inc. to fund a program that promotes literacy, for Marne believed in the power of words, both spoken and written. Moreover, she kept a quotation on one of her bulletin boards that said, "The service we give to other people is the rent we pay to take up space on this earth." As the daughter of a Methodist minister, Marne always strove to serve her students whether it was in the classroom or in her extracurricular activity, the RHS Speech Team.



Mrs. Dyer demonstrated unconditional acceptance of her students, and her heart went out especially to those who needed the most encouragement. When she would grade students' papers, she would fill the margin with positive comments such as, "You have a way with words!" "Well written!" "Good idea here!" As a presenter in the classroom, Marne seldom, if ever, raised her voice, knowing that keeping it lower would cause the students to become quiet in order to hear her. Both before and after school, she could often be found working with students on assignments or on speeches for competitions. On Saturdays she would accompany the Speech Team to competitions all over northern Indiana. For a number of years, she also sponsored students who participated in the Voice of Democracy Speech Contest. Marne was generous with both her time and her talents.

Many of Mrs. Dyer's students went on to excel in various professions. Regardless of their chosen paths, all of Marne's students became better people for having known her... for having been encouraged by her. As is so often the case, her students' appreciation of her grows as they mature and come to appreciate more fully her contributions to their lives. When word of Marne's passing came to RHS this fall, Art teacher Mrs. Julie Molinaro summed it best, "She was such a *great soul!*" Continuing her work through this literacy initiative serves as a fitting tribute to the memory of Mrs. Marne Dyer.