



Nancy Resh

September 4, 1958 – November 13, 2010

A shining star went out when Nancy Resh was suddenly taken from us recently by a heart attack. She was a warm, caring, generous, kind woman who worked tirelessly for the Deaf community, and for her hearing, deaf, and hard-of-hearing ASL students.

Nancy, who lived in Warren, Ohio, worked at the Youngstown Community Services for the Deaf, and obtained her M.Ed. in Rehabilitation Counseling. In 2006 she left the CSD and became a counselor for the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, where she lent her support, advice, counsel and wisdom to countless members of the northeast Ohio Deaf community, both old and young. She also taught American Sign Language for almost 10 years at Kent State University, Trumbull Campus, first as an adjunct and then as a full-time lecturer.

Nancy was the northeast Ohio regional representative for the Ohio Association of the Deaf, and helped coordinate and run OAD's biennial DEAFair. She also organized annual Town Hall Meetings for her northeast Ohio region, and helped with a myriad of other events, including Deaf Awareness Days and Deaf Nation. She was involved with Valley Junior Achievement and the Trumbull County Deaf Youth group, and was a familiar face in area high schools, where she visited students and classrooms. Nancy worked on compiling a film recording of local Deaf storytellers, organized annual Halloween and Easter parties for the Deaf community and her ASL students, helped bring the Flying Words Project with Peter Cook to perform at the KSU Trumbull campus, and served on the KSU Trumbull Diversity Council as a community representative. She also was the Sign Language Master for the Willey Conley production of *Everyman* at KSU Trumbull in 2009, and served on the steering committee for developing ASL standards for northeast Ohio post-secondary ASL programs.

Nancy was always ready with a smile, a helping hand, and a ready wit. She will be greatly missed by the northeast Ohio Deaf community, OAD, BVR, the Youngstown CSD and her past and present ASL students and faculty. She is survived by her mother and siblings who reside in Virginia, where her services will be held. **OAD is organizing a fund to honor her memory and to continue her work in the Deaf community. For more information, please contact Ohio Association of the Deaf at executivedirector@oad-deaf.org.**

In the words of Harriet Martineau, another skilled and talented Deaf woman, "...my beloved friend, take my blessing on yourself and your labors, and my assurance that my knowledge of you has been one of the greatest privileges and pleasures of my life."

God bless you Nancy, because we were blessed with knowing you.

-R. Thoryk, for OAD, November 17, 2010