

Carol Huffman receives Columbus Symphony Orchestra 2009 Community Educator Award

On Sunday April 19, 2009 Carol Huffman was honored at the Columbus Symphony Orchestra's 13th Annual Music Educator Awards. The Columbus Symphony's Music Educator Awards recognize those individuals who instill and inspire a love of music in the children and adults of central Ohio. Carol Huffman received the 2009 Community Music Educator Award for her work with the Reach Out and Read Program. Carol has been a volunteer with Nationwide Children's Hospital since 2001, volunteering more than 400 hours of her time sharing her love of music with patients and their families.

In 2004, Carol started volunteering with the Reach Out and Read Program, a pediatric literacy program that introduces literacy and now music to families visiting our Primary Care Centers. Twice a month Carol shares her love of music with children while they wait to see their pediatrician. The mission of the Reach Out and Read Program is to encourage family literacy in the home prior to a child's entrance into the school system. Music creates a fun learning environment where parents and children enjoy learning about musical instruments, musical notes and literacy through structured activities.

Carol taught vocal music for 30 years in public and private schools and retired as head of the vocal music department at Pickerington Junior High School. It is through her inspiration that the Reach Out and Read Program is now implementing a structured music curriculum, where volunteers integrate literacy and music. Carol and other music volunteers are planting a seed in the hearts of children who may not otherwise ever hold an instrument or learn basic musical notation. Additional information can be found on the Reach Out and Read website at www.NationwideChildrens.org/ReachOutAndRead

CONGRATULATIONS CAROL! Tra La La... 