

**Dedication of Volume XXIV**

to

**Mary V. Merrill, LSW**



*If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.*

(Sir Isaac Newton, 1675)

Volume XXIV of *The International Journal of Volunteer Administration* is lovingly dedicated to the memory of Mary V. Merrill, LSW, a dear friend to any volunteer, a colleague to all managers of volunteers, a mentor to me personally, and the former editor of *The Journal of Volunteer Administration*. Mary left this world suddenly and unexpectedly on February 19, 2006, yet her legacy will remain with us forever.

Mary Merrill dedicated her life and her career as an international speaker and author to providing consultation and training in volunteer administration, board development, and strategic planning to strengthen the leadership and structures that support volunteerism. She was adjunct faculty at The Ohio State University and Editor of *The Journal of Volunteer Administration* from 2002 until her death. Mary taught and consulted internationally in 15 countries and nationally in 37 of the 50 United States. Working with the Points of Light Foundation, she helped establish the first volunteer center in Russia and worked for two years with developing non-government organizations (NGOs) in Armenia.

More recently, Mary worked with the Volunteer Development Committee of the United Nations and presented at the European Volunteerism Conference in Croatia. Mary was an invited speaker for the Asian Pacific Conferences for Volunteer Administration in Korea (2002) and Hong Kong (2005), the IAVE Latin American Conference on Volunteerism in Venezuela (1998), and the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference of Museum Volunteers in Mexico City (2002). She was an annual star trainer for the Points of Light National Community Service Conference and recipient of a 2004 Distinguished Service Award from AVA.

Mary's innovative ideas and models have been published in *The Journal of Volunteer Administration*; *Voluntary Action: The International Journal of the Institute for Volunteering Research*; and the *Not-For-Profit CEO Monthly Letter*. She authored a book for the Paradigm Project of the Points of Light Foundation, wrote the volunteer literacy manual for Reading Recovery International, and co-authored and produced teleconferences/training videos on risk management, ethical decision making, and nonprofit board development.

Mary was an invited speaker at the 1998, 2001, 2002, and 2004 Biennial World Volunteerism Conferences in Canada, The Netherlands, Korea, and Spain respectively and presented joint and individual volunteer-related research at the 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001 annual conferences of the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA). She was past-president of Volunteer Ohio and a past recipient of the Award for Excellence presented by the Volunteer Administrators' Network of Central Ohio. She helped create and co-taught the Institute for Community Leadership through the Leadership Center of The Ohio State University and developed pioneering work in the area of impact evaluation for volunteer programs.

*So, Mary, if we have been able to see further into the future of volunteerism and volunteer administration, it is because we as your peers benefited from your individual dedication to humanity, your professional passion for volunteerism, and your personal unconditional love for your family, friends, and colleagues. You were a giant in our profession, and we miss you dearly.*

R. Dale Safrit, Ed.D.  
Editor