



The Carillon

The Official Newsletter of the Caledonia Education Foundation

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Hendricka "Henny" Stauffer Named 2011 CEF Honored Alumnus



The Caledonia Education Foundation is pleased to honor Hendricka "Henny" Stauffer, CHS Class of 1968 as its 2011 Honored Alumnus for her many years of teaching and giving to the Caledonia Community and Schools. She will be honored on Sept. 23, 2011 at the Annual Foundation Fest Tailgate Party held before the Homecoming Game.

"There are not many people who will touch your life and move you in the same way Henny Stauffer does. Things that make her special are her love for God and her family, her dedication to her students here at Caledonia, and her passion for the children of Africa," writes her daughter Becky Bravata. "She is truly an inspiration to those that know her and love her."

Henny immigrated to the

United States from the Netherlands at the age of six. She moved to Caledonia in 10th grade and graduated in 1968. She played softball and basketball in high school and has fond memories of relationships with many teachers. Glen Blocker, her chemistry teacher, made quite an impression and laid the foundation for her as to what a teacher should be by personally caring about her. She recalls, "I used to sing and play guitar in the surrounding churches and remember Mr. Blocker being supportive and even coming to hear me perform."

That meant a lot to her and influenced her in pursuing teaching as a career. Henny met her husband Larry in English class and after dating for four years, they married, and raised four children while living on a centennial farm in Caledonia. Being a stay at home mom allowed Henny to pursue her interests of sewing, knitting, playing guitar, singing, and volunteering at Caledonia schools and at church. She was the mom that had warm cookies waiting for her children after school and would come through as the parent volunteer when needed.



Teaching at Mukaa Children's Home and Secondary School



Henny also had a passion for missions and a heart for the needs in Africa. After prompting from her husband, Henny decided to go to college while continuing to raise her children. At 41, Henny graduated from Grand Valley with a teaching degree and was hired to teach 7th grade English and Social Studies. She loved working with middle school students and the kids fueled her energy for life. She was more than a teacher, much like her chemistry teacher was to her. She would often interact with her students outside of the classroom by having them over for dinner, attending their social events, or go-

ing out for coffee. Her students knew she truly cared about them.

After 14 years of teaching Henny realized another dream and retired in order to volunteer at an AIDS orphanage in Kenya, Africa. Over the past 5 years, she has helped build a library, taught all ages of students, organized teacher training programs, helped provide clean water and taught women to knit and crochet.

Henny continues to teach people knitting and crocheting through her yarn shop that she opened on Main Street in September of 2010. The shop has enabled her to



meet many new friends and has done so well that she moved into a larger store this summer. She has shared her talents with all ages and has enjoyed creating an atmosphere where people can gather and learn.

Henny is a woman full of life and that shows in her passion for people. She is excited to see what the Lord has in store for her future. She comments, "I pray I'll continue to have opportunities to make relationships and teach others and be forever grateful for this life which God has blessed me with."