



IAAS Walks of Life 2004
Patricia Hollywood

Patricia Hollywood (nee Doherty) was born in Ardara, County Donegal, a small Irish town renowned for its tweed products. Educated by the Sisters of Mercy, in Gaelic, she emigrated here to Cleveland at the age of 18. After brief employment with an insurance agency, Pat began working in a travel agency, a move that developed into a lifelong career. Shortly after that move, she was chosen to represent Cleveland in the Miss Irish America contest and was featured on the cover of the Plain Dealer Sunday Magazine.

Pat returned to Ireland in 1969 to manage an American-based travel company with offices in Dublin, Limerick and Glasgow. In 1973 she married Ray Hollywood and subsequently took a break from professional life to rear three children: Mark, Claire and Bronagh. Following a return to the travel business in Ireland for a time, Pat returned to Cleveland with her family in 1986.

As owner and operator of the Travel Connection, in Aurora, she has developed a special relationship with both the Irish Tourism Board and Aer Lingus, Ireland's national airline. Pat is widely respected in her field, which involves all aspects of the travel industry, and currently is vice president of the Irish Travel Agents Association, based in New York, and is a distinguished member of the American Society of Travel Agents.

An active supporter of this area's Irish clubs, Pat frequently donates tickets to Ireland and elsewhere to these worthy causes. Her genuine concern for others is most appreciated, perhaps, during the countless times she is called upon for travel emergencies. Then, weekend hours and calls to her home become the norm rather than the exception. In spite of a demanding work schedule, Pat has always found time to volunteer. In Ireland, she chaired a regional chapter of the Irish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and served on fund-raising committees for schools. In Cleveland she has worked on many area benefit projects and has been active in Aurora as a Eucharistic Minister.

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