



**IAAS Walks of Life 2006
Marilyn McGuigan Cunin**

Marilyn McGuigan Cunin is currently experiencing a period of unsought but well-deserved recognition for her many years of devotion to the needs of others. In addition to her IAAS "Walks of Life" Award, she recently received a special "Peace and Justice" Award from the Cleveland Diocese Commission on Catholic Community Action (CCCA) and the National Philanthropy Day "Outstanding Fund Raising Volunteer" Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

As chair of The Eva L. and Joseph M. Bruening Foundation's distribution committee, Marilyn has been instrumental in its support of the diocesan Church in the City initiative and, as well, has been a consultant and advisor to Catholic Charities. Her many other involvements include the Early Childhood Initiative program that addresses the needs of Cuyahoga County children and families; and board service to Recovery Resources, United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Cleveland, and Beaumont School for Girls.

For Notre Dame College, she is vice chair of its board of directors and for Our Lady of the Wayside home for disabled children, with which she has been associated since 1968, she has been volunteer secretary, board of trustees president and now is a lifetime honorary trustee.

Marilyn's late husband, John R. Cunin, also was deeply concerned with charitable works. Together, in their Cleveland Heights home, they reared three sons, John, Tom and Bill, and two daughters, Jane and the late Mary Catherine (Cookie). Marilyn takes delight in their five beloved grandchildren.

In nominating Marilyn for the National Philanthropy Day Award, Notre Dame College President Andrew Roth said "...her most important value may be as a 'witness.' She 'witnesses' to her values by doing... she is a model of all that a true volunteer ought to be: committed, passionate, tireless and dedicated." It is for this "witness" that she is being recognized with the 2006 Walks of Life Award of the Irish American Archives Society.

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