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THREE EMPLOYEES RECEIVE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

NEWPORT, R.I. - Three Salve Regina employees - Carla Brownell, Victoria Duclos Barrett and Olga Verbeek - received this year's staff community service awards during the annual holiday luncheon and service recognition ceremony Dec. 21.

Salve Regina's staff community service awards are designed to recognize those staff members who demonstrate their commitment to others by volunteering in their communities. Three staff members are honored each year for their volunteerism and donations in the amount of \$300 will be given to the charities of their choice.

Victoria Duclos Barrett, director of annual giving and advancement operations

Barrett works with the Adoption Community of New England's Rhode Island chapter, where she created a costume bazaar that raises funds for the charity and serves as an adoption awareness event. Proceeds enabled the chapter to make a contribution to Adoption Rhode Island and will help underwrite a teen workshop in spring 2010. Barrett also volunteers as the orphanage support coordinator for the New England chapter of Families for Russian and Ukrainian Adoption, Inc. and encourages adoptive families to help waiting children in Eastern Europe by improving their quality of life while they wait for permanent families.

As an adoptive parent, Barrett believes in "paying it forward" by helping other adoptive families network and access resources related to parenting and adoption. Along with this, she feels it's important to remember the many children around the world who are waiting for permanent families. Barrett, her work and her generosity represent the University mission of working for a world that is harmonious, just and merciful.

Carla Brownell, senior secretary, Office of Admissions

Brownell volunteers with the Labs4rescue program, which provides a new life for rescued or displaced Labrador Retrievers and Labrador mixes. Since February, Brownell and her family have fostered seven dogs. Each stay involves approximately two to three weeks of care, including providing love, care and nurturing, basic obedience training, socialization skills and assistant adoption coordinators in assessing an applicant's suitability for adopting the dog.

Brownell's nominators wrote that she "opens up her home for weeks at a time to dogs that have been bounced around the system. She works with them to prepare them for adoption and showers them with love and attention. She often drives hours to ensure that there is a smooth transition to the adoptive family. Carla's passion for the cause is evident and inspiring."

Olga Verbeek, information systems librarian

Verbeek has worked with St. Paul's soup kitchen for the past several years. She serves on the setup team, which is responsible for doing all of the setup and preparation for the monthly soup kitchen. Verbeek also served as a role model for students, mentoring groups of freshmen by arranging for them to fulfill their community service hours at the soup kitchen.

Verbeek's nominators wrote that she leads by example and gentle suggestion. Her soup kitchen coworkers enjoy her quiet humor and admire her flexibility and her work ethic. Described as the ever-dependable, behind the scenes worker-bee, Verbeek gets the work done and never asks for praise or attention.

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Photo by Kim Fuller
Kelly Willette, Kristine Hendrickson and Sandra Connor received the 2008 staff community service awards.

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