

RURAL ENTREPRENEUR NETWORK

Education, Training, and Resources for New Rural Businesses

For more information contact: Jim Roudebush, Director, Rural Entrepreneur Network (317) 850-3012
Rebecca Fletcher, Coordinator, Hoosier Heartland RC&D (317) 290-3250

For Immediate Release – July 17, 2008

2008 Rural Entrepreneur Excellence Award

Recipient in Morgan County – Marsha MacPhee-Webster

The Rural Entrepreneur Network (REN) has recognized those who have demonstrated an entrepreneurial spirit, intelligent risk-taking, and business success by presenting the *2008 Rural Entrepreneur Excellence Award* to Marsha MacPhee-Webster of Morgan County as founder of the Desert Rose Foundation, a shelter to aid victims of domestic violence and their children.

While Marsha was working on her bachelor's degree at Indiana Wesleyan University, she conducted a survey as part of her sociology class, which revealed that 76% of those that she surveyed had been victims of domestic violence. Because of these high results, Marsha, a previous survivor of domestic abuse, began praying and she felt like it was time to help find a solution. In 2001, Marsha took action by establishing the Desert Rose Foundation, Inc., a not-for-profit organization. The shelter opened in January of 2005, and it has stayed full (at capacity) the majority of the time. She believes the organization is one of hope and restoration for those who come seeking assistance.

Marsha has formed a not-for-profit business called Heart N Hand, LLC, which is a vinyl cutting business, and is CEO of Webster Software, Inc.

She entered college at age 56 and received a B.S. Degree in Business Administration from Indiana Wesleyan University. She is a leader in Morgan County, and has set an example for other women to follow.

The excellence award was presented to Marsha on July 13th at Hoosier Harvest Church (see picture below). Marsha said, “I feel honored to receive the award. A lot of women are commenting that they cannot do anything. However, I believe God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things.” When speaking of her experiences and successes, Marsha acknowledges her husband for his support and encouragement to her through the years.

REN is a not-for-profit organization supported by a grant from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs through the Hoosier Heartland RC&D Council, Inc. For more information about REN, call 317-290-3250.

###



The Hoosier Heartland RC&D Council and its partnering organizations are equal opportunity providers and employers.

Rural Entrepreneur Network TM (All Rights Reserved) serving Boone, Brown, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, and Shelby Counties