

Because of Her...



Sr. Robin McCarthy, SFCC Founder, Able To Serve New England, Inc.

Robin McCarthy was born in July 1968 in Lowell, Massachusetts with severe Cerebral Palsy. Doctors were not optimistic that Robin would ever survive to adulthood. Yet, with the love of her extended family and friends and God's grace, she accomplished far more than anyone ever dreamed was possible. Robin pursued her dreams of earning her college degrees and taking vows as a Roman Catholic nun.

She earned her associates degree from Northern Essex Community College (1994), and her bachelor's degree from Merrimack College (1996). Robin was accepted into formation with the Sisters for Christian Community in 2005. She took her vows as Sister Robin on May 6, 2007. Sr. Robin had been working with the needy and people with challenges on her own with limited funds.

In November 2014, She formalize her mission to the poor and needy and founded her non-profit 501C(3) charitable foundation, *Able To Serve-New England, Inc.* The name of the foundation is a message to all that regardless of any of your disabilities, you are indeed still "Able" to serve others, just as Sr. Robin has proven.

The foundation has been growing steadily and providing services to a growing list of clients each year. Lives had been saved and pain relieved as a result of her tremendous efforts. Sr. Robin works one-on-one with her clients which include the elderly, veterans, disabled and, especially, young children. She maintains a full schedule and can often be seen rolling in her wheelchair in Downtown Lowell making a difference.

Because of Her, all people are Able to serve and those who need support, receive it.

Because of Her...



Margaret Martin

Maggie Martin lives in Lowell and has been involved in our community for many years. She earned her BA in Psychology with a minor in Biology at Marymount College in Tarrytown New York, and her MS degree in Healthcare Administration from Lesley University in Cambridge MA. Her work history

includes Executive Director of the Greater Lowell Cancer Program, Director of Seacoast Cancer Center at Wentworth Hospital, Director of the Cancer Center at Saint Medical Center, Associate Director of the Division of Preventative Medicine at UMass Lowell and Community Relations at D'Youville Senior Care.

In her free time Maggie can be found devoting her time to making a difference in our community. For 30 years she volunteered for the American Cancer Society, coming up with creative ways to raise money for cancer research. She introduced Daffodil Days in Lowell in 1980s and this very important fundraiser continues today. She feels that giving back to the community is very important. Maggie also volunteers each week for Lowell National Historical Park greeting visitors and helping them plan their stay in Lowell.

While working at D'Youville she joined up with Lucille Jerome to produce the cable program "*For the Young at Heart.*" Even after retiring 4 years ago, Maggie continues to give her time and energy to the program. Maggie feels that this program provides current information to caregivers and older members of the community on topics pertinent to their lives. She researches new topics, locates speakers, develops questions and makes sure the program runs smoothly.

Because of Her, caregivers and older members of the community are educated on topics that impact their lives.

Because of Her...



Lucille Jerome

Lucille was born in Lawrence, MA and actually spent most of her life in the Worcester. She eventually moved east to the Lowell area and made the community her home. Widowed young with three small children, she went back to school with their full support. She attended Quinsigamond Community College and graduated with Highest

Honors. She went on to Clark University and graduated with a AB cum laude in Sociology in 1976. She continued her education at Boston University and graduated with a Masters of Social Work in 1978.

Throughout her career Lucille came across many areas that required more social justice and awareness, especially where elders were concerned. She began working with elders in depth while completing the yearly PASARRS in nursing homes and medical centers including D'Youville Manor, now D'Youville Life and Wellness Community.

While working at D'Youville Manor, Lucille assisted in the production of the cable Televised program called *For the Young at Heart* alongside Margaret Martin. She started as a guest on another program and soon moved into the role of planning and producing the series. After Lucille retired, she continued to support the production of *For the Young at Heart* and it has remained her passion.

The program is taped at the Dracut Access TV studios and broadcasted to eleven communities. Because of her and Maggie's tireless work, seniors across the area, many of whom are house bound, can stay connected with important information and stay in tune with current issues that impact their lives.

Because of Her, elders can stay informed and connected with issues and services that can improve their lives.

Because of Her...



Dr. Sue J. Kim

Professor; English Dept. Chair; Co-Director, Center for Asian American Studies

Dr. Kim advocates for numerous disadvantaged and underrepresented communities on many issues and at many levels, i.e., access to housing, adequate healthcare, fair and equal treatment within the justice system, etc. Around this same time last year, Dr. Kim was tirelessly advocating and

organizing City Council meetings to consider a Trust Ordinance that designates the City of Lowell with sanctuary status in support of undocumented citizens.

Her community activism includes numerous awareness campaigns, teach-ins, rallies, petitions and community outreach and gatherings. She models a courageous stance against bigotry, racial profiling, and the intense polarization of our nation. Dr. Kim has also tirelessly worked on data disaggregation at the ground and policy level. She advocates to ensure robust data collection, accurate representation, and reporting that distinguishes each Asian ethnic group rather than a broad “Asian” designation. Data disaggregation enhances understanding on the nuanced needs between each community while improving access to state services, dispelling the myth that “all Asians are the same”. Most recently, Dr. Kim submitted petitions supporting House Bill 3361 on data disaggregation.

Another initiative that Dr. Kim has been instrumental on is preserving cultural history. Knowing that the rich oral history of our communities are often passed down and shared through memorable stories from family members, elders, and neighbors, Dr. Kim initiated a project to ‘capture’ these important and oftentimes fleeting stories by working with numerous individuals, often young people to record, transcribe and archive these oral histories to preserve them for future generations and to add to the unique history that makes up the City of Lowell.

Her dedication to improving the lives of others and her commitment to bring about transformative change is making a difference in Lowell. Dr. Kim is truly an inspiration, a tireless

advocate, a woman-warrior and a person who exemplifies and embodies the ideals of compassion, justice, generosity and courage. She does this work quietly, humbly, with no thought for recognition. Her unswerving focus to ensure that all community members have a voice, an equal place and value in our city.

Because of Her, courageous stances are taken and all voices are heard.