



## ***Mary Lou Edward***

For half a century, Mary Lou Edward has lent her vision and energy to protecting some of our community's most vulnerable citizens, our children. In 1999, when she was recognized with the Children's Champion Award from All Faith's Receiving Home, she said, "I do it because I think kids deserve the best, and there are a lot of children that come from families without love, nurturing and stability."

All Faith's Receiving Home was one of Mary Lou's earliest interests. She was instrumental in the creation of All Faith's Auxiliary, serving as its first president. She and the committee then, held a recruitment and organizational coffee at which they sold apples from Mary Lou's trees, and this later led to the annual All Faith's Auxiliary Apple Festival.

After witnessing the devastation to children born to parents incapable or unwilling to care for them, Mary Lou became involved with citizen committees and organizations focused on child abuse prevention, including the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Child Abuse Council, the Mayor's Kitchen Cabinet, the Task Force on Services for Children, Youth and Families, and the Coalition for Children.

Mary Lou currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Ear Institute, tutors at Longfellow Elementary School, and is still a fixture at All Faith's, serving on the Board of the Foundation. She is an Honorary Member of Planned Parenthood of New Mexico.

Mary Lou believes, and never fails to remind people, that all her accomplishments are actually the work of many.  
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