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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—Sept. 3, 2004

Penn Yan Resident Lucia Wheeler to Receive Stork Award for Community Service

KEUKA PARK, N.Y.—Penn Yan resident Lucia Wheeler will receive the 2004 Donald and Corinne Stork Award for Community Service at a luncheon Tuesday, Oct. 12 at Keuka College.

The luncheon begins at noon in the Geiser Refectory of the Dahlstrom Student Center.

Keuka College established the award to recognize those individuals who exemplify its historic commitment to the value and benefit of using initiative for the common good. The award was named after Penn Yan residents Donald and Corinne Stork, the first recipients of the award in 1991.



Originally from Newport, R.I., Wheeler first came to the area to attend William Smith College in Geneva and has lived here since, a total of 55 years. Now retired, she spent 28 years working as an English teacher at Penn Yan Academy. While serving as English department chairperson (a position she held for eight years), Wheeler worked with Hobart College and Syracuse University education consultants to enhance the English program in Penn Yan. She was a charter member and fourth president of Alpha Tau Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International, a society of women educators.

A rape and abuse crisis counselor to victims of sexual abuse and/or domestic violence, Wheeler continues to educate area youth (and others) about the work of Rape & Abuse Crisis Service of the Finger Lakes. In 1996, she received the Rape Crisis Award for her 15 years of volunteer work with the organization. Seven years later, she received the 2003 Award for Outstanding Advocacy and Community Work in Ending Sexual Violence from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

But her volunteer efforts don't end there. Wheeler has served as president and member of the St. Mark's Terrace (senior living center) Board of Directors, representative to Church Women United, and member of several Episcopal Diocesan Commissions.

Her list of honors also goes on. In 2000, Wheeler was presented with St. Mark's Outstanding Service Award for all that she does for her church, St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Penn Yan. She has served as a choir member, vestry warden, altar guild member, and a volunteer to numerous committees. She was also awarded Volunteer of

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WHEELER TO RECEIVE STORK AWARD 2

the Year in 2000 by the Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes. Ontario-Yates Hospice recognized Wheeler in 1998 with a five-year service pin for her work with Sunset Care hospice.

She and her husband, Frank, have three daughters and six grandchildren.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$9 and will be on sale at the door. However, reservations are encouraged and may be made by calling (315) 279-5212 by Oct. 6.

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