

# **PRESS RELEASE-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Circles of Mercy Honors Local Senior Volunteer with Award**



***Photo Caption (Hirt/Zazycki):***

***Castleton NY resident Shirley Hirt (left) accepts the Sister Gail A. Reith, RSM 2017 Volunteer Service Award from Richard S. Zazycki (right), Executive Director of Circles of Mercy, for her volunteer community service in Rensselaer.***

Circles of Mercy and the Sisters of Mercy Northeast Community recently presented their annual ***Sister Gail A. Rieth, RSM Volunteer Service Award*** honoring local senior ***Shirley Hirt*** for her volunteer work assisting at Circles of Mercy in Rensselaer.

For the past 12½ years beginning in 2004, Mrs. Shirley Hirt who resides in Castleton has volunteered in Catherine’s Closet at Circles of Mercy. During this time she has volunteered more than 1,300 hours. Shirley grew-up in Ticonderoga, NY, attending local schools there. She graduated from St. Peter’s Hospital School of Nursing, where she worked as an operating room nurse. She is a member of Holy Spirit Church in East Greenbush for over 50 years, where she is very active in the parish’s Altar Rosary Society, Bereavement Ministry, and the parish’s Inter-generational Faith Formation Program. During her years of volunteering Shirley has literally touched thousands of lives while performing the works of mercy. We are very happy to recognize her with our volunteer award and offer our sincere congratulations.

The volunteer awards were presented during the “A Taste of Mercy” annual fund raising gala recently held to celebrate “Catherine’s Circle of Friends” and to benefit Circles of Mercy. Circles is an out-reach center for those in need, sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy Northeast Community. It was established in 1997 in the City of Rensselaer and has a nineteen-year tradition of offering programs and services to provide hope, hospitality and empowerment to individuals living in and near the Rensselaer Community.

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