

2019 Dale Foor Cornerstone Award Honoree  
**KAREN McCAFFERTY**

RESIDES: NEW ALBANY, OHIO

**K**aren McCafferty has been an educator for 35 years at Royal Manor Elementary School. She is a proud 1979 graduate of Otterbein College where she earned her degree in Education.

Karen's first experience with Gahanna schools was as an intern at Lincoln Elementary. She has since taught for 35 years at Royal Manor Elementary working for 3 different principals. After 8 years as an educator, she was the first female in the Gahanna-Jefferson School District to be appointed Head Teacher in her building. Karen's first 17 years were spent in the 3rd grade classroom, working alongside coworkers that have become longtime friends. She taught at a number of grade levels but finished her career in her dream job as a Kindergarten teacher.



Karen has many fond memories of working with fantastic families and wonderful staff. She has a love for working with children which is still evident today. Since retirement, she has spent the past 5 years volunteering weekly at both Blacklick and Royal Manor Elementary Schools as a classroom volunteer. Karen loves to help students reach that "A-ha moment" in reading and phonics. She is also one of the Royal Manor Literacy Library coordinators.

"Karen's upbeat personality worked well with our son and our family" said Barb Gallagher, parent of a former student.

"Karen worked one on one with the students as needed and in the summer before school started she met

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with each student individually....The families of many of her past students still look at her today as one of their favorite teachers. Karen had given many students a strong beginning to their educational career."

Coming from a family of educators, Karen herself is a life-long learner that is enthusiastic about giving back to the community. In addition to her classroom volunteering, she also does volunteer work for Relay for Life, BC4C, and the Friendship Club of Licking County.

When she is not helping others, she loves to spend her time travelling and with family. She currently resides in New Albany Ohio with her husband Tom McCafferty.