



# Raeann Ruth

2000 HealthEast Caring Neighbor

*"It's impossible to say 'no' to her."*  
— Kathy Lantry, St. Paul City Council

*"Raeann Ruth embodies the spirit of hands-on, grassroots community-based volunteer initiative."*  
— Tim Puffer, Puffer & Associates

*"Raeann's vision and outreach doesn't end with the community of young women in the neighborhood where she lives and works. She inspires a large number of adult women of many ages and has involved them in a multi-generational stance against violence in our culture."*

— Janet Little Borgen

## HealthEast Foundation Caring Neighbor Award

Members of the community are invited to submit nominations for caring neighbors whose volunteer dedication works to improve the health and well-being of the east metro community. HealthEast Foundation Caring Neighbor Award nomination materials will be available in the summer of 2001. Please call the HealthEast Foundation at (651) 232-4828 for more information. We look forward to hearing from you!

have been created by girls from The Portage, along with neighborhood volunteers. Photography taken by the young women has been entered in competitions. A card company, Eagle Design, was created to help finance Boundary Waters trips for inner-city children. In addition, some of the girls have competed in local royalty pageants.

While The Portage is the focal point of Raeann's activities, it is just one of the many contributions she makes to her community. Her current passion is renovation of the nearly 80-year-old Mounds Theater on Hudson Road. Although the theater is presently used as a warehouse, Raeann envisions a neighborhood arts and culture center – a stage for live entertainment, a place for children to see inexpensive movies, a gathering spot for community activities.

That vision is what motivates her to roll up her sleeves to scrub and paint the lobby, balcony and exterior in order to make those areas presentable for fundraising events. A Thespian Snoopy, created especially for the Mounds Theater, stands in the window to focus attention on the renovation process.

Whether it be The Portage for Youth, the Mounds Theater, or any of the dozen of other activities that capture Raeann's attention, it's clear that her heart is in her community and her focus is on the future.

*"Raeann is one of those rare people who actually turns her talk, her values and her beliefs into action."*

— Randy Kelly, State Senator

Neighbors reaching out to neighbors builds a strong sense of community. Responding to the need of another and doing so with compassion is to be a "caring neighbor." The HealthEast Foundation Caring Neighbor Award program, now in its seventh year, recognizes people like Raeann Ruth who reach out, going above and beyond in their own often unnoticed way to improve the health of the community.

Past HealthEast Caring Neighbor Award recipients include: George Gossman, the Bernard and Jane Worth family, Veronica "Ronnie" Anderson, Sister Mary Madonna Ashton, Floyd Hanson and Richard J. Long whose award contributions have helped to further the work of AccessAbility Inc., Catholic Charities, Children's Home Society of Minnesota crisis nurseries, Community Caring for Life Fund at St. Pius X Church, HealthEast White Bear Lake Care Center, Our Lady of Good Counsel Home, Ronald McDonald House, Sharing and Caring Hands, Southeast Area YMCA and St. Mary's Clinics.