

**2011 Cornerstone Award Inductee
Wanda Dworkin**

The second Cornerstone Honoree, Wanda Dworkin, began her work in education with Columbus City Schools in 1975 after graduating with a Masters of Education degree from Ashland University. In 1976, she was hired by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities where she is still serving after more than 35 years.

Her involvement with the Gahanna-Jefferson School District commenced as a Lincoln Elementary room parent in 1986, which continued throughout the years as she assisted with creating the High Point Elementary PTA board, led Family Fun Night and school beautification activities, and helped to establish the first walk-a-thon fundraiser in the district. In 1992, Dworkin's support advanced to the middle school level as she served on Gahanna Middle School East's (GMSE) PTO board, as well as assisting and organizing school related activities, events and levy campaigns. Former GMSE principal Hank Langhals had this to say, "As a first year principal, the need to have a well-run parent organization was critical. I soon realized that Wanda was the perfect person in this leadership position. She was always well organized and knew exactly how to get multiple people involved in many supportive roles. Wanda was instrumental in successfully organizing the school and PTO fund-raising efforts, teacher support efforts, extra-curricular and academic events, and always making certain that the needs of all of our students were addressed."

When her children left GMSE to attend GLHS, her efforts did not end. She was instrumental in organizing and invigorating a high school parent-teacher organization, and continued to lead parent groups to provide critical services to students and staff. Her additional volunteer efforts included fundraising for the Athletic Boosters, organizing Athletic Tag Day events, assisting with school registration, serving as LINC chairman for nine years, and holding the PTO president position at GLHS in 1998, 1999 and 2000.

Two of Dworkin's most vivid memories with the district were her involvement with the opening of High Point Elementary, and being able to present the Gahanna Jefferson Education Foundation (GJEF) with a \$70,000 donation from the Gahanna Area Fund where she served as president for seven years. Many agree that if one could create the ideal parent/community volunteer to support a public school system, Wanda Dworkin would be the perfect model.