

## Volunteer of the Month

### Terri Janssen- March 2008

I'm a true "Academy girl," attending St. Mary Academy for four years (and St. Mary's grade school before that). My sisters, mother and aunts also graduated from these local Catholic schools.

I can hardly begin to describe the positive, life-long effects this wonderful education has had on me, and I know I was blessed to have access to it. Sister Margaret Cutcher was principal of the grade school when I was there, and Sister Mary Laubacher was principal at the Academy. They were tough but always fair, and students loved and respected them. Sister Helen Oprysek was a true mentor and helped guide and develop my writing skills; she was later a dear friend.

Volunteering at the Motherhouse is my small way of "giving back" a little something to an incredible group of women who have done and continue to do so much for others. I enjoy helping Sr. Pat O'Toole with her correspondence, especially her e-mail missives. I've been volunteering with her for about 2-½ years. We work well together!

My husband, Joe, and I live in Maybee. We purchased a house last summer with a few acres, and hope to restore it to native trees, flowers and grasses. We have a lot of work to do! We are avid bird-watchers, and are looking forward to the imminent spring migration.

I teach part-time at Monroe County Community College, helping adults learn basic computer skills. I've been there for almost 10 years now. I've also taught English as a foreign language in the past, first in Hiroshima, Japan, for a year, then later here in Monroe.

When not preparing for my classes, I enjoy reading, singing and visiting friends.

