

**Marjorie Rea, RN, WHNP
Family Planning Nurse Practitioner
Berrien County Health Department**

2011 “Friend of Public Health Award” Recipient

**Public Health Accomplishments
and
Collaborations**

Marje Rea is a women’s health nurse practitioner for the Berrien County Health Department who unselfishly served the women of both Berrien and Cass counties for over 30 years. Her past patients still request her and praise her for the kind and compassionate care she provided to them. Her clients and coworkers all remember her smile and how it impacted their day. Her dedication to her profession as a nurse practitioner is second to none.

Ms. Rea’s accomplishments as a nurse practitioner and her husband’s accomplishments as a medical doctor could have caused her to become aloof or out of touch with the harsh realities that many of the patients she served faced. That did not happen. Ms. Rea was definitely in touch with her patients. She recognized that many patients were struggling to survive financially, emotionally, and physically. Because of this her healthy lifestyle recommendations were always practical and realistic for the patient. Time and time again she encouraged her patients to make healthy life choices in a non-judgmental manner. Her patients and their needs always came first. She often came early and stayed late to meet the needs of her clients.

Ms. Rea respected all staff and valued the role they played in relationship to her position. Whether it is the janitor, receptionist, or Health Officer, Ms. Rea had a smile and a friendly greeting for them. During her work in the Family Planning Title X project Marje saw more changes over her career than most. She was always eager to make the change and set an example for staff that change was a good thing. She was instrumental in the work done by the Family Planning Advisory Board over the years and chaired that Board. Ms. Rea raised 4 children while attending nurse practitioner school in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She supported her husband in his medical practice. She volunteers at church activities, after school programs that help with homework, and hosted carolers at Christmas time. She was also a volunteer with her local theatre/play group.