



Gaea Shaw

1940 - 2013

"We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives." - John F. Kennedy

Gaea Shaw was the leader, spirit and soul of the Homework Center for 13 years. Her skill and passion marked her years as coordinator of one of the Library's most successful programs, and her guidance and commitment made an enormous impact on the lives of many children, adults, and families. There were 26,062 student visits while Gaea was director of the Homework Center!

Gaea was a strong and vibrant member of the library team, and we will miss her presence in our lives. We are grateful for the gift of Gaea Shaw to us all.

Personal Remembrances

Ted Wahler of Lafayette posted his appreciation for Gaea: *"A person who should have been allowed to live forever just passed, and I thought you would like to know about her. There are a lot of not so good things surrounding us everyday, so I thought you would like to hear of a really good person and how she lived her life. Thank you, Gaea; everyone touched by your life thanks you."*

Susan Nagle, Coordinator of Volunteers at Lafayette Public Library, remembered Gaea in this poignant way: *"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened." Dr. Seuss*
Gaea would want us to smile because she happened in all our lives!

Stefanie Moriarty reflects: *"I was fortunate to begin working at the Lafayette Public Library while Gaea was still running the Homework Center. Even though I was new, she was always willing to share her passion for working with children and how important her work at the Homework Center was to her. Since then, I have read her book and realize what a resilient, inspiring person she truly was. I feel very lucky to have known her, even if only briefly."*

The Homework Center

The Lafayette Public Library Homework Center was born out of the desire to provide high quality after school tutoring for students in the community. Since 1999, the Homework Center has provided a welcoming environment where students in grades 3-12 can get the help they need.

Tutors, many who are long time volunteers with the program, offer free tutoring in a variety of subjects, and specialized math and science tutoring is available for high school students. Gaea joined the Homework Center as program coordinator in October 2000, and was instrumental in its success.

On November 11, 2013, the Library Board voted unanimously to name the Homework Center in Gaea's honor. At the request of her family, the Center will be called The Gaea Shaw Homework Center. With her gifts of courage, compassion, and love, Gaea truly left her mark on this community. It is fitting that her name will be forever connected to the program she guided for so many years.

