

## HALL OF ACHIEVEMENT

2008/2009  
Journal

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### DIANE L. SAUNDERS-KEYES

Class of 1968

Diane recalls her many wonderful teachers who guided and directed her path in a positive direction during her journey through school. She attended SUNY Farmingdale and St. Joseph's College, and began a 32-year tenure with the Town of Babylon in 1976, serving in several capacities. Diane has held positions as Youth Employment Counselor, Director of the Wyandanch Senior Nutrition Center, Founding Director of the North Amityville Senior Center, and Deputy Commissioner of Human Services, until her retirement in July 2007. As employment counselor, she developed workshops to assist developmentally challenged students in gaining meaningful employment.

Diane's passion in life is helping people who are less fortunate than herself. In 1984 she organized the North Amityville Youth Awareness Council, in which she and others conducted weekly group sessions on building self-esteem, anger management, and drug and alcohol awareness. She has been an active tutor with Literacy Volunteers of America, a mentor with Long Island Youth Guidance, and a Suffolk County Community Mediator. Diane continues to serve as a Lay Health Advisor for the Witness Project of Long Island, an organization that brings awareness of breast cancer to African American communities. In February 2008, Diane joined a group of volunteers to help victims of Hurricane Katrina rebuild their homes.

Diane has earned numerous awards and citations in recognition of her service to the community, including the Maxine S. Postal Humanitarian Award, North Amityville Old School Community Service Award, Governor's Volunteer Service Award, and Decade of the Child Merit Award. She is happily married with five children and nine grandchildren. She enjoys writing poetry in her spare time and hopes to have a collection of her poems published in the near future.

**"Go where the brush is dense and cut a path for others to follow."**