



**Congratulations
to the 2009
Teacher of the Year!**



**2009
TEACHER OF
THE YEAR
GAIL CARRIER**



GAIL CARRIER

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Gail Carrier is a 22-year member of the First Volunteer Fire Company of Bergholz, NY. She joined the fire company at the age of 18 following the long family tradition of joining the volunteer fire service — namely, following the example of her brother, father, grandfather and great grandfather, all of whom have served in line officer roles. Her great grandfather was the first chief of the company. She has also been a member of the ladies auxiliary for the same period of 22 years and a member of FASNY for 19 years.

Carrier became an elementary teacher in 1993 and has been a teacher of grades first and second at Holy Ghost Lutheran School since 1994. During the ensuing years, she has taken on many roles and been involved in various activities in her school and community.

Carrier has earned an EMT Certificate and has served as a driver and attendant for the Tri-Community Ambulance Service that serves her community in conjunction with several surrounding fire companies. More recently, she has been answering EMS calls for her fire company. Additionally, Carrier serves as the emergency preparedness advisor to Holy Ghost School and was the main drive behind having AEDs (Automated External Defibrillator) put into schools and assisted in applying for grant money to pay for them. She serves as the primary first responder in cases of injury or illness at the school.

Carrier has chaired the fire prevention program for her fire company for the past eight years. This program consists of educational discussions and hands-on demonstrations either at the truck hall or at the two schools within her fire responsibility area. The program includes FASNY's Fire Prevention and Life Safety Essay Contest and the Fire Prevention and Life Safety Poster Contest with prizes being awarded at each grade level, at each school. The overall essay winner for all the schools is awarded the local John Heuer Award which is presented at the annual installation banquet. John Heuer was chief from 1943-1955 and instituted monthly fire drills in our schools and personally held

them. Carrier has continued that policy. Over the years, thanks to Carrier's enthusiasm and support, some of the essay contest entries have been sent on to the county and state levels where two have received awards.

Within the fire company Carrier has held the offices of secretary and is currently sergeant-at-arms and parade lieutenant. Within the auxiliary, she has served as vice president, trustee and currently president. In addition to her regular teaching responsibilities at school, she serves as director of the school choir for grades Kindergarten through second; girls' basketball and volleyball coach; vacation Bible school and Sunday school teacher; adult leader/advisor to the high school youth group at church; and is active with the parent-teacher league.

All of her school and community-based responsibilities are in addition to her role as a devoted wife and loving mom to two elementary school girls. Her husband is also a volunteer firefighter for Bergholz.

The activities cited all go to show that Carrier is dedicated to her family, her church, school and the community in which she lives, serving as a positive role model to the young students she is surrounded by on a daily basis. As obvious from the numerous activities in which she is involved both in and outside of the classroom, Gail Carrier has never shirked her duty as a responsible citizen and is always willing to sacrifice her personal free time for the overall good of the community in which she grew up and still lives. She is the perfect candidate for the FASNY 2009 Teacher of the Year Award.

Letter of recommendation submitted by Niagara County Volunteer Firemen's Association treasurer and past president, and Bergholz Fire Company past chief and past president Arthur F. Kroenig.

PAST TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

Year:	Name:	School:
2005	Warren G. Schmidt	Cuba-Rushford Central School
2006	Tammy Hollenbeck	Westmoreland Road Elementary School
2007	Fehmida Mohammedali	Al-Iman School
2008	Ann Chestnut	St. Mary's School