

ALUMNI AWARD OF MERIT

Judith (Murphy) Keane, '69

When Richard Keane, an Anselmian from the class of 1969, left his home near the village green in Wethersfield, Connecticut on the morning of September 11, 2001 to make a rare trip to his company's office on the 99th floor of the World Trade Center, he left behind a full life, a large and happy family, a garden full of tomatoes, and a community of people that had been touched by the many ways he had served them. Judy Keane, his Saint Anselm classmate, best friend, and cherished wife of 31 years, was also left behind that day. Her shock and grief were beyond measure. But somehow she began to quickly transform her tears into a memorial that brings life and joy to the Wethersfield community to this day. "We started right away," Judy recalls of her determined rallying of her five children and her friends who came together that Christmas for a fundraiser in memory of Richard and two other men from Wethersfield who were killed in the Trade Tower attacks. Judy's ambition was to raise enough money to open a fitness facility for local families. The result was the 9/11 Memorial Sport Center dedicated in 2008 housing a modernized instructional basketball court, a fully equipped fitness room and a meeting room/leaning center. The real result was something even greater. The Richard M. Keane Foundation, which Judy established and for which she serves as President, funds After School and Study Programs, Vacation Day Programs, Elementary School Running Clubs, Saturday Open Gyms, and team sports. The impact of the Keane Foundation on local youth was recently acknowledged by the Connecticut Association of Schools which honored it with the 2018 Distinguished Friends of Education Award. The youngsters who benefit from 9/11 Memorial Sports Center and the programs sponsored by the Keane Foundation were not yet born in 2001 when Richard Keane departed his home for New York, but thanks to Judy's strength, courage, and vision, the generous love these two Anselmians shared continues to bring life to the people of their community and beyond. In honor of Richard's legacy and his wife's leadership and courage, the Saint Anselm Alumni Association is proud to present Judy Keane with the 2018 Alumni of Merit Award.