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To whom it may concern,

Virginia "Ginny" Kreyer is my older sister whom I hold in the highest esteem. Our parents raised five children together in St. Paul, Minnesota. As the eldest amongst us, Ginny set a high standard by embodying the human that we should all aspire to be. I have always admired her empathy and extreme understanding and care for those around her. My sister has been my constant teacher and advisor, not only because of her intelligence and generosity, but also because she is well read and informed in a vast array of subjects and approaches people with a servant's heart.

Ginny first moved to LaCrosse in the 1970's after graduating from St. Teresa's college and leaving the convent of Assisi Heights in Rochester, MN. She found a community in LaCrosse and began a long career of service to it. Ginny was very proud to work at the University of Wisconsin LaCrosse's library where she began working in 1979. She began her career as support staff and over many years worked to become a paraprofessional library service worker. In that role she had the opportunity to serve her local community and school and found fulfillment in supporting underserved members of the community. She was a tireless advocate for women and specifically worked to promote opportunities for women in leadership roles throughout her career.

In addition to her service to the UW-L campus community, she held many roles within her local AFSCME Union including acting secretary in the early 2000s. Through various leadership roles she served hundreds of Wisconsin service and support workers.

In recognition of her years of service, in 2001, she was honored by YMCA's tribute to outstanding women in the category of support staff. This award is bestowed annually to "community members who have made important contributions to women and to the greater La Crosse Community". I have attached 2 articles written about Ginny in recognition of her service at the time of this award ceremony for your review.

After many years of service to the community, Ginny retired in 2012 with her partner Rick Warren. The two of them have lived in their current home for 18 years, it was the first home they had ever purchased together and they were incredibly proud of it. That pride was obvious in their beautifully crafted gardens. In the last decade they have invested their meager retirement income into updating their home to serve them for their golden years. In all that time, despite having family located around the state of Minnesota, there was never a question of where home was for them. It was in their wonderful LaCrosse community they were so proud to be a part of and whom they had served for so many years.

Staying close allowed Ginny to stay on in a volunteer capacity with the University where she could continue to review scholarship applications work which she continues to this day. This vocation brings her ongoing fulfillment as she continues to serve campus students and support those who need additional assistance. In her retirement years Ginny has also volunteered within her church community and supports several community members needing physical assistance. She has remained an advocate for minority communities and supported various organizations in improving community support and access to resources for underprivileged communities.

In 2024 they were faced with an almost unimaginable reality. Their home of 18 years was being taken from them. Despite their diligent preparation and years of sacrifice and service, they found themselves at almost 80 years old being forced to move their home. The cost of moving the a permanent trailer alone has been quoted at more than \$30,000, a sum that does not take into account moving the rest of their property and, a sum they simply don't have. Further, the timeframe for leaving this place where they made their home was given in mere months. The management company who leased Ginny and Rick the property they built their home on has, unbeknownst to the residents of the area, been in a legal negotiations with the city. While these negotiations have persisted, Ginny, Rick and their fellow community members have become innocent bystanders caught in the crossfire between the city and this land management company. They are the ones left to struggle and scrape and suffer the consequences of the inability of other parties to reach a resolution. To call this unfair would be a drastic understatement. After all of the years of service Ginny has invested in this community, it's truly a heartbreaking tragedy.

As a loving sister, as a friend and as an admirer of service and sacrifice, I write to you asking you to use what opportunity you have to assist Ginny and Rick in keeping their home. Help to right this terrible wrong being done to them.

If I can be of further help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kristine Kuehn

## Virginia Kreyer Support Staff



**G**inny has worked at Murphy Library at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse since 1979. As a member of the Wisconsin Library Association Support Staff Section and the Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians, she participated in planning conferences and workshops for library support staff and other efforts to establish statewide networking tools for library support staff. As a member of AFSCME Wisconsin state employees union Local 1449, Ginny has been active in union leadership, serving on the Local 1449 Executive Board and Organizing Committee for several years. Currently she is serving as secretary for the local, which represents 250 plus state employees working in support and service roles in mid-western Wisconsin.

As a member of the UW-L Organization for Campus Women, the Chancellor's Women's Advisory Council, and the UW-L Affirmative Action and Diversity Council, Ginny has been active in promoting increased opportunities for women and support staff in the areas of leadership, professional development, and communication and networking. She is co-editor of the OCW Newsletter, which is distributed four to six times annually to UW-L staff women, and also serves on the OCW Web Committee in the development of a campus Web page for dissemination of information about the programming activities of OCW and other campus and community resources for women.

Ginny was born in St. Paul, the oldest of five children, and attended St. Bernard's Parish grade school and high school. Her parents, Harry and Lorraine, filled her childhood home with music and love and fun and "make believe" and instilled in her a love of music, films and joy in the world of imagination. She has three sisters, Judy, Kristine, and Marina, and a brother, Harry, and counts them among her dearest friends. Ginny attended the College of St. Teresa in Winona and took a degree in English and elementary education. Prior to coming to La Crosse, she taught three years in Rochester, MN, where she gained a deep appreciation of fourth graders and elephant jokes. Ginny lives in Bangor with her best friend, mainstay and long-time companion of 20 years, Rick Warren.

Ginny has received much support from her fellow employees at UW-L. Ginny describes herself as "not particularly outstanding, but occasionally standing out there." Her leadership and involvement reflect her beliefs and goals for women and support staff:

People and organizations work better when everyone has adequate training for all the tasks and roles they are required to perform and assume. Organizations work better when all the parts participate at all levels. Organizations are sets of relationships, not compartments, operating more effectively when those relationships are recognized and empowered.

Organizations are people and work better when people's human needs are met. These include the need to achieve a happy balance between work and home, the need to be valued and recognized for what we do, and the need for growth and development in our personal and professional goals.



## ***UW-L's Ginny Kreyer selected for YWCA Tribute to Outstanding Women; dinner Nov. 15***

This year the YWCA will be honoring Ginny Kreyer as an outstanding leader in the area of "Support Staff."

Kreyer has been active in organizations on campus promoting issues of particular importance to women and support staff, including the Organization for Campus Women, Chancellor's Women's Advisory Council, and Affirmative Action & Diversity Council. In each of her roles on campus, she has been a persistent and consistent advocate in addressing the challenges women and support staff face, including visibility and decisions that affect them, connection and networking opportunities, and adequate training and orientation for leadership roles.

Kreyer works in Library Services and is a member of the Wisconsin Library Association and the Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians. As a



**Ginny Kreyer**

member of the Association's Support Staff Section, she has participated in its efforts to establish statewide networking for library support staff. As a member of AFSCME Wisconsin State Employees Union Local 1449, Kreyer has been active in union leadership, has served on the Local 1449 Executive Board and Organizing Committee, and

currently is serving as Secretary for the local.

The Tribute Dinner is Thursday, Nov. 15, at the South Hall Ballroom, La Crosse Center. The evening begins with a social from 5:30-6 p.m., followed by dinner from 6-7 p.m. and the presentation and awards ceremony from 7-9 p.m. The cost of the dinner is \$30 if reservations are made by Oct. 19. To attend and sit at a UW-L table, contact Donna Anderson, economics, 5-6864 or [anderson.donn@uwlax.edu](mailto:anderson.donn@uwlax.edu). Or call the YWCA at 781-2783.