

O F H S



WALL OF FAME

Inducted June 1, 2014



MAGGIE (BAST) JONES

Maggie (Bast) Jones grew up in Oconto Falls, the third of Vic and Jerry Bast's six children. Her grandmother, her aunts, and her mother were all teachers, and her father was both a teacher and a principal at Washington Junior High School. Maggie credits the positive influence of her parents, as well as her leaders in Girl Scouts, Busy Nook 4-H, St. Anthony Church, and other youth activities in Oconto Falls for pointing her toward a future of community service.

She gained leadership skills through her high school experience in forensics, drama, solo and ensemble, National Honor Society, and Badger Girls State. She values OFHS, its staff, and the close-knit, small town atmosphere for allowing her to explore a variety of activities, learn new skills, and discover a wide range of opportunities in a positive and encouraging environment. She graduated with the class of 1964.

Maggie graduated from UW-Oshkosh in 1968 and worked 15 years as a school librarian and substitute teacher in Elmbrook, Neenah, and Iola.

In 1986, she and her husband, Joe, founded Jones Publishing, Inc. Combining her husband's entrepreneurial spirit with her dedication, love of learning, and willingness to take on new challenges, they grew their company to 44 employees, publishing nine national magazines.

While working and raising their children, Ryan and Melanie, Maggie held leadership roles in groups that make a difference in people's lives. She learned from the Jaycee creed that "Service to humanity is the best work of life." In 1982 she was awarded the Elsie Daggett Award, Jaycee women's highest award for community service. She served twice as president of her Lioness club, and she served on various boards, including the Outagamie-Waupaca Library Board, the Iola Hospital and Nursing Home board, and the board of Winchester Academy. Assisting those who are facing illness or trauma is another compelling aspect of her service. She volunteers with the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, the American Red Cross, she's an Eye Tissue Transporter, and in 2005 she travelled to New Orleans to assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina. In 2003 she was named a Paul Harris fellow by Rotary International. Her family has hosted exchange students from Japan, Germany, and Finland, creating lasting, worldwide friendships. She and Joe continue to live in Iola.

Maggie has often been guided by advice her mother gave her: "If you're asked to do something, and you have the ability to do it, then it's your responsibility to give back to the community."