

To Whom It May Concern:

As teachers of BAE, we would like to submit our personal recommendation for Sr. Theresa Couture for the Distinguished Service/Special recognition award.

Sr. Theresa came to us on September 18, 1997 after having worked at the jail in Alfred, Maine. She brought to us a unique perspective, not personally as a Catholic nun, but as an advocate for those who are down trodden.

She has started programs which have, and continue to greatly benefit our students. She has joined forces with the Biddeford Adult Educations First Teachers Family Literacy coordinator and a local charitable organization, who Christmas shops for age appropriate toys and clothing for the children of our less fortunate Adult Education students. Her generosity touches about twenty plus families, and the happiness and joy she brings extends far beyond Christmas money.

After having spoken to a church group in Kennebunk about our population, many parishioners now bring breakfast twice a week. Our students eagerly await the array of food, which for some, is their only meal of the day. Downstairs in the Senior Center, she started a knitting program where every Monday a group of women gather and knit up a storm. The hundreds of items go to the needy of our community; and once again, our students benefit from her generosity.

Our adult learners benefit greatly from Sister's instruction. She assists all levels from our non-English speaking immigrants to those seeking to pass the HiSET. The latter come not knowing anything about writing an essay, but give Sister time and their improvement is greatly noticeable and the students are ready to retest.

She always has the right words for those who need a lift or some advice. Her level of concern goes far beyond her nine to twelve job.

Though we no longer have staff development on site, one of our instructors said that it is not necessary, because we have Sr. Theresa and we learn something new every day. She opens our minds to new ways of viewing problems as well as alternative ways to address them. Her wisdom and vision motivate all of us to work harder. Her years of experience in the educational field provide an abundance of wisdom and ideas. One would think that a teacher who is eighty three would lack the ability, interest, and willingness to relate and give of her heart and soul to students and faculty. This is definitely NOT the case of our Sr. Theresa! Everyone that has had the privilege of meeting Sister is forever changed by her positive energy, kind nature, and humorous manner.

Personally, who could want more than a colleague who always follows through, motivates, encourages, uplifts and inspires. We have ALL been blessed at Biddeford Adult Education with this lovely woman and her work. She is truly an amazing woman, so please accept our sincere recommendation of Sr. Theresa Couture, not because of her longevity, but because she absolutely deserve it!

Biddeford Adult Education Staff