



# *News Release*

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 5, 2014

## **Joann Smith Named Gettysburg Adams Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Citizen of the Year**

**GETTYSBURG, Pa.** – Joann Smith of Biglerville is the Gettysburg Adams Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Citizen of the Year, recognized for her tireless service and advocacy of individuals with special needs and cancer patients.

The award was presented during the chamber's Annual Meeting, Wednesday, Nov. 5, at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center.

“Joann Smith is the embodiment of an outstanding citizen, making Adams County a better place to live because of her energy, passion and commitment to serving the people who live here,” said Carrie Stuart, chamber president. “Her vision of a community where individuals with disabilities are included at all levels and people suffering with cancer are supported in every way is something to which we should all aspire.”

Smith volunteers with many community organizations, including the ARC of Adams County, Civitan International, Relay for Life, Special Olympics Pennsylvania of Adams County, Under the Horizon Pottery and Arts Studio and United Way of Adams County.

“Joanne is faith in action,” said Cathleen Lerew, who owns Under the Horizon Pottery and Arts Studio and nominated her friend for the award. “She gets behind the mission of whatever organization she’s involved in and lives out, ‘It is better to give than receive.’ She speaks from her heart and I am honored and humbled to call her my friend.”

As part of the ARC of Adams County, Smith was a driving force behind Friday Fun Night gatherings for clients with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The evening gives clients a chance to interact with their peers in a supervised environment while affording their parents a couple of hours of free time.

“Joann has a way of making every person feel as though they are the most important person in the world; and in her world, they are,” said Charlotte Bergmann, ARC of Adams County board member.

Smith was recently recruited to serve on the United Way of Adams County Volunteer Center Advisory Board to help the organization do a better job including people with disabilities in volunteer efforts.

“Jo is always looking for ways to outreach and advocate for citizens with special needs,” said Vickie Corbett, United Way interim director. “Her enthusiasm, commitment and vision for a community that includes individuals with disabilities at all levels is unprecedented.”

In addition to her work with individuals with special needs, Smith also helps cancer patients as a breast cancer survivor. She helped create the Adams County Breast Cancer Coalition casting project, where a cast is made of a woman’s torso then painted and turned into a work of art. She also connects cancer patients to resources that help them pay their bills, shop for groceries and find transportation to treatment as a volunteer for Teammates, part of Relay for Life.

“Joann is unstoppable,” said Michelle Shriner, Adams County Breast Cancer Coalition chairperson. “She’s not afraid to share her story and insight to help others who are going through difficult situations. She’s making Adams County a better place to live by inspiring neighbors to help neighbors.”

In its 43<sup>rd</sup> year, recent award recipients include: Caroline Smith, Dr. Charles Glatfelter, David Sites, P.K. Hoover Jr., Patrick Naugle, Paul Kellet, Jennifer Weaver, Vickie Corbett, Amelia Contreras and Melissa Ferguson.

The chamber supports the Adams County business community by promoting diverse economic opportunities through advocacy, networking and information. More than 525 local businesses and organizations are members. For more information, visit [www.gettysburg-chamber.org](http://www.gettysburg-chamber.org).

**Media Contact:** Nicole L. C. Bucher, 717-334-8151

# # #