

Marian Honors Gloria Danna Brooks '82 for Service to the Nonprofit Community

By Pat O'Leary Knipper '77

Selected as Marian's 2008 Distinguished Alumna for her continued commitment to the nonprofit community, **Gloria Danna Brooks'** career has focused almost solely on helping others, leading nonprofit organizations to administrative and financial success.

Gloria is President and CEO of Arbor Hospice, a non-profit healthcare agency committed to giving comfort, assurance, and care to families and patients who have life-limiting illnesses – and to educating and nurturing others in this care. While she has been in this position for 16 months, Gloria has been working to educate and inform others of the needs of women, children, the elderly, and those who have life-limiting illnesses for more than 20 years.

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When Gloria graduated Marian High School in 1982, she felt she was shy, refusing to be in the spotlight or speak in front of a group. Yet she was the first female president of the Brother Rice band, and she won awards for both architecture and art. After graduation, she attended the University of Evansville where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Art Therapy. Later, she earned her Masters of Public Administration Degree with a Nonprofit Management minor from Oakland University.

Gloria's first job upon returning to Michigan after her college graduation was at HAVEN in Pontiac, MI. Later, she worked for the Child Abuse and Neglect Council of Oakland County, the Women's Survival Center of Oakland County, Hospice of Michigan, and the Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan. At each stop, she worked her way from coordinator, to director, to executive director, to COO, to her current position as president and CEO of a \$14 million dollar healthcare agency and subsidiary foundation with \$2.2 million in assets.

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Even as she moved up the career ladder, Gloria gave back to the Marian community, giving workshops on date rape, dating violence, and woman's empowerment to Marian students for several years. She also served as an alumna mentor to seniors through the Alumnae Association's mentoring program in the 1990s. Later she continued to give back, sharing her expertise with non-profits to benefit Marian and sharing her treasure with Marian through the Annual Fund and the *Tradition and Vision* campaign to insure that students will continue to benefit from a Marian education.

And Marian is not the only place where Gloria shares her time, talent, and treasure. Over the years, she has volunteered for the United Way in many capacities, served as a Board member for the YWCA and for the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency, worked as an officer of the parish planning committee for her church, and joined the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor.

Gloria has faith that God will lead her where she needs to go, and she gets support from her family and her friends. Three months after graduation from high school, Gloria met Michael Brooks, the man she married in 1986. Together, they have a son Robert, "the

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greatest gift...who has taught me so much about faith, hope, and love," Gloria says. She still remains friends with her Marian classmates, several who were instrumental in her nomination for the Distinguished Alumna award. They were at Marian's commencement to show their support for her, along with members of her family.

As she addressed the Class of 2008, Gloria told the graduates, "Enjoy this moment and be present in it. You will never walk this way again. Have faith that, as your life unfolds, God has a plan for you and is with you to catch you when you fall, to rejoice with you when you succeed, and to bless you as you take each step."

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