



# The r o u n d t a b l e



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## THE 2016 DICK VETTER COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS LUNCHEON

The 2016 Dick Vetter Community Service Awards Luncheon was held on April 3 at the **Embassy Suites** in Piscataway.

This year's event, where we honor three local citizens for their untiring dedication to community service, was attended by over 60 guests. This was the first event at this venue.

Besides honoring three local citizens, the event also honored **Sir Knight Gabriel Jayanthakumar**, PGK who was named Knight of the Year by **GK Bill Barba**.

This year's Community Service Award recipients were:

- **Anthony Circelli**
- **Beth Lubowicki**
- **Erika Marold.**

Their biographies follow.

### ANTHONY CIRCELLI PARISHIONER AND COACH ST. MATTHIAS



Anthony Circelli was raised in Springfield, New Jersey. He is the son of Italian immigrants,

Alberto and Angelina Circelli. He has two younger siblings; a brother, Donato, and a sister, Giovanna, and a very large extended family. Many lessons were taught and learned in this special environment. His parents instilled a strong work ethic, good moral values, and a sense of community that is faith driven. The Circelli household is unique in countless ways. There always and still is an open invitation to anyone; family, friends, and people in need, to stop over and spend time together, share a meal, "Which are the best," and tell stories. Everyone is always welcomed at the Circelli's home. Sundays and Holidays was a memorable event, of course! The day started off

with church and CCD, which at the time to be honest, was not high on the priority list for Anthony and his siblings. As they matured and grew, they all realized the importance of what Sunday mornings meant and how it would define who they are today. Sunday afternoon was a time for family and friends. Dinner was usually served at 1:30 PM in the afternoon followed by Italian pastries and espresso. Teams were then formed and the bocce ball and card games began. It was a fun and special time for the whole family to share their love for one another and enjoy each other's company.

Anthony attended Jonathan Dayton Regional High School. He was the Captain of the football, basketball, and track teams along with participating in volunteer work. As President of the Varsity Club, he organized the collection of gifts and would dress up as Santa while delivering gifts to children at the Children's Hospital in Mountainside. The Varsity Club would also volunteer at the nursing homes and spend time with the residents playing board games and singing songs.

Anthony attended Bethany College where he played football. He joined a Fraternity (*Beta Theta Pi*) and continued to follow the path of community service. The fraternity fundraised for charitable events and different charities.

Anthony met his wife, Rita, twenty nine years ago. While getting to know each other, they both realized how much they had in common. Both sets of parents were Italian immigrants and they were raised with the same values and similar traditions with a strong Catholic religious belief. Anthony and Rita have been happily married for twenty seven years. They are blessed with three beautiful and articulate daughters; Daniella, Andrea, and Melanie. All three daughters attended and graduated from St. Matthias School. Daniella and Andrea went on to graduate from Immaculata High School and Melanie is currently a senior at Bishop George Ahr High School.

Daniella will be graduating on May 22nd, from St. John's University, Queen, New York. Andrea is currently a junior at Wilkes University and Melanie will be attending Montclair State University this fall. Anthony and Rita are very proud of their daughters in what they have become. Anthony says; "St. Matthias

has laid down a great foundation for his girls." The education, spirituality, discipline, and sense of giving is reflected in all three of the girls.

As many of you know, Anthony and Rita live and own a Christmas tree farm. It is truly a special place. Every day from mid-November until Christmas Eve the farm is alive and vibrant. People are coming and going but there is also a sense of peace, love, and tranquility. New friendships are made and old friendships are rekindled. People have gotten engaged on the property. Children are heard and seen running, full with excitement as they pick out a tree. Photograph sessions are taking place especially if there is snow on the ground. Upon entering the shed/office, you will be greeted by any number of people including Anthony's In-Laws, Giuseppe and Anna Graziosi, and/or any one of his daughters. Giuseppe can be heard telling stories about his many trips to Italy and experiences about his life. Also, he will happily share a glass of "Home Made" wine with anyone who is willing and able. Anthony says, "Where can you pick out a Christmas tree, wreath, or blanket and have a glass of *Home Made wine*?" Anthony has donated a Christmas tree to St. Matthias Parish for the past twelve years. The first 7 to 9 years, the trees were so large that it took 4 or 5 men with ropes to stand the tree upright and to secure it. Recently, the trees have been a little bit smaller and manageable. Anthony also along with fellow Knights, takes the Manger down and they put the Nativity statues and Manger in storage until the following year. The Christmas tree and other small trees are then loaded into his truck and brought back to the farm to be chipped and recycled on the property.

Anthony's involvement in youth sports started after college. He was head coach of the 7th and 8th grade Springfield Travel Football team, which lasted about 3 years. When his daughters became of age, he then began coaching them in the Franklin Township Youth Soccer Program. As they progressed and started playing travel soccer, he also coached the Franklin Township Travel Soccer teams and the New Brunswick PDA Soccer Travel teams. Anthony also coached his daughters in the St. Matthias School basketball program. As his daughters grew and moved on to pursue other activities, Anthony realized that he wanted to continue coaching basketball at SMS. He then began coaching the 7th & 8th grade boys team and also coached the CYM High School Basketball Program for SMS.

As Anthony looks back, coaching youth sports and volunteering his time to help others is one of the most gratifying experiences that he has ever had.

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### **BETH LUBOWICKI DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT AND ENROLLMENT**



Born and raised in Somerset, NJ, Beth is the youngest child of the late Jean and Jim Rowan, founding members of St.

Matthias Parish. She, along with 4 of her 7 siblings, attended St. Matthias School. Catholic values, stewardship and volunteerism were instilled at an early age. Both of her parents were actively involved in the planning and development of St. Matthias in the early years, serving on the PTA, Altar Rosary Society, Holy Name Society

and were weekly Bingo volunteers. Her father was the parish's first Eucharistic minister and served as an active member of the Knights of Columbus in Alexandria, VA before moving to Somerset Council in 1965.

A graduate of the SMS Class of 1979, Beth went on to attend St. Peter's High School and Douglass College, Rutgers University with a degree in Health Science and Physical Education. She worked as a Social Event Planner and Catering Manager for Hilton Hotels and then as an office manager for Tricorp Amusements in Somerset.

Beth married the love of her life Ed Lubowicki in 1992 at St. Matthias Church. Ed is the product of catholic education as well, having attended St. Helena elementary school in Edison before his family moved to Somerset. He is a graduate of St. Joseph High School and Florida State University. He is the president and owner of Lubowicki Insurance Agency in Metuchen. Ed has been involved in numerous community events and organizations holding key roles in Metuchen Area Chamber of Commerce, Hillsborough Youth Lacrosse Coach, and founding member of the St. Joseph HS football program Together Beth and Ed have 2 children, Eddy and Shelby, who are their pride and joy. Eddy graduated from SMS in 2008 and then St. Joseph High School. He will be graduating in May from the University of Notre Dame, where he was a member of the Men's Lacrosse team. Shelby graduated from SMS in 2012 and will be graduating from Bishop George Ahr High School in June. She will attend Clemson University in the fall.

Having witnessed St. Matthias School as a student, a parent and a staff member, Beth hopes that St. Matthias School remains a viable

choice for many years to come for families who wish to have their children educated in an environment of Faith, Caring, and Excellence. She is grateful to the faculty and staff for their dedication to catholic education and most importantly her mentors, Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF, and Sr. Jean Laurich, SJ, for their holiness, friendship, and guidance through the years.

### ERIKA MAROLD ST. MATTHIAS MINISTRIES



A little about me....

My parents moved to Somerset from Perth Amboy back in 1969. I attended St. Matthias School, received Confirmation, and was in the 2nd graduating class. I attended St. Peter's High School, Somerset County College (RVCC) and eventually met my husband Jack.

We were married 38 years ago at St. Matthias Church. We moved to High Bridge, NJ, but it wasn't long before we moved back to Somerset. Jack was born and raised in Somerset so his roots are very deep. Additionally, we never felt at home in church like we did at St. Matthias.

Both of my children attended St. Matthias School. Although my son Erik was baptized at Immaculate Conception in Annandale while we were living in High Bridge, my daughter Christina was baptized at St. Matthias. They both received First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation at St. Matthias where they continue to be involved with the school and parish either of their own accord or with some mild pleading from their mom.

I have made a career working as a Report Analyst for AT&T, Lucent Technologies, Avaya, and currently Hewlett Packard Enterprise. When I am not enjoying time with my family, I can be found volunteering at a variety of events at St. Matthias. Probably the most well-known event is the Carnival; however, I also Lectored on Sundays and served a four-year term on the Pastoral Council. None of these can overshadow the hours of time I volunteered at the many HSA events while the kids were in school.

Besides my commitments at St. Matthias, I have participated in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer for 15 years as Crew Team Leader and was on the Immaculata Fashion Show committee while my kids attended high school there. Most recently I found some free time and spent that on the planning committee for my 40th High School Reunion.

I love walking, playing golf, and spending time on vacation, preferably at the beach with the family although I haven't had much time for the latter two. Both of my parents are now in their 90's and my sister and I are pretty much "on call" at all times. I am truly grateful for my parents; after all, they must have done something right given the award I am honored with today. Go figure!!





*Receiving Community Services Awards for 2016 are (left to right):  
Beth Lubowicki, Anthony Circelli, and Erika Marold.*



knights of columbus

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St. Matthias of Somerset Council #9925  
PO Box 5183  
Somerset, New Jersey 08873

