



2012 Holy Family CYO Role Model

Bill Donlon

“If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it...” – Lucille Ball

We at Holy Family are fond of this quote and it is befitting of our selection this year for Role Model, Bill Donlon. In 2008, Bill stepped up and agreed to take on the responsibility of serving as our President, filling a void left by his predecessor.

Like many of us, he and his wife Nancy worked full time. His life was further challenged by the demands of raising an autistic child, his son Alex.

In 2010, tragedy struck when Bill's wife Nancy passed away unexpectedly leaving him a single parent to raise Alex and his daughter Brianna. The Holy Family community rallied around Bill in support and amazingly he has paid the community back tenfold by re-dedicating his precious time and talents to CYO. Bill seemed to draw strength from his volunteerism during this most difficult time in his life.

Bill's daughter Brianna is an outstanding athlete who continues to participate and excel at CYO and High School sports and has followed the example set by her father by volunteering to coach the younger girls in our program. Bill has and continues to lead our organization with tireless dedication.

He is also an amazing coach who strikes that perfect balance of discipline and kindness with children. It is rare that you enter our gym and don't find Bill setting up or breaking down equipment, hanging banners, painting, coaching or standing in the background ready to assist another coach.

Bill also volunteers to coach the Holy Family Middle School softball and volleyball teams and has coached PAL lacrosse in the past.

In his "spare" time Bill works full time at a group home as its Residence Manager for disabled children. He is also on the Board of Directors for the Organization for Autism Research as well as being President of the Connecticut Center for Child Development. He is a former NYC Police Officer and attended Cathedral Prep High School where he considered the priesthood.

It is with great pride that we have chosen this very special person as our Role Model this year.