

## District Twelve Altrusa International Conference 2010 Gwladys Brewster Outstanding Altrusan

### Mary Marshall Altrusa International of Roseburg

As the creator, architect and developer of the club's literacy/motivational reading programs, Mary is the backbone behind these projects. It is her interest in books that drives these projects. After seeing a similar program in Multnomah County, Mary worked diligently to interest the club in developing a *Celebration of Literacy* week in Douglas County. As co-chair for the past nine years, she has helped expand the *Celebration* into a two-week program that annually reaches over 25,000 people. Other motivational reading programs she has developed and maintained for the past ten years are the *Iditaread* in two south-county school districts, the club's *Make a Difference Day* project and *Welcome Baby* at the hospital. Her most recent endeavor is the development of a library at the food pantry. Recognizing a need, Mary immediately began locating books for a project that yearly sends over 4000 books to the pantry. Never afraid to get her hands dirty, weekly Mary spends part of two days cleaning, mending, placing stickers in, and sorting books for redistribution. Annually, Mary also solicits over 14,000 books through donations or work parties to buy gently used books at thrift stores. This hard worker is truly an outstanding Altrusan.