

## CHOICES

When the ABCDE board named me chairman of the task force Information Committee, it had no idea what the "job description" was or how far I would run with it.

Volunteers met in my basement many times before it became evident that the leadership would determine that "something would get done."

First alcohol and drug information was needed. I wrote for many articles and publications, purchased some to distribute to those who asked for it, and then the "newsletter" became a source of information. The committee gave it a name, Choices. The first issue took "too long" to get published (in my opinion, a story can be edited by committee only so long!), so I became a more active editor.

Drew Davis, then the editor of the Barrington Courier Review, made the grid for the cover, which was used every time; I took the photos or obtained them from the high school. In choosing them, I tried to be sure the photo was a good "role model" – one who did not use "to the best of my knowledge." I was wrong at least once! Drew also taught me how to typeset on the Courier's computer typesetting equipment gave me a key and allowed me to teach others to typeset with me on Saturdays. He took it off the machines according to my mock-up; his "editors" eye a great help.

A joyful addition was Eva Sandor, then a 15 year old student at Barrington High School. I gave her articles to illustrate; she drew them very quickly and on target. She did the last few issues while a student at Carnegie Mellon University—we didn't have e mail, we used "snail mail." We developed a warm personal relationship.

One committee person, Linda Stanley, was connected to a printing company in Elmhurst. She got free "over run" paper and her printer to print, staple and fold 35,000 copies.

Finished issues were delivered to my house. The first one found an M.D. and his wife, the superintendent of schools and other

volunteers all over the house, counting out and packing according to the postal routes to every household and business in the geographic area of school district 220. We had 35 or 40 boxes to be taken by Linda and me the next morning to the post office. After that, one or two volunteers and I did it.

CHOICES is something I am most proud of doing. Each issue was under \$4,000, almost entirely in the cost of postage. All articles are written by me, unless otherwise noted. The hardest part was editing articles without use of a computer; each rewrite required my retyping of it. After I bought a word processor, it became easier. The most frustrating part was waiting for requested articles to be finished on time. It was a lesson in persistence and patience.

This project fulfilled my need to write and is also responsible for much needed validation that I could contribute and grow—very rewarding.