

John Ralston
2000 Friend of Education

Nominator and District Superintendent Richard Fitzpatrick says, "I have never seen anyone who is not a teacher, board member, or administrator, to be so consistently dedicated to the welfare of students ... His children are now adults and he continues to give of himself for the betterment of education in Beaver Dam."

For the betterment of students and education, John Ralston has served on several school district committees and has been instrumental in raising funds for various school district projects. He is a founding member and driving force behind the Beaver Dam Scholarship Foundation. The foundation provides monetary awards to students who are furthering their education in technical and four year colleges. Ralston has served on several committees that successfully promoted approval of three recent referendums for improvements and renovations to school district buildings. John chaired the 1994-95 referendum for children-at-risk and was fund raising chair for the 1996 building referendum committee. Nominator Charlie MacDonald, who is a BDHS teacher and coach, says, "John Ralston has exhibited outstanding leadership in furthering the goals of the Beaver Dam School District."

Ralston's concern about the welfare of Beaver Dam children and their opportunities for a fine education extends even beyond district needs. Ralston served on the committee for the building of a new community library. He also served as fund raising co-chair for the H.H. Derleth Athletic Complex. Ralston has been active in Boy Scouts, Youth Basketball, and additional fund raising projects, including funds for the Beaver Dam Community Theatre building. He continues to hold numerous leadership positions on volunteer boards and committees in Beaver Dam. As nominator Eric L. Becker wrote, "(John) has a knack for raising money and does it with a smile and good humor. ... (He) is a wealth of knowledge and information on the 'pulse' of our community. He has a *can do* attitude." Fortunately, John's *can do* attitude continues to make a difference for students and community.