

## Volunteer of the Month – Louisa Barton-Duguay

Ordinarily we try not to repeat featured Volunteers of the Month, but this month will be an exception. In the past we talked about Louisa's efforts with Grace Lutheran Church's Friday Night "Gathering" dinner, which has temporarily become a weekly hot food and grocery distribution. She also has been an important part of Fresh Start Pallet Products from the very beginning, and continues in that effort.

What is to be revealed here are the additional projects that she's taken up recently. She was the driving force behind the mural that appeared at Farmington and Marshall St last September and that morphed into the painted facelift that the block long shopping center got.

The last part of that event will be the promised celebration that is scheduled for Sunday April 18<sup>th</sup> and is featured elsewhere in this edition. It has been organized by Louisa, and the funding for it comes from a grant submitted by Louisa.

Regarding funds, when it became clear that AHNA's then treasurer for the past few years, was unable to attend to AHNA's needs, Louisa mentioned that she had worked as a bookkeeper for 15 years back in Canada, and she'd be willing to help out there in addition to her work on the Green Committee. So Louisa is now the AHNA Board Treasurer and AHNA is now getting updated reports on their financial status. A crisis has been averted.

Looking toward the future, Louisa would like to see the City owned property at 5 Farmington Avenue put to better use while it's future is being decided. You may remember this as the proposed site for the Pathways to Technology Magnet School back in 2008 and part of the proposed changes to I-84 more recently. She is envisioning a Community Garden of sorts but with some hydroponic structures as well as vegetable trellises. She's also looking to put her recent success with grant writing into this project as well. We'll keep you posted.

