

Ohio Restaurant Association Education Foundation/ Ohio ProStart® Donation Opportunity in Memory of Elaine Straley



On November 27, 2010, the Ohio Restaurant Association (ORA) and the Ohio Restaurant Association Education Foundation (ORAEF) lost Elaine Straley, a valuable team member, who passed away unexpectedly.

A lifelong educator, Straley served as a culinary arts instructor for 17 years at the Greene County Career Center and taught the Ohio ProStart® curriculum to many of her students. Prior to her role as a culinary instructor, Straley served as a home economics teacher at Cedarville High School for 10 years. She also worked for the ORAEF in the role of Southwestern Ohio Regional Coordinator for five years, working with students and educators alike in implementing the Ohio ProStart program in schools throughout the region.

Elaine's commitment and dedication to improving the lives of her students was uncompromising, said ORAEF Executive Director Sharon Fish. A lifelong educator both in the classroom and beyond, Elaine's unwavering optimism and enthusiasm brightened the lives of countless individuals. I will always remember Elaine's smile and positive spirit. Her support and enthusiasm for ProStart was second to none.

Straley attended the Ohio State University and was a graduate of Central State University. In addition to her years of service in an educational setting, she also founded the Silver Spoons 4-H Club and was a member of the Mother Goose Club, the Greene County Board of Health and the OSU Extension Advisory Committee, for which she served as its first female president. She had also been inducted into the Greene County Women's Hall of Fame and was a member of the Cedarville United Presbyterian Church.

Elaine's character and her compassion for others were evident to all who knew her, said Geoff Hetrick, President and CEO of the Ohio Restaurant Association. Her passing will leave an indelible mark on our association, but we will move forward with our goal of strengthening Ohio's future foodservice leaders because that was something Elaine held so dear.

In light of Elaine's commitment to the industry and her love of education, a scholarship was established in her name by the DeWine family. To make a donation, visit the ORAEF's website at www.oraef.org/donate and select the Elaine Straley Memorial Scholarship Fund from the list of available scholarships.

If you have any questions, please contact the ORAEF at info@oraef.org or via phone: (877) 442-9374.

On behalf of the Ohio ProStart program and in memory of Elaine, the ORAEF extends its warmest thanks.