

MILLIE GAMA Biography

If there is ever a Burlington County “Volunteer Hall of Fame,” most certainly Millie Gama will be prominent among its inductees. Her record of community involvement – over and above her 25-year history as Executive Director of the Burlington County Chamber of Commerce – speaks for itself.

To cut to the chase:

Millie has been involved in nearly three dozen organizations, covering a variety of local and county issues and activities.

They range from the small (Willingboro Funday in the Park) to the large (Burlington County Private Industry Council); from health care (American Red Cross and American Heart Association) to education (Burlington County College Foundation Board); and from hospitals (Rancocas/ Zurbrugg Board of Directors) to prisons (Federal Prison Advisory Committee at Fort Dix). And, heaven forbid Millie do for one child and not the other. She was a Boy Scout den leader and a Girl Scout leader, too. The list goes on and on...

As the third recipient of the Volunteer Center’s Community Service Award, Millie Gama is not only most deserving she sets a standard that few could ever hope to equal.

But it’s not like she has not been noticed before now. Millie has collected a half-dozen formal awards and honors, including the Burlington County YWCA’s Outstanding Woman Achievement Award and the Willingboro Rotary’s Service “Service Above Self” Award.

Not bad for a lady who had hardly heard of Burlington County until 32 years ago. That was when she and husband, David, took a drive down from Rochester, New York, looking for a home. They were directed to Willingboro by a friendly waitress at Ponzio’s Diner in Cherry Hill. The rest, as they say, is history.

In 1975, Millie landed the job as Executive Director of the Willingboro Chamber of Commerce. Under her leadership, it grew from 100 business members to more than 425 members and, of course, the name was changed to Burlington County Chamber of Commerce.

While business organizations typically become business exchanges for their members, with Millie’s guidance, the Burlington County Chamber also became active in issues sensitive to the business community, ranging

from big items like land use planning to the smaller, but relevant topics of better signage on Route 130.

In fact, Millie was looking to rebuild and promote the riverfront community a half-dozen years before the Burlington County Freeholders unveiled the Route 130/Delaware River Corridor Revitalization Project. Millie, and the Chamber, has fallen in lockstep with the plan, and their support keeps the rebuilding of this region moving forward.

Eleven years ago Millie was stricken with breast cancer but, despite surgery and chemotherapy fought back gamely. Through personal trials and tribulations, she has remained as the affable, yet feisty, executive director, always involved in civic and community organizations, always generating good will. Accordingly, and appropriately, there are many kudos to come – and the Volunteer Center of Burlington County is proud to honor Millie Gama.

Professional Affiliations

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Association of Directors
N.J. State Chamber of Commerce Association of Directors
N.J. Small Business Development-
So. Region Advisory Board
Willingboro Rotary Club

Honors

Willingboro Woman of the Year
Burlington County's YWCA
Outstanding Woman Achievement Award
Willingboro Rotary's "Service Above Self" Award
Willingboro Rotary's Professional Person of the Year Award
Rotary District # 764 Paul Harris Fellow Award
N.J. State Assembly Proclamation Women of Achievement