

Marilyn McQueen

Class of 1964

MCHS Hall of Fame Induction 2023

Like mechanical apparatuses where belts break and tires lose air, life too encounters malfunctions and rocky roads. When that mental dilemma needs professional analysis and guidance for a healthier tomorrow, hundreds of individuals have found that reparable path and restored positivity through Marilyn McQueen. With multiple college degrees in clinical social work and marriage/family therapy from Taylor University, Indiana University, and University of South Florida, the 2023 MCHS Hall of Fame inductee has shared her knowledge and professional skills for 50-plus years in college classrooms, 1:1 sessions throughout Indiana, international communities and her hometown of Madison, IN. In Lithuania and Kenya, the distinguished alumna studied the changing role of women in society there and its impact on the country's native culture. The MCHS honoree, however, did not stop there and incorporated native Eskimos in her research mission as well. Because of her quest to keep abreast of the news data and most effective approaches, the 1964 graduate never closes a classroom door. She continually enters and seeks those avenues of inspiration and edification, both as an adult student and as a college professor of social work and sociology studies for 30-plus years at Taylor University, Hanover College, and Gordon College. With no two clients nor counseling situations alike, the therapist draws upon a variety of techniques to chart recovery paths and elicit self-client examination. When one strategy stalls, Marilyn goes back to the drawing board with effective communication and client-therapist trust always at the forefront. She often has to tap into her cache of methods multiple times to ignite the spark of progress. And much to Marilyn's chagrin, the client sometimes extinguishes the flame himself. Exposed to all scenarios, Marilyn too knows firsthand that mental health challenges impact all ages. To benefit those too young to defend and seek help themselves, Marilyn initiated Prevent Child Abuse of Jefferson County, plus served as the agency's president for three years. In recognition of her commitment and contribution to the mental health profession and those she serves, she has merited multiple accolades, including Indiana Regional 9 Social Worker of the Year in 2004. In addition to her professional efforts, Marilyn also generously proffers her personal time and leadership skills to community projects, ranging from her church to the Women's Giving Circle, Friends of Lanier Mansion, and Madison's Bicentennial Celebration. For Marilyn McQueen, the mechanics of life necessitate that good physical health and good mental health travel the journey together.

