



Nancy Ross's Graceful Exit

Nancy Wind Ross died gracefully at home on October 27, 2024 stating "she had had a wonderful and productive life, but was now ready to go, and wished peace for all her many friends." So begins Nancy's obituary which raises the question of how the 90 year old achieved such a calm, satisfied death. Here are some highlights of her life which may provide insight.

Community Foundation supporters are among "all her many friends." To us, she was most known as an early and generous supporter of the Women Helping Women fund. She had a Master's Degree in Psychology and for 25 years volunteered as a counselor at a drug and alcohol rehab center, and at Women's Resource Center where she helped survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Nancy was a tireless environmental steward and advocate for the Rail-Trail Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania. She expounded the merits of trail hiking for health, body and soul. She held many leadership positions in RTC including chairing a study of the D&H and O&W rail-beds. Both received the highest grades for potential development into trails. This was the start of Nancy's most important environmental contribution and the birth of the D&H Rail Trail. She also fought, successfully, to prevent the expansion of a toxic landfill in Ararat Township.

For over 10 years, Nancy delivered nutritious food and friendly conversation to seniors as a driver with

Meals on Wheels. She was a major supporter of the United Way of Susquehanna County. She was a founding member of the Mountain View Garden Club and started many local gardens with plants donated from her own gardens. Nancy and her husband of 57 years Bruce Ross raised four children and hosted many exchange students. They were all avid skiers. She pitched hay, fixed fences and took her turn at tractor duty on their Union Dale farm when needed.

Those who worked closely with her over the years say she had the unique qualities of kindness and assertiveness which generated many partnerships. Her RTC friends attest, "It was never about Nancy's agenda; it was about the quality of life in the broader community." And no one ever doubted for a moment her integrity. Over the years Nancy was rewarded with numerous honors and lifetime achievement awards. Perhaps her greatest award was the knowledge that she had given her best and her all in everything she did. For that she is loved and will be missed.