

Marguerite Mills
**Volunteer
of the Month**

Evangelista's Amazing Generosity Spans The Globe



Photo by Will Nauman

Nee Evangelista accepts the Marguerite Mills Volunteer of the Month Award from Voice Editor Tom Cardinale.

By Tom Cardinale

For Nee Evangelista the desire to give back is as simple as seeing the need. And whether it is bringing donations back to her native Thailand or brightening the mornings of students at St. John the Evangelist School, Evangelista is quick to jump at any chance to help.

"I saw the teachers needed help so I just stayed. I couldn't go home," Evangelista said of her start volunteering at Folger McKinsey while her daughter was a student there.

At Folger she spent one year as a Volunteer Assistant Kindergarten Teacher before her daughter enrolled at St. John's and she took her charitable ways there.

Currently she works five days a week as a "Safety," which is a person who ensures kids exiting vehicles and approaching the school make it to class safely. In addition to helping the children herself

she also helps train the older students who in turn assist the youngest. It is a true circle of giving back.

"I make sure the family doesn't need to worry about their student," Evangelista said. "I like it because I like to see the kids in the morning, smiling. They run up and hug me."

"She just has a way with children," her husband, Mark, added.

Additionally, Evangelista also works at lunchtime on Fridays at St. John's and offers her assistance wherever else she is needed, including using her skills as a professional tailor to make costumes.

Further perpetuating

the attitude of giving back, Evangelista's daughter, Marisa, worked with her as a Safety when she was a sixth grader and Nee says teaching her daughter to give back is one of her greatest motivations.

"Growing up my family taught me to help people," she said. "I want to teach my daughter it is good to help people."

While St. John's is the most regular beneficiary of Evangelista's efforts, her home country of Thailand has also been the recipient of some of her good will. She has collected donations from her clients at her tailoring business and other community members and used the funds to buy supplies for students at a school in her native region of Thailand where the school lacked many basic supplies and many students didn't even have shoes. After moving to Severna Park from Thailand eight years ago, Evangelista makes sure to remember her roots and spread her charity all across the world. It's no wonder she is mentioned as one of the favorite volunteers among the many at St. John the Evangelist.