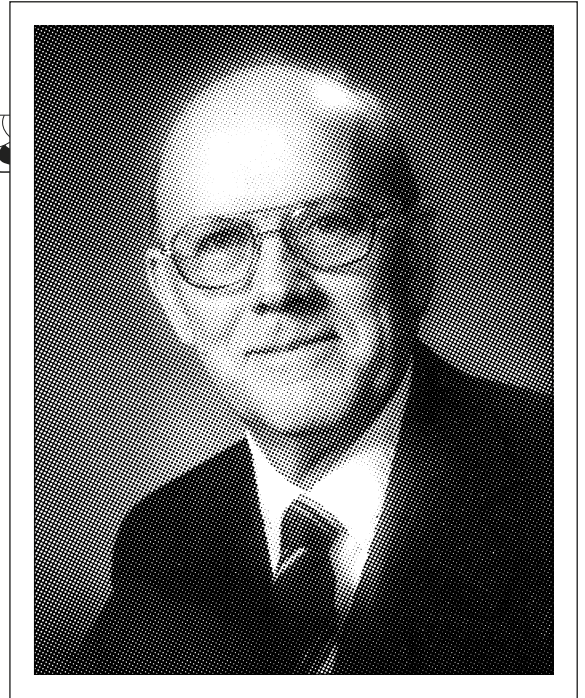




2007

James J. Beckett



Jim Beckett's tireless efforts as the coordinator of Gladhander is only the most recent and visible demonstration of his love for Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools and community. From the time that he and Dorothy were the proud parents of St. Francis graduates to the present, Jim has been the embodiment of commitment to a cause. Jim and Dorothy recently celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary.

Since retiring from Michigan Bell as District Manager in 1982, Jim Beckett has been the face of the Gladhander Auction for 21 years. The success of this annual event, so critical to our continued financial stability, is a direct reflection of his high energy, enthusiastic leadership and his can-do attitude. His ability to motivate and organize people to produce success is legendary. Jim played a major role as a fundraiser for GTACS during the construction of St. Francis Elementary and High School, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Middle School, as well as the new St. Francis Church and rectory.

For many years, high school students have experienced Jim's Christian leadership in action. His influence with the student body and school community as a whole is beyond his understanding.

His impact on school culture has gone far beyond the auction that he has led so successfully.

Jim's dedicated service has impacted many other facets of the Traverse City community. He has been a very active member of the TC Chamber of Commerce and is the only person to twice be honored with that organization's Distinguished Service Award in its 78 year history.

Mr. Beckett has served Northwestern Michigan College since its groundbreaking in 1952. He has served on the Board of Trustees for 32 years, co-chaired the University Center Campaign and many other events, and is a charter member of the NMC Foundation Board. In 1996, the college recognized Jim for his steady leadership and energetic support by naming a new classroom building in his honor.

Mr. Beckett has also played an influential civic role with the Rotary Club since 1952, serving as its president in 1962.

James Beckett has been known as *Mr. NMC*, *Mr. Traverse City*, *Mr. Chamber of Commerce*, but the moniker that he has most relished is that of *Mr. Gladhander*.