

## **BARBARA HUSTON – ASPIRE Heritage Award - 2018**

Barbara Huston was born in Washington, DC and moved to Crofton when she was 16. She graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in microbiology. After graduation she became an intern at NIH, then worked at the National Science Foundation and later worked on federal budgets. Barbara married Steven Huston in 1977 and they lived in Riverdale, MD and later in Waldorf when she worked for the Navy Comptroller. In 1985 they discovered Severna Park and bought a home where they raised two daughters. One is still here and one is in nearby Baltimore.

Barbara got a master's degree in administration and was looking and what her options were. Her sister Maureen Caviola and their friend Sandy Jackson had recently graduated with master's degrees in Gerontology from the College of Notre Dame in Baltimore and all three had been looking into ways to engage the community in things that would be beneficial. They were all especially aware of the problems of the aging from their work and studies and because of aging parents. Sandy and Maureen wanted to work with people and Barbara had administration skills so they decided to combine their talents to set up a new program which they all agreed to do as volunteers in a pro bono situation. The idea of a time exchange appealed to them so they talked with the AA County Dept. of Aging for additional ideas that could be an adjunct to their services. They realized that transportation was a huge need so they decided to focus on this. An attorney in Annapolis, Ron Holden, donated his time and expertise to set up a corporation and to apply for a tax exempt status. James Walker who was CEO of North Arundel Hospital (Now BWI) offered space and equipment for an office at the hospital. The France-Merrick Foundation offered a challenge grant which they matched with donations to get started.

Partners In Care is now 25 years old and over 9000 people have directly benefitted from their services, plus the relief that this assistance has given to their families and friends, and the thousands of people who have benefitted from the affordable items sold in their Boutique, which are donated by members of the community for this very worthwhile cause. The shop has also served as a social benefit to volunteers and other members and customers. PIC has provided many services to seniors through members who donate their time and talents as they are able. Over a half million hours have been provided which helps not only the seniors and their families but also the entire community which benefits because these extra resources are provided. Members know that they are always valued and appreciated for everything they do.

In 2017, PIC moved to a new location where they combined the Boutique and the administration offices. Barbara decided to move on to other things after the move had been completed, leaving the organization in a strong position financially and with good people in place. But she still volunteers in the shop and will always be a part of the PIC family.