

# Kids will vouch for top parent

By ALANA GRIFFITHS  
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Eight people in Mississauga know Dorothy Reid is the best choice for the Single Parent of the Year Award.

With four children of her own, Reid took in three teenagers last year after their father died suddenly, and managed to find room for a 17-year-old girl from a broken home.

Claiming not to be a "goody two-shoes" Reid asserts her children have remained her biggest fans and most reliable source of support through divorce, the death of a close friend and her own battle with terminal cancer.

"I got the award in spite of having cancer," said the 48-year-old woman who has been in the Mississauga Hospital since Jan. 9 undergoing treatment for pain in her knees, a separate condition from the cancer.

"My first reaction to the award was they might use my cancer. I have a dramatic case but I look at it this way: everyone has problems. The best thing about this award is reading what my children wrote down as recommendations. That is the format. You have to have references from church, family and business. I never knew how my children felt about me as a mother until I read their recommendations. . . It's brought a

real contentment to my life."

Single Parent of the Year Award will be presented to Reid March 1 by the Mississauga chapter of Parents Without Partners.

Reid raised her four children, Carolyn, 25, Nancy, 23, Alison, 17 and Danny, 15, after separating from her husband in 1975. She met Ken Shaw at the P.W.A and after he died, she took in his three children Barb, 11, Gary, 20, and Drew, 19. Laurie, 17, became the eighth member of the Reid household when her parents separated.

The family has shared Reid's battle with cancer. When they were told of her illness they all agreed to pull together and spend as much time as they could with her. Household chores were finished before she came home from work and when the reality of cancer came too close "they would disappear inside their room to cry but come back with a smile."

She plans to move to an apartment in April because it will be more convenient than a house and most of the children will be working or away at university.

Reid hopes to get the "old legs working" so she will be well enough to travel and play golf.

Her only wish is to be with her family and reach 50 with their help.



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*Terminal cancer hasn't stopped Reid's hopes*