



County: Kildare

Nominee: Martina Healy

County Kildare is pleased to announce that Martina Healy has been chosen as our Golden Volunteer.

Martina is a Founding Member of both Kildare Town and County Kildare Community Games. In 1971 her late teens Martina formed Community Games in Kildare Town. This was a great achievement as Community Games was not heard of outside Dublin. Kildare Town were the First Area outside Dublin to participate in the Games and they competed in the Athletic Finals which were held in Santry. Not happy with just having Kildare Town on board she contacted the local papers and people who were involved in sporting activities in other towns in the County to promote the organisation. In the following 2 years Martina had formed County Kildare Community Games and had another 6 areas involved. This is how passionate she is about the Community Games organisation and ethos.

Martina moved to Clane a few years later and it was not long until she had the Games up and running. She is still very involved in her Area today holding the position of Chairperson. She is a stalwart of the Games in her Area contacting the Schools and local clubs, training/supervising teams. You will always know when Community Games is up and running as her washing line would be full of jerseys and shorts after training/ matches. During a match she will be seen on the line with the water bottles beside her in case a player is thirsty or has hurt their leg and out will come as she calls it "the magic water" and it wouldn't be long until the player was up and running around again, better than any rub or spray!. Martina can always be seen out in all weather in her navy rain jacket in the middle of all the children encouraging them or in the swimming pool in her favourite navy flip flops.

Martina still finds time to work with County and is our Vice President she attends most of our events helping where possible from making the teas and feeding all the workers and guests to judging, even marking the athletic track for county finals but her area will always come first and it is lovely to see all the children especially the younger ones coming over to Martina at events all excited and telling her how they got on.

It is a great honour to be able to nominate Martina for this prestigious and well deserved award.