

Blending Career, Community and Family — A 50-Year Legacy

By Daurrelle Golden Harris

It was the decade that saw the invention of the first credit card, Alaska became the 49th state, the first Levittown house was built, and families gathered around the first TVs to watch “I Love Lucy” and “Gunsmoke.”

Women who had risen to high positions in the workforce during WWII were now retired to homemaking. Consequently, when Constance T. Wood entered the world of banking in 1959, there were few women bank executives to serve as role models. Fortunately for the Hatboro Federal Savings COO, senior vice president and corporate secretary, she joined an institution with a culture that values and nurtures talent, ambition and hard work.

“I happily call this my accidental career. Simply put, I was a young woman who needed a job,” says Wood. “Hatboro Federal’s hiring manager was on vacation so I was hired as a teller by the bank’s comptroller, and later promoted to the bookkeeping department. I soon discovered that I really missed working on the front lines, so I left and took a position with an independent auditing firm to expand my banking skills. But, there was too much travel involved and so I agreed to return to Hatboro Federal on the condition that I could work face-to-face with customers.”

A lifetime resident of Hatboro, Wood has been employed by Hatboro Federal for 52 years.

“Connie’s dedication to the bank and our customers is one of the reasons Consumers’ Checkbook magazine readers gave Hatboro Federal a perfect score of 100% for customer service in its October 2011 edition. Connie was also instrumental in helping the bank receive the Pennsylvania Association of Community Bankers 2011 Community Service Award in August,” says President and CEO Joseph J. Tryon, Jr.

“Connie’s quality and longevity of leadership in Hatboro is a gift we have been so fortunate to receive. The warmth of her personality radiates out to everything she touches, from her guidance on the Main Street Hatboro board to her support and participation for every event and charity in the community. Connie cares about people and the community,” says Main Street Manager Steve Barth.

Wood and her husband, Robert, a retired teacher and associate pastor of their church, have two sons, Rob and Phil, and five grandchildren between the ages of seven months and nine years. “My family means everything to me. Hatboro Federal employees and customers know that, on occasion, one of my grandchildren might be seen running through our main lobby.” With four bank



Celebrating Hatboro Federal Savings’ Operation Helping Hands March 2011 donation to Animal Lifeline Rescue and Thrift Shop are (from left): Animal Lifeline Founder Denise Bash (holding rescued kitty Willie), Animal Lifeline Executive Director Laurie Frederick, Hatboro Federal President/CEO Joseph J. Tryon, and Senior Vice President Connie Wood. Photo by Aaron Mitchell, Aaron Mitchell Photography.

branches to oversee and the accompanying responsibilities, plus community and family activities, Wood’s challenge is, in her own words, “A quest to maintain balance in all that I do. It requires being exacting, and a stickler for details, while being compassionate and fair to all the people who enrich my life.” **LL**

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