

**Antoinette Brown Blackwell Society's  
2013 Henrietta Woman of the Year  
Joanne Wales-Smith**

This year the Antoinette Brown Blackwell Society recognizes Joanne Wales-Smith as its Henrietta Woman of the Year. Joanne grew up in the hamlet of Greigsville, New York. She graduated from York Central School, Rochester Business Institute, Monroe Community College and Roberts Wesleyan College. She was one of the first residents of Riverton where she has made her home for thirty-two years.

After thirty years of employment at Kodak, she began working at the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC). Joanne Wales-Smith is the manager of the Specialty Shop at Strong. This shop specializes in items for new mothers and for men, women, and children coping with cancer. Wales-Smith received a URMC Staff Community Service Award in 2010. She is described as being understanding and compassionate as she helps patients select needed items while undergoing chemotherapy and other treatments.

As a volunteer with the Fresh Air Fund, Joanne Wales-Smith has been accompanying children from New York City to the Rochester area and back each summer for forty-three years. She mentors Fresh Air Fund volunteers, helps recruit new host families, and chairs the committee that selects host families. She has sought to involve other community members and has partnered with the Rochester Elks Lodge in West Henrietta. For the past twelve years, the visiting children have been treated to a picnic and entertainment.

The ABB Society commends Joanne Wales-Smith for her long-term commitment to making a difference in the lives of her neighbors and the hundreds of children who have benefitted from her dedication.