



Doug Craven



Joanne Barge



Cindy Lunau

CIVIC ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

Nominees work quietly to shape better community

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
Special to *The Champion*

If there's one thing 1996 made clear, it's that Miltonians rally around their own. No matter how small or large needs might be, local residents are quick to offer a helping hand. Leading last year's community-wide support network were three groups now up for the Chamber of Commerce's Civic Organization of the Year Award. When Deidre Scholtz took ill with aplastic anemia and desperately needed a bone marrow transplant, a group of volunteers came out of nowhere to create a massive fundraising campaign to help the stricken youngster.

Spearheaded by Jo-Ann Barge, a co-worker and friend of Deidre's mother Liz, the group organized the biggest single-family bone marrow clinic ever in North America. From there, they called on the community to help raise over \$100,000 for testing. That was done in four months, without any previous fundraising experience or major corporate backing. "Their success and Deidre's recovery is a testament to community spirit and caring," the organization's nominator said. Ms Barge said she's still overwhelmed to think of the generosity displayed by the community. She added, "You basically have to pick up the phone book to show how many people helped out. It absolutely

• see **NOMINEES** on page 14

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