

Claire Rogus

My name is Valerie Abbey. I have 2 children that I try to keep involved in sports after school so they make healthy choices instead of getting into trouble with kids after school. I work full-time and am constantly driving around the Bay Area 7 days a week. I drive them to school, to work, to practice, to games. I ask for my Mom's help and she helps whenever she can. I try to take the time to check her car to make sure it runs well, but it is very hard to take care of 2 households and work full-time. I cannot do this alone so I ask my Mom to help me.

Her name is Claire Rogus. She works at Our Lady of Angeles as an Art teacher and teaches grades kindergarten through 8th grade. Besides driving herself to work, driving my children around town (to school, picking them up and etc.), she drives to purchase art supplies and haul them to her work, which keeps her very busy. She helps others. Once a month, my Mom drives Father Frank to his treatments on her off days and drives my nephew (who she lives with) to his pre-school and picks him up from pre-school. She is more of a taxi Mom than I am. The car she uses is in VERY bad shape. She has never been good with car maintenance since her husband kept up the vehicles. In fact, I don't think she even knows how to regularly check her car oil without assistance. I constantly worry if she will make it to her next destination or not. She inherited her car a few years ago from her late husband that passed away from cancer. She is a cancer survivor herself and needs this automotive to keep her active so she has no excuses that she cannot attend her many doctor appointments and remain cancer free.

She helps others and is always willing to lend a hand to others. She sings in the church choir every Sunday and attends prayer groups on a weekly basis, always hoping to have the strength to get through to the next week. She also drives my mother-in-law to appointments since my mother-in-law never learned how to drive and she has no one to take her to the places that she needs to go since my father-in-law passed away last year from cancer and he drove my mother-in-law everywhere.

I know that there are many people out there in the same boat but if you look at what an outstanding citizen she really is and all of the good she does for others, you would understand that she is the most deserving. She always talks about someday visiting my sister in L.A. and driving down to see her other grandchildren...this could help her dream come true. Please consider Claire Rogus for this nomination.