

# 2007 New Jersey State Jefferson Awards



## SALUTE YOUR 2007 AWARDS HONOREE, BARBARA SALAMY

NOMINATED BY GEORGE SALAMY



Barbara Salamy and one of the children in the Special Ed school in St. Kitts, around 1998



From left: George Arwady, Publisher of the Star-Ledger, George Salamy (accepting the award for his wife), and Sam Beard, co-founder of the Jefferson Awards

### Do you know someone who makes a difference in your community?

If you do, then nominate them for the prestigious Jefferson Award by visiting [www.nj.com/jeffersonawards](http://www.nj.com/jeffersonawards)

Jefferson Awards honor ordinary people who, through public service, do extraordinary things for other people, their community, their nation, or the environment.

Barbara Salamy volunteered at the ARC of Warren County to work with children. She was placed in Project First Step, the one group that worked with challenged children in need of therapy. She continued to work with these children, providing therapy, education and support for the parents and their families. In 1995, she founded "Optimum Chance" an organization dedicated to provide every child a chance to live a normal life. She then brought this process of early intervention and education to the Caribbean Islands of St. Kitts and Nevis. Over the last ten years, Barbara and her team of therapists (special educator, physical therapist and speech therapist) have traveled every year to treat over six hundred children with various challenges. In January 2005, Barbara was stricken with ovarian cancer and passed away on September 29, 2006. However, during her illness and cancer treatment, she continued to work to carry on her vision. Her Optimum Chance team will continue to travel to the islands to ensure Barbara's vision is completed.