

Marge Bredl
Nominated by Lory Kohls

Marge (Weisenbeck) Bredl was born with two passions in her life: To care for those in need and driving. Early in her work career she was a nursing assistant at both the old Wood County Hospital and Saint Joseph's. While she enjoyed caring for patients she wanted to use her driving skills.



In the fall of 1970 she became a bus driver. Known around the city of Marshfield as the "Red Headed Bus Driver," she devoted her life to transporting students safely and on time to school and other school functions through all kinds of weather and conditions.

Beginning at the old Jelco Bus Company as a morning and afternoon driver, she quickly moved to driving for extra events, sports functions, and summer school. She donated her time driving for Special Olympics events. I remember her transporting the Marshfield High School band to the City's centennial parade in 1972.

In 1976, Marge combined her gifts of compassion and driving together, and started driving the bus for Marshfield School District students with special needs. She had a gift for communicating with even non-verbal students, finding a way to help them relax on the bus. She was more than a bus driver. She communicated messages from parent to teacher about the student's behaviors and moods. She even sang songs to soothe anxious children, doing all of this while navigating the sometimes treacherous road conditions that Wisconsin brings.

Marge was always the first person to see the school children in the morning and the last one to bring them safely home. In 1990 and 2002, Marge was recognized by the Marshfield School Board Association for her dedication in getting her students safely to school on time.

In an October 26, 1992 article in the Marshfield News-Herald, Marge discussed her then 23-year bus driving career, saying she started driving to help ensure her own kids were taken care of on their way to and from school. It clearly became so much more. "I think I'm addicted to it. I enjoy the kids, parents and teachers" she said. At that time, she had only taken one sick day, knowing that there were people depending on her.

Marge continues to live in Marshfield and has been retired from her duties as a bus driver for several years. In fact, she doesn't even drive herself anymore. The roads of life are varied and unpredictable but looking back on the journey Marge has taken as a bus driver in the community of Marshfield, so many have benefited from having had her at the wheel for such a long and successful career.