

PAT REITER

COMMUNITY SERVICE



Pat Reiter was born at McKennan Hospital in March of 1954 and grew up in the northern part Sioux Falls. Reiter has 4 sisters and 3 brothers and she was the 3rd child in a family of 8 children. Reiter attended Cathedral Grade School then O'Gorman High School, graduating in 1972. Reiter's sister, Sue, is married to David Soukup, who graduated from SDSU in 1973. Reiter has four children, three girls and one boy from her previous marriage to Bill Christiansen. Two of her children, Melisa & Billy, own and operate Lawn & Snow Services, which helps to employ many Deaf

individuals.

Reiter started working with Communication Service for the Deaf in April 1982, on a temporary basis and became permanent in August of 1982. Reiter was one of the earliest staff members working in a wide variety of roles. Reiter became the main interpreter for Ben Soukup (CEO), which gave her an opportunity to meet many Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing and hearing individuals working on important issues affecting the Deaf community. Reiter traveled with Ben to various states in the US, involving arm-wrenching legislative issues, worked with Sprint, as well as many other businesses in an attempt to obtain funding to improve communication access for the Deaf. Reiter devoted much of her life and gave up family time in order to be an interpreter during such a crucial time for our Deaf community. When the Telecommunication Relay Service came into our deaf community, she was one of the first interpreters to provide relay services. Reiter was willing to drive to the office after business hours to meet with Deaf people to interpret using the phone and sign language. As times changed and technology improved, Video Relay Service came into our community, and again she was one of first interpreters to provide the service. Even today, she is still involved with the Deaf community as a part time interpreter.

"I am extremely proud to have had the opportunity that was provided to me by CSD and the Deaf Community as a whole, I thank you for teaching me your needs and allowing me to walk with you. Thank You!" ~ Pat Reiter

