

2017 Hall of Fame Honoree

James B. O'Hora Class of 1957



Mr. James B. O'Hora has worn many hats over his 50-year career, but he has always returned to his roots, and his beloved alma mater, Vestal Central High School. Looking at his resume, it's evident that Jim has only one speed, and that's "full speed ahead!" From seventh grade, through college and beyond, he has been a leader. Selected for the first Broome Leadership Institute, a program initiated by the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce, Jim garnered the "Star of Stars" award for demonstrating the best leadership qualities of that inaugural class with his volunteer activities. His leadership excellence has been recognized beyond our county borders, with a Volunteer Service Award from the Governor of New York State. He was also recognized by the New York State Assembly with a citation for Outstanding Human Service.

Professionally, James B. O'Hora was CEO of five different nonprofit organizations in three states over the course of 34 years. He began his career as a social worker for Albany's LaSalle School for Boys. After he started as clinical director for the Susquehanna Valley Home, he moved up to Executive Director in a matter of five years. He also served as Executive Director for St. Joseph's Home for Children in Dayton, Ohio, Director of the Miami Division of the Children's Home Society of Florida, CEO of Planned Parenthood of Broome & Chenango Counties, Inc. and Interim Executive Director of the United Way of Broome.

With an unlimited enthusiasm and boundless energy, Jim O'Hora has given back to his community just as tirelessly. Over the years he has served as chair of the Broome County Citizens Advisory Board, helped form and then chaired the Broome County United Way's Executive Committee, and served on the boards of the Broome County Red Cross, the Mental Health Association and the Ross Park Zoo. Closest to his heart, besides his family, is his alma mater, and Jim proudly serves as the president of the Vestal Central High School's 50-plus Club.