

## **Joe Switzer interview, Dancing for Dreams partner and coach**

1. **How would you describe a local Hero?**
  - Someone who can be the face of the community, someone who has community spirit and a willingness to serve the community in a positive manner.
2. **What is your connection with Dorothy Ricketts?**
  - I have known who Dorothy was for quite some time, most recently Dorothy and I were dance partners in the YMCA's Dancing For Dreams.
3. **What made you and Dorothy become partners?**
  - Dorothy was the celebrity and I was the coach, and the Dancing For Dreams coordinator matched us up.
4. **Why was Dancing for Dreams important for you?**
  - Dancing For Dreams is an important fund raising event for the YMCA and it brings a lot of people together in the community in support of a good cause.
5. **How much preparation did you have to put into Dancing for Dreams?**
  - We try to start as soon as possible...8 weeks or so, 1 to 2 hours a week. More if schedules permit.
6. **How many years have you done Dancing for Dreams?**
  - I have done Dancing For Dreams for 4 years now, the first year as the celebrity, which I won the mirror ball trophy that year, and then 3 years as a coach.
7. **Why is the Monmouth Community important to you?**
  - I was born and raised in this community, as were my parents. My grandfather owned and operated a shoe store for many years here.. It used to be hard to find someone that hadn't bought a pair of shoes from my grandfather.
8. **If you could describe Dorothy in one word what would it be and why?**
  - **Fun!** What little time I did spend with Dorothy dancing, she was always upbeat and she was having fun.
9. **If you could suggest an improvement to Monmouth what would it be and why?**
  - I think a big improvement would be if more businesses could locate in Monmouth. The economic health of this community is very important. We live in less than desirable times economically, and more business could make a positive impact here.