

## **SUSAN A. WHEELER BIOGRAPHY**

**Susan A. Wheeler founded The Star Group, Inc. in 1998 and serves as President/CEO of that organization.** She brings over 30 years of expertise in business operations, health care administration, human services and fiscal management. She has grown her career as a nurse case manager, trained in disability related issues, vocational counseling and employment-related services to a statewide business and as a government contractor. In light of her passion in regards to business ethics, advocacy for the disadvantaged and disabled, and her service to the community, Ms. Wheeler is a recognized leader in her field, and has formed positive and successful partnerships throughout her community and upstate New York, as well as with NYS government agencies and representatives.

**Ms. Wheeler presides as Chair-Elect of the board of directors of the Mental Health Association of New York State in Albany,** and has been a vocal advocate as the Chair of Small Businesses for Timothy's Law, contributing to the passage of the legislation, providing mental health parity coverage for millions of New Yorkers. She served as past President of the board of directors of the Mental Health Association of the Southern Tier, and currently retains the role as president of that agency's associated Foundation board of directors. Ms. Wheeler is also a member of the board of the Broome County Mental Health subcommittee. She has received numerous awards for her advocacy efforts to include Certificates of Merit from both the NYS Assembly and Senate as an employer recognized for disability awareness, the William and Ellen Burns Award for mental health advocacy, the MHANYS Volunteer of the Year Award, and Fast Track 50 as CEO of one of the top fastest growing businesses in central New York in 2008.

**Ms. Wheeler is a graduate of the Tompkins Cortland Community College nursing program.** She has obtained certifications from Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations in "Employment of Transitional Youth" along with "Assessment, Training, and Employment Strategies" as well as "Benefits and Work Incentives Planning and Assistance" in addition to Buffalo University Center for Rehabilitation Synergy in "Paths to Employment for Ex-Offenders". She is a certified ADA Trainer by the DBTAC Northeast ADA Center through Cornell University. She has studied American Sign Language and continues her education through Empire State College, Binghamton University, and Broome Community College in the study of Community and Human Services.