



**connect**



**create**



**contribute**  
Older New Yorkers' Day  
Tuesday 5.21.19  
Hart Lounge – The Egg  
Albany, NY





# Older New Yorkers' Day

The Hart Lounge @ The Egg  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY

“The smallest act of kindness is worth more  
than the grandest intention.”

—OSCAR WILDE

Thank you for attending!

**NYSOFA Staff**





STATE OF NEW YORK  
**EXECUTIVE CHAMBER**  
ALBANY 12224

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
GOVERNOR

May 21, 2019

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to send greetings to everyone gathered for the New York State Office for the Aging's Older New Yorkers' Day celebration.

Older adults are a cherished and special population from which we can all learn and improve ourselves. As we observe Older Americans Month, I want to commend all of the awardees who are being recognized for the contributions they have made to our communities and our fellow citizens.

This year's Older Americans Month theme, "Connect, Create, Contribute," gives us the opportunity to recognize the enormous impact made by older New Yorkers. Your ongoing advocacy, volunteer work, and civic engagement make our state a better place for all and help strengthen us as a family of New Yorkers.

At the end of the day, we are one New York and your shared acts and contributions truly exemplify the phrase "E Pluribus Unum," – "Out of Many, One." It is the lasting promise of the beliefs we inherited from our parents, and the enduring foundation for a bright future that we pass on to our children.

Warmest regards and best wishes for a memorable celebration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew M. Cuomo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrew" being the most prominent.

ANDREW M. CUOMO

**WE WORK FOR THE PEOPLE**  
PERFORMANCE ★ INTEGRITY ★ PRIDE



## Office for the Aging

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**GREG OLSEN**  
Acting Director

May 21, 2019

Dear Friends:

May is recognized in New York State and across the country as Older Americans Month. This important designation is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the enormous contributions older Americans have made to the country, their communities, and their families. The 2019 Older Americans Month theme “Connect, Create, Contribute” emphasizes the importance of social connections with friends and families, and that learning and engaging in activities is a lifelong endeavor. It also recognizes the time commitment, talent, and life experiences older adults contribute to benefit others.

Older adults are a growing and increasingly vital part of our country and our state. The contributions they make to our communities are varied, deeply rooted, and include influential roles in the economy, politics, and the arts, among others.

New York State is home to more than 4.3 million people over the age of 60 and 4.2 million between the ages of 45 and 59, ranking fourth in the nation; and it is anticipated that New York’s older population will grow to more than 5 million by the year 2030. Older adults should be valued and honored for their life achievements and recognized for their experience, knowledge, wisdom, and accomplishments.

Many older New Yorkers are active community members involved in volunteering, arts and culture, and civic engagement. Additionally, they support many local programs, services, and organizations that are important to their communities such as hospitals, nonprofits, boys & girls clubs, mentoring, transportation, home delivered meals, health insurance counseling and assistance, and quality of care oversight in skilled nursing facilities. In New York State, there are approximately 935,000 individuals over the age of 55 who contribute almost 495 million hours of service at an economic value of more than \$13.8 billion annually.

The State of New York recognizes the significant contributions of all older residents and we encourage and support the ongoing engagement of older adults in community life.

New York State celebrates this year’s awardees, who, through their contributions, remind us all that when we give of ourselves, we all thrive. We thank them for their selfless service, and today we pay tribute to them and the hundreds of thousands of other volunteers who contribute to our great state.

Sincerely,

Greg Olsen  
Acting Director

Chair  
Aging  
Legislative Commission on Rural  
Resources  
Committees  
Agriculture  
Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks  
and Recreation  
Elections  
Environmental Conservation  
Higher Education

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



RACHEL MAY  
SENATOR, 53<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT

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May 2019

Dear Friends,

As chair of the New York State Senate Committee on Aging, I am delighted to join in recognizing those individuals who do so much to enhance the quality of life for New Yorkers of all ages. **This annual observance of Older New Yorkers' Day underscores the** wealth of talent, energy and dedication that plays such an essential part in making our communities stronger and our state a better place to live.

The honorees we celebrate today come from all walks of life and realms of experience. They come from cities, villages and rural hamlets. But they share an important trait: a capacity to recognize the needs of their communities and willingness to step up time and again to fill those needs. They exemplify the highest levels of volunteerism and engaged citizenship, and their contributions are an inspiration to us all.

To our honorees: On behalf of the New York State Senate, I thank each one of you for your service and tireless dedication to improving the quality of life for your neighbors, your communities and all of New York State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel May".

Senator Rachel May  
53<sup>rd</sup> District  
Chair, Senate Committee on Aging



HARRY B. BRONSON  
Assemblymember  
138<sup>th</sup> District

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

CHAIR  
Committee on Aging  
  
COMMITTEES  
Economic Development, Job Creation,  
Commerce and Industry  
Education  
Labor  
Steering  
Transportation

May 2019

Dear Friends:

As Chair of the New York State Assembly's Committee on Aging, on behalf of the entire Assembly, I am pleased to welcome you to our beautiful capitol! Today, as we celebrate Older New Yorker's Day, we recognize our state's most distinguished citizens. After a lifetime of participating in the growth of our state, you have continued to inspire your communities through volunteerism throughout our state.

Older New Yorker's have a wealth of experience and expertise that can benefit and transform communities. Through your dedicated and selfless efforts, you have truly helped make our state better for all families. You should be proud of your contribution to protecting the quality of life, health and safety for yourself and your neighbors.

I am proud to join with you as we continue to work to secure resources for the various services and programs that serve older adults throughout New York State. With more people living longer and as the "baby boomer" generation ages, it is essential that we continue to meet the increasing demand of such programs, and ensure that all older New Yorkers receive needed services, both at home and in their communities.

Congratulations on being honored at the 2019 Older New Yorker's Day! Thank you again for all the work you do for our community and I look forward to a great partnership.

Sincerely,

Harry B. Bronson  
Member of Assembly



Our mission is to help older New Yorkers be as independent as possible for as long as possible through advocacy, development, and the delivery of person-centered, consumer-oriented, and cost-effective policies, programs, and services that support and empower older adults and their families, in partnership with the network of public and private organizations that serve them.

The following pages contain the 2019 Older New Yorkers' Day awardees for the counties we serve. We salute them for their contributions.

The following awardees were submitted by area agency on aging (AAA) directors as an expression of their gratitude for the service of their volunteers.

**NYSOFA thanks the AAA directors for providing us with such thoughtful submissions and allowing us to share them in this commemorative booklet.**



**AWARDEE:**

## **Lou Ismay** **Albany County**



Lou Ismay has always been passionate about engaging with his community and his environment. His vision encompassed all the concerns of the environment today: pollution, recycling, and climate change—before these issues were publicly talked about. As a professor, he taught students to take a proactive stance to their surroundings, both environmental and societal, which is reflected in the projects Lou’s students created. Lou’s students did not passively observe their surroundings, but went out armed with ideas and came back with an environmental awareness to share with others. Lou is a longstanding member and president of Interfaith Alliance, a multifaith organization dedicated to protecting the integrity of religion and democracy. He is a lifelong advocate for social justice, and as one of the oldest grassroots activists in the community, he facilitates dialog and mutual understanding and respect for religious differences. His dedication has enabled his community to live in a vibrant society.

Lou is a native New Yorker born in Bronxville, New York on February 25, 1925. Lou has lived in New York State his entire life except when he served in the United States Army from 1943-1946. After his service in the military, he graduated from Columbia College with a master’s degree in 1958. In 1970, he was selected to be the coordinator of the Environmental Forum at the State University of New York in Albany and he has resided in the Capital District area ever since.

Lou’s words of wisdom to young people are; “You have to work for justice or you will never know peace. Do something useful every day. Young people need to get involved and pay attention to a disintegrating world, literally and figuratively. They need to act for change so democracy can continue in the manner the forefounders had in mind.”

**AWARDEE:**

# Thomas Hanrahan

**Allegany County**



Thomas Hanrahan has been an invaluable member of the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program for the last six years. Participating in the TCE Program requires a considerable time commitment for approximately four months of the year. Tom is very well trained in specific issues such as Social Security, retirement, pensions, stocks, and dividends. He spends the month of January in training, and then February, March, and April traveling to the various tax site locations. Tom's specific duties include being a client facilitator and checker. The facilitator assists clients with filling out detailed tax questions to assist the preparer in completing an accurate return. As a checker, Tom reviews all the work of the volunteer preparers and addresses any concerns or errors. With Tom's expertise, the Allegany County Office for the Aging TCE Program provides an excellent free service to seniors. It is through the commitment of Tom and other volunteers that this valuable program can be offered. The Allegany County Office for Aging commends Tom for being a true asset to the program and to his community.

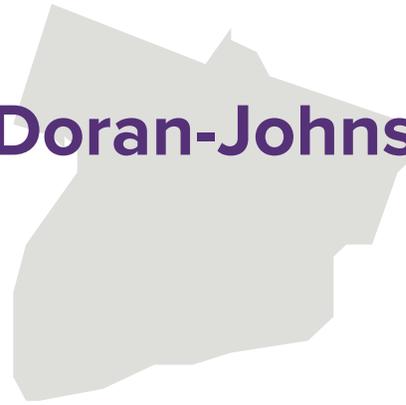
Thomas Hanrahan was born and raised in Lackawanna, New York. He served in the Army during the Korean War as a Staff Sergeant. He received his associate's degree from Bryant & Stratton in Buffalo, NY and earned his bachelor's degree from Tri-State College in Angola, Indiana. He was employed for 36 years by the Federal Government Defense Contract Audit Agency. During his employment he was based in Niagara Falls, NY; Washington, DC; Cornell, NY; and Buffalo, NY. Upon retiring in 1991, Tom moved to his current residence in Rushford, NY. Tom spent some of his winters in Florida, where he volunteered for the Office for the Aging Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program in Florida. In 2012 Tom came to the Allegany County Office for the Aging Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program in New York, where he continues to serve. Volunteering with the Office for the Aging is only one of the ways he serves his community. He is also active in the American Legion and the Rushford Conservation Club.

According to Tom, "Volunteering is a great thing for older people to keep active and prolong their lives." Tom believes staying active in your community has many benefits for both the individual and the community. At 86, Tom is an invaluable member of the Allegany County Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program.



**AWARDEE:**

## **Vivian R. Doran-Johnson** **Bronx County**



Vivian R. Doran-Johnson is an active and dedicated leader in her community. She volunteers for Grandparents Around the World, Sisters Uptown Book Store Club, and the Tenant Block & Neighborhood Council, in addition to maintaining her interests as an avid bowler. Vivian is a lector at her church and a member of the church parish council. She is also the Vice President of the Rosary Society of St. Francis of Assisi Church and Sacred Heart Church. Vivian is a member of Heights Senior Center on West Tremont Avenue, which she joined before retirement. Vivian is proud to be an active senior and to be able to share civic knowledge when the opportunity presents itself. In 2009, she received a formal written letter from Assemblywoman, Vanessa Gibson. Vivian has made a difference in her community by working for the Board of Elections as a poll worker and chairperson and being helpful to her fellow poll workers while doing her civic duty. Vivian carried petitions to obtain signatures for many candidates running for election in her community's districts. She shares her passion for democracy and voting with her community. Vivian is a remarkable woman who never complains and never allows grass to grow under her feet. She continues to live her best life each day.

Vivian is a native New Yorker who resides in the Bronx, New York. She has two sons and one daughter, one granddaughter, and two great grandchildren. Vivian graduated from the college of New Rochelle with a bachelor of arts in liberal arts. Vivian was employed in private industry for over 20 years, where she worked for New York Telephone Company and Manufacture Hanover Trust Bank. She later worked for the City of New York for 23 years with the Human Resources Administration Department of Social Services in the Food Stamps Department, now called SNAP, as an assistant center manager for the night site. Vivian is always thinking of others. Her work experience with the Human Resources Administration enabled her to share information with many who needed guidance and advice. Vivian is viewed as a matriarch of the Doran family, as she continues to be the glue in sustaining a close-knit family of eight siblings.

When asked her thoughts on volunteerism, Vivian shared: "Volunteering information keeps you alert. I like to be able to share knowledge with my peers as well as the younger generation. As a senior I feel energized in the ability to communicate."



**AWARDEE:**

## **Charlene Slocum**

**Cattaraugus County**

Charlene “Cheri” Slocum has been at the Franklinville nutrition site for many years. The site manager shares that Cheri and her late husband greeted her with open arms when she started as the site manager there more than 20 years ago. Over the last 20 years Cheri has seen many life changes. Her husband became ill and was no longer able to live at home. He went to stay at the Machias Pines for several years; however, these circumstances did not slow Cheri’s williness to volunteer. She continued volunteering at the site, delivering meals. When those tasks became too difficult, she became a regular kitchen volunteer. The site manager reports that Cheri is warm to everyone she serves, always takes the time listen, and is ready and willing to give a hug when needed. Cheri is also known for her mischievous sense of fun.

Cherie Slocum was born and raised in Buffalo. She and her husband moved to Lyndon in 1983, where they had four sons. After her husband passed, Cherie remarried and gained four stepdaughters. Cherie has a long history of volunteerism, starting with the Parent Teacher Association, where she helped produce plays and establish a library, to serving as an EMT through her local volunteer fire company, where she is currently the vice president.

When asked for her thoughts on volunteering, Cherie said that the reward is amazing: “The joy I get visiting people at the Pines Nursing Home is incredible. I don’t think it can be expressed in words.”

**AWARDEE:**

**Elaine Thompson**  
Cattaraugus County



Elaine Thompson is a beloved fixture at the Allegany Senior Wellness and Nutrition Site. She has been a volunteer for 21 years and knows all the ins and outs of the program. Her station manager says that she is her “number one volunteer.” Elaine comes to the site each and every day to help prepare meals and set up tables for the congregate dining. When meals are done, she then helps clean up. The folks who come to the site love seeing Elaine everyday and the joy she brings.

Elaine was born in Buffalo and moved to Cattaraugus, where she grew up with her family on her grandfather’s dairy farm. As a young adult she worked at a milk processing plant. She married Calvin Butler in 1945 and they had one son. They moved to Ellicottville, where her husband worked in a lumber mill. After her beloved husband passed, she met and married Maynard Thompson in 1999 and they moved to Allegany, where she currently resides. Elaine has six grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Elaine is humble and says “I don’t do anything special. Living alone, it’s good to get out of the house. I enjoy it and I’m among nice people”. Elaine reiterated that it’s important to get out and stay active.



**AWARDEE:**  
**Patti Bishop**  
**Cayuga County**

As soon as Patti Bishop retired, she began volunteering at the Finger Lakes Center for Living. She was there three days a week for five years visiting and assisting residents, which she enjoyed very much. At age 70, she moved into the Boyle Center Apartments, and that is where her volunteering really took off. Patti volunteers at the front desk at the Boyle Center three days a week, and works to make sure all of the other shifts are covered by volunteers. She donates time in the Boyle kitchen with the senior nutrition program and helps deliver meals to those who are not able to attend meals in the dining room. She assists in the organization and set-up of the monthly resident breakfasts, and helps with a multitude of other special events. She takes personal responsibility to make sure the program's supplies and equipment are properly cared for, providing significant help for the Boyle program coordinator. In addition, she always goes out of her way to help other residents at the Boyle Center however she can. Overall, this Retired Senior Volunteer Program volunteer has clocked more than 1,500 hours of service, with many more hours "off the record."

Patti was born and raised in Auburn, attending Seward, Fulton, Lincoln, and Central High schools. Patti took responsibility for helping to raise two foster children, Billy and Vickie, and continues to be very involved with them. She worked for more than 41 years at TRW Automotive, mostly the 2nd shift, until retiring at age 67. During her time at TRW, she served on the union board and on the health and safety committee. About halfway through her working career, she celebrated her 50th birthday by getting both her driver's license and GED.

Patti says she likes to keep busy. She knows that her fellow residents at Boyle appreciate and rely upon her. She recognizes how much they have all contributed to their community, and doesn't want them to feel forgotten, because we will all be there someday. She shares that there are times when her feet hurt, but she changes her shoes up to three times a day so she can keep going and serve her community. Despite sometimes feeling exhausted, she says she will keep on volunteering because it is so rewarding.



**AWARDEE:**  
**Ellis Ward**  
**Cayuga County**

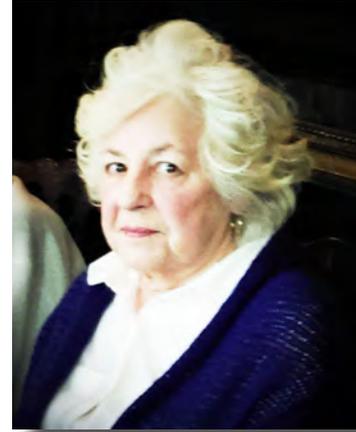
At age 57, Ellis Ward's eyesight was impaired by a hereditary disorder, so he retired from teaching and returned to his farming roots, raising Holsteins, growing crops, and collecting Oliver tractors on the beautiful east side of Owasco Lake. Ten years ago, his life took a sudden and dramatic turn due to Guillian-Barre syndrome, which led to a three month stay at Upstate Hospital, and then another three months in St. Anthony's Rehabilitation (formerly Mercy Rehab). Prior to his stay at Mercy, he says he did not even know that the rehab facility even existed in Auburn. He now volunteers at St. Anthony's, visiting with patients who have no family and helping them engage with the community. Ellis is also involved in the Science Alive program, which brings retired teachers into schools to provide science enrichment programming.

Ellis is a lifelong resident of Cayuga County. He and his wife Irene have three children: Mike, Ken, and Jennifer. Ellis is a graduate of Auburn Community College and Cortland State. He started out as an elementary teacher in Cato, and then took a job with his home school district of Moravia, eventually leading to teaching an innovative hands-on science program for grades 2-6. He worked as a dynamic and well-loved educator for 35 years.

Ellis says, "I have gained so many wonderful relationships because of my loss. I understand. I have been there, so I continue to ask, "What can I do for you?"

**AWARDEE:**

**Judy Hunt**  
**Chautauqua County**



Judy Hunt is a dedicated, caring person who is extremely active in her community. At the age of 77, Judy volunteers tirelessly for the Girl Scouts as a senior counsel member, as the board chair of the Young at Heart senior group, a board member of the Chautauqua County Parks Commission, Findley Lake Nature Center as treasurer, founder of a Findley Lake Lady's Group, and a founding member and vice chair of Community Connections at Findley Lake—an organization whose mission is to help people of all ages remain in their homes safely for as long as they choose. In addition to her many roles in the community, Judy also prepares and delivers meals for the local Meals on Wheels program to ensure all residents eat well and get the nutrition they need. Judy is also highly involved in the local library, where she reads to young children, serves as a library ambassador, and has collaborated on a library cookbook. Each of these organizations require an enormous amount of time and effort, both of which Judy gives selflessly.

Judy is a graduate of Lincoln High School in Ellwood City, PA and received her master's degree in elementary education from Edinboro University. She worked as a teacher and administrator in the Wattburg Area School District. In addition, she opened, taught, and served as an administrator at a private Jewish school in Postville, Iowa. Judy moved to New York State after the death of her husband, and as she relocated she brought a small herd of beef cattle to Sherman, NY in 2003. She moved to Findley Lake in 2008, where she fell in love with the community and decided to dedicate her time there. Judy has one daughter and lives with Louie the dog, three cats, fish and turtles!

As a loving member of her community, Judy is passionate about promoting the Findley Lake community and enabling her fellow residents to stay in their home and community for as long as possible by driving them to appointments and the grocery store, as well as getting their mail and prescriptions. She shares: "My volunteering has resulted in making many lasting friendships. It fills my need to be needed. Nobody can do everything, but I choose to do everything I can!"

**AWARDEE:**

## **Gregory Barulich** Chemung County



Gregory Barulich has been a volunteer with Chemung Volunteer Action Corps (formerly RSVP) since 2007. He volunteers his time as a courier for the Finger Lakes Chapter of the American Red Cross where he transports blood and blood products weekly to Rochester, NY in a timely and reliable manner. He is also a Circle of Friends volunteer for Family Services of Chemung, a lunchtime mentoring program that matches volunteers with at-risk children. He is most passionate about donating his time to several reading programs in the area that promote the value of literacy, appreciation of reading, and love of books to young children. Gregory donates his time to the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chemung Agriculture Literacy week and the summer literacy and reading program. He also spends several hours each week reading to first graders at Pine City Elementary School in Pine City, NY. Many of the reading problems faced by today's adolescents and adults typically could have been avoided or resolved if there were more volunteers like Gregory in schools. Through his volunteer service he plays a role in saving people's lives and helps to make the children in his community feel special and valued.

Gregory was born in Manhattan, NY and moved to NJ with his parents when he was two years old. While growing up, he enjoyed reading and playing golf. Gregory describes himself as a used bookstore hound and self-proclaimed nerd, complete with slide rule and pocket protector. Gregory was employed by Corning Inc. as a senior project engineer-distinguished associate for 38 years. He received an associate's degree in electronics, and a bachelors' degree in math and physics. He is also a veteran of the United States Army, serving during the Vietnam War. He has been married to his wife Christine for 31 years and they live in Pine City. They have four children and six grandchildren.

Gregory works with more than 150 school-aged children each year. He states that "If I can help just one kid during the school year then I feel I have made a difference." Gregory encourages all retirees to give just one hour of your time—all the hugs you receive are worth it.



**AWARDEE:**

## **Joe Caparulo, Jr.** **Chemung County**

Joe Caparulo has donated countless hours to serving his community as both a volunteer and as a board member of various community organizations. His volunteerism has resulted in increased opportunities in the areas of education, literacy, careers, housing, arts and culture, and support agencies for thousands of Elmirans. Joe has made significant impacts on his community through programs such as the Bright Red Bookshelf (Family Reading Partnership of Chemung Valley) which provides free books to non-served children; the Community Room Gallery (Community Arts of Elmira), installing exhibitions with free gallery hours for events such as National Youth Art Month that highlights student artwork; the Friends of the Chemung County Library District Annual Book Sale, which is dedicated to funding free programs for five Chemung County Libraries and the Bookmobile; Office of Social Ministry and Gateways; and Development of Neighborhood Associations.

Joe has served in leadership positions for Catholic Charities of Chemung and Schuyler counties, the Human Relations Commission, Elmira Downtown development, Family Reading Partnership of Chemung Valley, Community Arts of Elmira, and the Friends of the Chemung County Library District. In 2012, Joe won the Jefferson Award for Social Issues and was chosen as an Elmira delegate to the National Jefferson Awards in Washington, DC. In 2014, he won the Way Award from the Human Relations Committee.

Joe is a lifetime resident of Elmira, NY. He is the former owner and proprietor of Cappy's gift store. Joe has three children, two stepchildren, and three grandchildren. Joe has addressed social issues through volunteerism and advocated for social justice through peaceful activism. Joe has also expressed his voice for social change and community building through the arts as a poet and musician playing the piano and drums, through news/op-eds, and his extensive community service. Not only was Joe a successful businessman, but he fostered community in all of his endeavors. He has always helped someone out by giving them a dollar for a loaf of bread, money for gas, a gift certificate for a community fundraiser, or just taking the time to listen. He has donated decades of time, creativity, wisdom, and labor to achieve a connected, contemplative, creative community.



**AWARDEE:**

## **Laurie Hotaling** **Chenango County**



Laurie Hotaling first became a very active member of her community as a teenager, when she began volunteering after graduating from high school. She has continued volunteering in one form or another since then. Laurie started out volunteering for the activity department at Chase Memorial Nursing Home in New Berlin, NY, then became part of the housekeeping staff. She has been volunteering with the Area Agency on Aging since 2009, helping at the New Berlin, NY Senior Center. She currently volunteers daily at the Norwich, NY senior center, where she helps transport participants to and from the senior center, calls BINGO, hosts trivia, and helps with setting tables and clean up. On Saturday mornings Laurie volunteers at St. Theresa's in New Berlin by calling people who are no longer able to attend church but wish to stay involved in the church community, providing them with a reassuring voice. In 2010, Laurie became an Ombudsman for the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program and continues to take great pride in helping others. Since 2011, she has been part of the Veteran's Day Program at the Railroad Museum in New Berlin, where she honors all veterans, including her father. Laurie loves to sing and is a member of the Community Singers, a group that performs four concerts a year.

Laurie was born in New Berlin, NY and has been a lifelong resident of Chenango County. She helped take care of her mother and special needs brother and worked as a respite aide. Due to her deteriorating health, Laurie had to retire, but put all of her efforts into volunteering and helping others in the community. Despite her struggles, Laurie keeps a positive attitude and is thankful every day for the blessings in her life and for her continued ability to walk—she was born with a dislocated hip and has had numerous corrective surgeries. In 2000, Laurie was told that she would no longer be able to walk, yet she continues to prove her doctors wrong and pushes on to do all that she can. She says, "As long as I am able, I will continue to be a positive influence in my community."

## AWARDEE:

# Judy Wright

## Chenango County



Judy Wright began volunteering as a teenager at the YMCA after a kind stranger created a scholarship so Judy and her siblings had a place to go after school. At the YMCA she became very involved in swimming and found mentors. At this point she realized that to repay the kindness shown to her she could volunteer. Judy was the head of many leadership programs and is passionate about developing leadership in the residents in Chenango County—both in the youth and adult populations. As a volunteer overseer at Hospice she decided to start volunteering herself to better understand what her volunteers experienced. Working there was a challenge, seeing what older adults went through was sobering. However, it was also very rewarding to be involved and add some joy and kindness into the lives of the older adults every day. She is very passionate about working with young people, keeping them focused on their talents and developing their professional skills. Every experience in Judy’s life has led to the next volunteer opportunity. Judy is still involved in the local municipal zoning board and traffic commission, and enjoys her work with CWS, working with people with special needs and disabilities.

Judy is a native of Norwich, NY and has held various positions with many local companies, including the Chenango Memorial Hospital, Bennett Ireland, Chenango Savings & Loan and Norwich Eaton Pharmaceuticals. Judy has been actively involved in service and volunteering for more than 50 years. She has three sons and 10 grandchildren.

When asked her thoughts about volunteering and making a difference, Judy says, “I think if more people took the time to volunteer the world would be better—and making a difference is what it is all about. It’s being able to use the efforts of the organization and volunteers to make a difference in the world, especially in your communities. The return you get from serving others is much greater than what you give.”

## AWARDEE:

# Calvin Castine

## Clinton County



It is a challenge to pinpoint just one way Calvin Castine has made a difference in his community. Calvin has tirelessly worked in the many organizations that he has been a part of. His dedication to the Home Town Cable Network, an organization that video records public meetings, events, sports, recreational events and historical items is unparalleled. He began video recording in 1983 as a public service for Woodmen Chapter 462, and then founded Home Town Cable in 1986. This service to the local communities can include recording over 20,000 pieces of local history that are available for the residents of the Northern Tier to enjoy and remember times gone by. He has been involved in interviewing local historians, and other interviews on a multitude of topics. He has recorded disasters—especially the flood of 1996 and the ice storm of 1998. He recorded church events, parades, fire department functions, Samuel de Champlain Stage concerts, and open houses. Whether it's at the library or a book signing, Calvin is there. Calvin is especially proud that he has recorded every send-off for the North Country Honor Flight program. These recordings are invaluable in preserving local history, and Calvin's community believes he wears the heart of the North Country on his sleeve.

In addition to his work with Home Town Cable, Calvin has served as the chairman for the Citizens United for Action, served on the Town of Champlain Narcotics Guidance Council, as vice chairman of Northern Tier Labor Day Muscular Dystrophy Association Telethon, the vice president of the nonprofit Northern Tier Senior Housing Corp, the chairman of the "Sister Joe Fund" to help raise funds to enable the return of a former nun to her home, and as secretary and president of both the Northern Soccer League and the Northern Basketball League, and as officer of Lake Champlain Slow Pitch League.

Calvin was born at the Champlain Valley Hospital in Plattsburgh on April 12, 1947 and resides on the family homestead with his wife Judy, whom he married more than 43 years ago. He has lived in the North Country all of his life. Calvin is a former employee of Sheridan Iron Works and worked at the Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society as a field representative. He worked as a correspondent for the local North Countryman newspaper and was a realtor sales associate for Border Realty. He and Judy are proud of their four children, all of whom reside in Clinton County. They have nine grandchildren.

Calvin's words of wisdom to everyone: "Stay active—it will keep you young."



**AWARDEE:**

## **Janet McFetridge** **Clinton County**



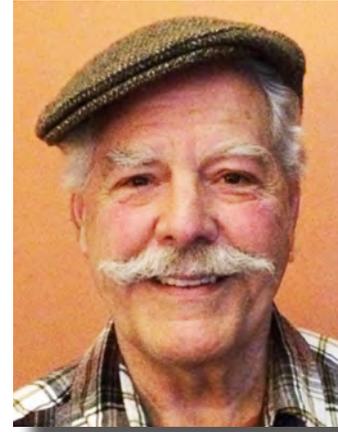
Janet McFetridge ascribes to the philosophy that each of us has talents and gifts to offer as a way to better our communities. Janet's role in purchasing and establishing the Champlain Meeting House as a community center has allowed people to come together to socialize free of charge, to learn and participate with activities such as knitting, sewing, music, dance, and presentations. Janet also routinely partakes in volunteer efforts focusing on food, housing, and clothing needs throughout the North Country, volunteering for organizations such as Humanitarian Aid to Refugees, the Champlain Valley Habitat for Humanity, North Country Youth Hockey, the NCCS Key Club, and Champlain Community Connections. Quoting Winston Churchill, Janet believes that "you make a life by what you give" and her volunteer efforts reflect that.

Janet was born and raised in Oregon and attended DEUG, Universite of Poitiers in France. She received her bachelor's degree in French from Oregon State University and her master's degree in French Education from University of Oregon. Janet worked as a French teacher in Corvallis, Oregon from 1974-1978 and then transitioned to an instructor of listening skills and French language at Huron College, South Dakota from 1978-1980. Janet went on to become the assistant director of the Educational Opportunity Program at SUNY Plattsburgh from 1980-1984 and also worked as an adjunct instructor in French at SUNY Plattsburgh and Clinton Community College from 1980-1991. She then worked as a French teacher at NCCS from 1984-2013. She has three children and two grandchildren.

Janet encourages everyone to get involved in their communities in any way they can. "Anyone and everyone has the capacity to help others. Through small deeds, we can each make meaningful contributions to our fellow citizens and our neighbors."

**AWARDEE:**

## **Richard Moran** **Columbia County**



Richard Moran has been volunteering in and around the Stuyvesant area for almost a dozen years. He has been extensively involved in rehabilitating the historic Stuyvesant Railroad Station. He “makes ready” the Stuyvesant Town Hall for the monthly Stuyvesant/ Stockport Senior Club meetings. Richard can often be seen working around the town hall assisting with various tasks. For the past eight years, he has delivered for the Meals on Wheels program. He serves as one of Stuyvesant’s reps on the Office for the Aging’s Senior Advisory Council, where he has been actively involved in keeping the town’s seniors updated on various senior programs, services, and activities. Richard has been actively involved with Habitat for Humanity, serving on the board of directors, working in their habitat store, and constructing accessible ramps. To quote the Stuyvesant town supervisor: “It is volunteers like Richard who make Columbia County a great place to live and work.”

Richard says he got his start when he moved to Stuyvesant. He didn’t know a soul, but he loved the town. He inquired about the historic railroad station in town and became involved in a group of people who were restoring the train station. From there, he was introduced to Habitat for Humanity, where he enjoys any task where he can swing a hammer. He says “I was a construction manager for the NYS Office of General Services, but I was only supervising construction. You know, you think you know a lot, until you actually go out and do it!” Richard says one of the best things about working on a project with a lot of volunteers is that everyone WANTS to be there—so they’re almost all very happy people. He has really enjoyed meeting all the new people that volunteerism has brought into his orbit. He also said that his time with Meals on Wheels is one of the most high impact ways that he spends his time, sharing that for some of the people on his route, the Meals on Wheels driver is the only person they will see that day—or even that week. He says, “Meals on Wheels is a lifeline for these people. We’re there five days a week.”

Richard is a resident of Stuyvesant, New York. He has made his home there for the past 11 years, having moved from southern Saratoga County. He is a graduate of Broome Tech College. Richard is retired, having worked 40 years in the construction field. He has made many friends in his community, as is evidenced by the number of people who came forth to nominate him.



**AWARDEE:**  
**Marcia Race**  
**Columbia County**

Marcia Race has been extensively involved in activities at her church for several years. As a lector/eucharistic minister, she distributes communion to the residents at the Whittier Nursing Home. She also distributes communion to, and visits with, homebound seniors. For the past eight years, Marcia has volunteered at her church's food pantry and helps with church's annual Red Cross Blood Drive. Marcia is an asset to her community. She does lots of little things for her fellow neighbors that most people wouldn't even notice, e.g., picking up newspapers and putting them near neighbors' doors and retrieving trash cans after garbage pick up and returning them to neighbors' homes. She provided comfort to a new neighbor who was having a difficult time after the passing of her husband. Marcia is dedicated to her church, her friends, and her community.

For the past 20 years, Marcia and her husband have resided at the Community at Bells Pond located in the town of Livingston, New York. She was born and raised in Columbia County, and has been a county resident since. Shortly after graduating from high school, Marcia began a career in the banking business, where she worked for 35 years. She held various positions throughout her career, and was the assistant to the president when she retired in 1999.

Marcia, who was quite surprised by her award, simply stated that she was just being "nice" to people.

**AWARDEE:**  
**Ron Bailer**  
**Cortland County**



Ron Bailer’s desire to volunteer comes from his heart and soul. Ron first started volunteering with the American Cancer Society, driving patients to chemotherapy and radiation treatments as part of the Road to Recovery Program. He also volunteers for the Disabled American Veterans, providing rides for veterans who need assistance with transportation to the VA hospital or clinic. Ron does not simply provide a ride, he is also a listening ear and voice of encouragement. Ron serves on the Older Americans Act Advisory Board for the Cortland County Area Agency on Aging. He is always willing to provide assistance during agency events and community engagement forums and is a strong advocate and voice for older adults in Cortland County. Ron also serves as a volunteer through the agency’s Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and volunteers wherever needed. Ron recently assumed another role and volunteers one afternoon a week at the Living History Center in Cortland.

Ron was born in the Syracuse, New York area and moved to Cortland, New York in 1970. He has three grown children who all reside in New York State. Ron feels blessed that does not have to travel out of state to visit his children, seven grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Ron worked as a sales and service representative for the agriculture sector. This work put Ron in touch with many people on a regular basis as he traveled throughout New York State. Ron is very active in his church and volunteers his time on the church council, doing custodial responsibilities, and building ramps for individuals with functional impairments as one of the church’s mission projects.

Ron quotes actor Gary Sinise from a recent issue of Guideposts magazine: “Each person is on this planet for a purpose, and the purpose is to care for other people and help this world become a better place through service to others.”

**AWARDEE:**  
**Richard Stock**  
**Cortland County**



Richard Stock became actively involved in serving the City and County of Cortland in the early 2000's when he became a board member of the East End Community Center. Richard has a strong sense of community and steps up to lead no matter what it takes. Richard currently serves as president of the Cortland Community Group, an organization tasked with running the Cortland Community Center. Richard was a key player in finding the location for the center, and because of his effective leadership, like minded residents come together as an outreach group for Cortland. Richard serves on the Area Agency on Aging RSVP Advisory Council, instructs an AARP driver safety course, and serves as a commissioner of the City of Cortland's Historical Commission. Additionally, he has donated time as a peer leader for A Matter of Balance, at the Memory Café, and with Positively Cortland.

Richard and his wife Linda live in Cortland, New York, where Richard has served as a volunteer in many capacities for the past 26 years. In January 2019, Richard was appointed to serve as Cortland County Legislator for Legislative District 6. When he is not volunteering, he can be found touring around town with small walking groups. These groups brainstorm ideas on how to develop vacant properties so that the Cortland community thrives and will continue to be an attractive place to live and raise a family. Richard was asked to be a leader in the "Positively Cortland" group that focused on improving the image of the City of Cortland. He is a good communicator who motivates others and never expects to receive credit for his accomplishments. A veteran of the Army and Navy reserve, Richard has three sons, one daughter, and four grandchildren.

Richard's advice on getting involved in your community is to "Check areas where volunteers are needed such as senior centers, nursing homes, Area Agencies on Aging, schools, and hospitals. Follow up with what you enjoy and feel will work for your abilities and your time."



**AWARDEE:**

## **Alfretta Doig** Delaware County



Alfretta Doig has dedicated much of her life to volunteering. Getting involved was natural for her. She explains, “I started volunteering because it was in my blood. It goes back many generations with my parents and grandparents, as they were actively involved within their community as volunteers. They were good examples for volunteering and I’ve tried to carry on their legacy.” Alfretta serves her community as a volunteer for the Fireman’s Auxillary, the Colchester Senior Citizens Club, the Colchester Food Bank, as well as a volunteer transport for the local aging population. The greatest reward through her volunteer experience is making the seniors in her community happy and grateful for the care and services received. “When they are happy, that makes me happy and brings joy to my heart.”

Alfretta is a graduate of the Downsville Central School in the town of Colchester where she has lived for over 50 years. She married the Downsville Fire Chief, Paul Doig, and they were together for 44 years. She was very active in both her children and stepchildren’s lives when they were growing up, attending their many sports activities and serving as a Brownies and Girl Scout leader. Alfretta was also an avid bowler and a member of the Ladies Bowling League for 50 years. She volunteers taking seniors within her community shopping and to medical appointments as well as organizes bus trips for older New Yorkers through the Colchester Senior Citizens Club. In her spare time Alfretta enjoys working in her many beautiful flower beds, going on cruises, and spending time with family and friends.

Alfretta’s words of wisdom to those who are considering volunteering: “You will find volunteering rewarding; it keeps you young and connected to your community.” Alfretta also advises: “Don’t just sit in your house—come out and get involved! Staying active will keep you happy and healthy.”

**AWARDEE:**

**John Drinan**  
**Delaware County**



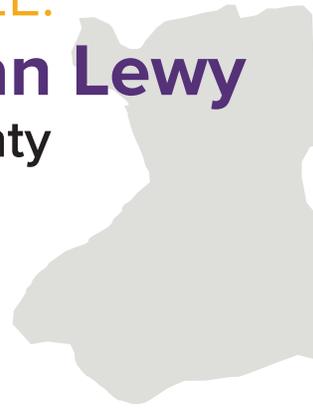
John Drinan has made a difference in his community through civic engagement by providing guidance and support to younger people, learning new skills and how to be a team player within his community, assisting seniors, those with disabilities and families in need of information and guidance of the many different programs offered in Delaware County. He has donated his time to the Delaware County Office for the Aging, as an AARP tax aide counselor, as a cub scouts leader and youth soccer coach, with the First United Methodist Church and the American Legion.

In 1969 John enlisted into the US Navy and made a career of the Navy for 25 years where he eventually was promoted as a Commissioned Naval Officer. Upon discharge from the Navy John worked as a Defense Contractor, Retail Training Specialist and a Caseworker for Delaware County Social Services in the Family and Children's Division. In 1979, he met his beautiful wife, Joanne, while stationed in Philadelphia, PA, with the US Navy. This was the beginning of a wonderful relationship that has lasted for 38 years and still going strong. In 2008 John and his wife decided they wanted to relocate and be closer to family. After much searching and looking at several homes they fell in love with Delaware County and purchased a home in the hamlet of Treadwell. John and Joanne have three children and seven grandchildren.



**AWARDEE:**

## **Stephan Lewy** **Erie County**

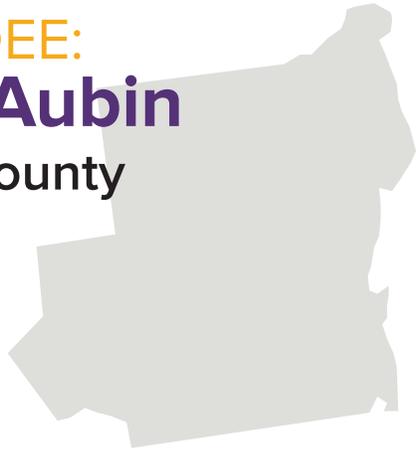


In the US Army, Stephan Lewy was trained to interrogate Nazis and map out enemy positions. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge and helped liberate the concentration camp in Buchenwald. He was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service as well as the French Legion of Honor. Later in life after Stephan retired he decided he wanted to share his story, and now he speaks at events all across Erie County. This includes visiting public schools to speak to children on the consequences of hatred. As he puts it, “No one is born to hate.” He has taught students to not discriminate against others, for any reason, and to never gang up on people who are different from you. He also volunteers as a speaker for Erie County Senior Service’s University Express Program. When asked why he willingly brings back the horrific memories, especially since he still suffers from tragic flashbacks, his response is, “First, my generation is getting older—there are fewer and fewer survivors to tell their stories. Second, our stories show what can happen if people do not act. Perhaps if enough people hear my story, history will not repeat itself. I only hope that the world has learned a lesson.” Stephan Lewy’s book can be found on the Amazon & Barnes and Noble websites. The book title is “A Sojourn into Freedom,” by Lillian Herzberg. He also has his own exhibit at the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo.

Stephan Lewy was born in Berlin, Germany in 1925, of Jewish decent. His life story as a holocaust survivor is nothing short of extraordinary. From growing up in a war-torn country to living in an orphanage where he lived through Kristallnacht (the night of the broken glass) hiding in the orphanage’s synagogue, he ultimately secured refuge in France and then came to the United States, where he was drafted into the United States Army. As a US soldier, he returned to Germany and his division was the first to arrive at the concentration camp in Buchenwald, Germany. After his discharge from the Army, he returned to his job as an office boy at a mining company in Boston. Using the GI bill, he attended night school and finished three years of high school in 17 months. He then went on and earned his college degree at Northeastern University the hard way (six years of night school). He later took the CPA exam, and for six years worked as a public accountant. After this, he accepted a position with Sheraton Hotels, which he held for 11 years until he joined Dunfey Hotels (now Omni) in New Hampshire, where he worked for 22 years. He retired in 1991 at the age of 66. Stephan married Frances Silver in 1949 and they have two children, Arthur and Ellen. He currently resides in the Buffalo area.

Stephan believes that “It’s important to make a difference and change the world.”

**AWARDEE:**  
**Joan Aubin**  
**Essex County**



Joan Aubin has volunteered for the past eight years with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), where she helps transport fellow neighbors and friends to and from doctor appointments, goes grocery shopping for them when needed, and stops by for a friendly visit almost daily throughout the week. Joan also volunteers at the Willsboro Congregational Church. She helps set up for events and dinners, and calls the bingo numbers for the participants. She also serves as the treasurer of the church. Joan coordinates four takeout dinners each year, for which she bakes pies. Her favorite kind of pie to bake is her famous lemon meringue, from scratch.

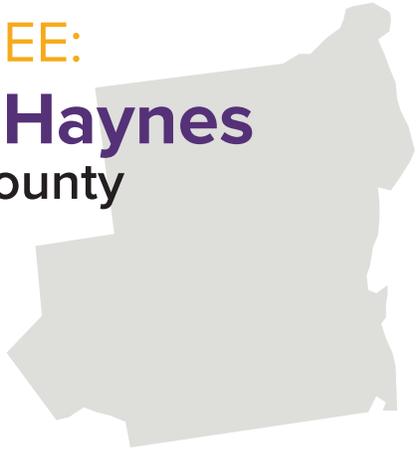
Joan moved back to Willsboro in 2010 and started attending the nutrition program. She enjoys engaging with people and volunteering to help others. She currently resides in Lakewood senior housing, where she can be found calling bingo and playing dominos. Her goal when she moved there was to get people out of their rooms and be engaged. When she's not volunteering she enjoys puzzles, knitting and crocheting, and playing card sudoku.

Joan has resided in Essex County for most of her life. She graduated from Willsboro Central before moving to Elizabethtown. There Joan worked for the Grand Union for 28 years. She then moved to Massachusetts and worked as a teacher's assistant for four years. Joan returned to Willsboro in 2010 and soon after decided to begin volunteering. She has two daughters, one residing in Massachusetts and another in Willsboro. Joan also has five grandchildren, many step grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. Her grandson William is in the process of becoming a Navy Seal. Joan also serves as the treasurer for the Willsboro Congressional Church.

Joan says she loves to volunteer as it gives her something to do and keeps her occupied. She loves helping those in need and is happy to be there for them. The Essex County RSVP staff shares that "Joan is a huge help and we are so grateful for what she does."

**AWARDEE:**

## **Lloyd Haynes** Essex County



Lloyd Haynes has been a volunteer driver through RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) for the Essex County Office for the Aging, since September 2017. He transports clients ages 60 and over who need transportation to medical appointments. According to the program manager, Lloyd has been a tremendous help to his community. Before Lloyd began volunteering, there were no volunteers for the transportation program in the Schroon Lake region. The program struggled to find transportation for the clients who live in that area, as the closest driver was 30 miles away. Lloyd is always willing to take clients wherever they need to go, whether it is one mile down the road, or an hour away. The program's clients say that Lloyd is a wonderful man who drops everything to help in any way that he can. Just recently, they had a client who was taken to the hospital by ambulance, about an hour away. The client was left with no transportation home and had no way to contact anyone. Lloyd was in the area of the hospital for a personal appointment, and upon learning of the man's predicament, decided to wait at the hospital for 4+ hours so this gentleman would be able to safely return home. Lloyd was prepared to wait all day until the client was able to be released. The program reports that they are very grateful to have a man like Lloyd who dedicates his time to helping other individuals in his community.

Lloyd resides in North Hudson with his wife Hannah (Petey). He is a native New Yorker and lived in Essex and Schroon Lake before settling in North Hudson 14 years ago. They have three children: two daughters (Anna and Jennifer) and one son (Benjamin). They also have five grandchildren: two boys and three girls. Lloyd is a veteran of 30 years; he served in the US Army as well as the National Guard for New York and Vermont. Lloyd drove trucks while in the service. He was also a correctional officer for 25 years. His places of employment include Sing Sing, Great Meadow, and Moriah Shock correctional facilities.

Lloyd loves to volunteer, as it helps keep him busy—there are times where he is on the road many days out of the week. Lloyd encourages everyone to volunteer and says that the rewards are endless.



**AWARDEE:**  
**Robin Martin**  
**Franklin County**

Robin Martin is a changemaker in her community of Malone, New York, in Franklin County. In 2018, she volunteered over 190 hours of her time to Hospice of the North Country. These hours were instrumental in fundraising and office support, and Robin has become a welcome addition to the office. She has continued to share her skills in finance, and is instrumental in donor management and fundraising. She is also frequently found volunteering at her local church, and helping to distribute food at the local food pantry. Robin does all of these things with a heartfelt smile and a true desire to continue to give back to her community. Franklin County is a better place because of volunteers like Robin.

Robin spent her career in finance at Franklin County public health nursing services. She is a long time resident of Franklin County and is a committed and dedicated member of the community. She is very close to her Aunt Jane, and they volunteer their time in tandem. Robin is a vibrant volunteer, always providing a smile and a helping hand when needed. She provides input and direction as a member of the Franklin County Office for the Aging Advisory Council, and acts as the eyes and ears for older residents.

Robin considers her volunteerism a way to give back to her community, and to spend time with her aunt. Staff at Hospice of the North Country all state that Robin always has a smile and a kind word for staff, patients, and family. She is instrumental in fundraising activities and is at every Hospice event providing assistance in any area she is asked. She can also be found at the food pantry, providing a helping hand and a kind word to individuals accessing the center. Robin truly has a heart of gold, and is always willing to lend a helping hand, regardless of the task asked of her. Franklin County is incredibly fortunate to have Robin as a volunteer. Robin says that she has a passion for helping people, and recommends volunteering to everyone as a way to have value and nurture relationships in the community.

**AWARDEE:**

## **Jane Smutz** **Franklin County**



Jane Smutz is an dedicated volunteer who cares deeply about making a positive impact in Franklin County. She is instrumental in fundraising and office support at hospice of the North Country. She also provides input on senior housing issues in her role on the Franklin County Office for the Aging Advisory Council. She is frequently found volunteering in the faith-based community of Franklin County, as well. Jane is always more than willing to do anything that is asked of her, and the staff where she volunteers all indicate that the office is a better place because of Jane's positive outlook and demeanor. Jane is known as a fun-loving, energetic, lovable volunteer who has been a positive addition to the agencies she works with. She is continually available for any need that arises at the Office for the Aging, Hospice of the North Country, and the local food pantry. She volunteers with dedication and empathy and makes Franklin County a better place to live.

Jane is a lifelong resident of Franklin County, where she owned and operated a small business with her husband. Jane then transitioned to her role in a local law firm as a legal secretary until her retirement. Jane began her volunteerism based on her desire to give back, especially in her role with Hospice of the North Country, as her husband John passed away on Hospice services. Jane is always smiling and has a kind word for everyone she meets. She is extremely close to her niece Robin, and they spend their time volunteering with one another as a way to stay connected and engaged in the community.

Jane believes that volunteering is something that can keep older individuals active and engaged in the community. She says "We find volunteering to be very rewarding. My niece Robin and I volunteer together at Hospice of the North Country and other places in the community. We share a passion for helping people. I enjoy the bond that we have, and volunteering allows us to nurture our close relationship. Volunteering is so rewarding, and it makes you feel so good to help others."

**AWARDEE:**

## **Gary Locatelli**

**Fulton County**



Gary Locatelli is beloved in his community for many reasons. After 30 years as a classic rock radio personality, also known as “Uncle Vito”, Gary retired in 2015 from Albany station WPYX-FM. These days, Gary is bringing a contemporary vibe to the Johnstown Senior Center and the Senior Club, in Fulton County. His goal is to show aging in a positive light, which is reflected in the motto on his very active Facebook page: “Always do something for someone else today.” In addition to numerous community events, Gary has also donated time to Honor Flight, an ongoing event that brings veterans of WWII to visit the WWII Memorial in Washington, DC.

Gary is a lifelong resident of Fulton County. He and his parents and siblings lived in a tight knit neighborhood and neighbors were treated like family. After high school and community college, Gary began work in the radio media field and was a radio personality for over 30 years—the radio station was voted top station in the country. He still works in local television and local radio, and he assists the Johnstown Senior Center and Senior Club with radio spots and marketing. Gary and his wife Claudia have two daughters and three grandchildren, and he spends as much time with them as he can. He believes that by keeping family close like his parents did, he is helping to teach his grandchildren the value of family and cooperation. He and Claudia love to be involved in the senior center and they enjoy traveling and maintaining their lovely home in a quaint neighborhood in Johnstown.

When Gary was asked his advice about volunteering, he said “Please, just do it! You will get so much more from helping others than you realize. They will appreciate it and you will all feel good!”



**AWARDEE:**

## **Robert Hoagland** **Greene County**

Robert “Bobby” Hoagland’s commitment to his community has been immeasurable. Bobby is a part of both the Tannersville Rescue Squad and the Tannersville Fire Department. He has been an active member for over 58 years, and the captain for nearly as many. He handles injuries (and worse) in a unique way. Bob’s gentle and caring manner gives patients a sense of security in being able to feel his knowledge and expertise. As a lifetime fire and rescue volunteer he has responded to endless needs, both day and night: fires, automobile accidents, injuries, falls, and even deaths, at Kaaterskill and Platte Clove Falls, ice climbing accidents in the dark, in freezing conditions almost too difficult to bear. He has hiked the mountains in search for lost hikers, or even airplane crashes. Bobby does all this with a willing heart and never a complaint. Bobby has dedicated his life to helping people, in and out of his community. Though he has no family on the mountaintop, his community is a large part of his family. He is respected and loved by all who know him.

Robert Hoagland was born in Lexington, NY, the youngest of five children. Like most families living on the mountain back in the 1930s, life was tough and money was scarce. Bob graduated high school in 1955 and wanted to pursue a career in the military, but was unable to serve due to a childhood medical condition. His work career included a variety of hardworking, manual jobs. After high school, Bobby worked for years as an electrician. He later worked as a carpenter and laborer at the New York Police Camp in Platte Clove, followed by more than 20 years working as a laborer at a 130-year old private community in Elka Park. Bob has one child, three grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

**AWARDEE:**

# Margaret Snyder

Greene County



Every aspect of Margaret “Peggy” Snyder’s life is centered around community service and volunteerism. She currently serves as president of the Greene County Blue Star Mothers, has volunteered her time for Toys for Tots, Uncle Shawn’s Hugs, collects items and packs boxes for troops deployed, and is a member of the Cocksackie Hose 3 Ladies Auxiliary. Peggy also enjoys visiting older veterans in local nursing homes, and helping to serve meals at the local Adaptive Sports Foundation’s winter program for Wounded Warriors. She enjoys sewing and has made numerous blankets and pillows for our military personnel, both active duty and veterans. Peggy has often engaged with school groups about her pride in being a military mom, and she often attends various veteran ceremonies, including the Greene County Honor a Veteran and with Wreaths Across America. In addition to her service involving the military, Peggy is a past president and current secretary of the West Athens-Lime Street Fire Company.

Peggy is a Greene County native and attended the Greenville Central School District. She and her husband Paul reside in Athens and are the parents of two children, Bridget and Thomas. Peggy is a proud and dedicated “Marine mom” as her son is a gunnery sergeant with the US Marines. She strongly supports our military personnel and volunteers her time in numerous military affiliations.

Peggy works as the office manager for the Greene County Industrial Development Authority. In her spare time (at least, what little she has after all her volunteering), she enjoys baking, sewing, and visiting their home-away-from-home in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. In 2017, Peggy was recognized by Greene County with Merit Recognition for Greene County Senior Awards.

Peggy encourages everyone to volunteer: “Go for it! It will not only benefit others, but it will give you a great personal feeling of reward.”



**AWARDEE:**  
**Avis Warner**  
**Hamilton County**



As an EMT, Avis Warner has donated countless hours taking care of the sick and injured residents of Wells. She moved up the ranks within the squad from lieutenant of the Wells Ambulance Corp, to assistant captain, and finally to captain, her current rank. She spends many hours ensuring the squad is current on not just the latest training, but also with all the mandates from the State Health Department, among other policies and regulations. Avis is known to give 110 percent of herself to the Wells Ambulance Corporation. In addition to her dedication to the Ambulance Corp, she has donated her time to the Wells Senior Club, the Wells Volunteer Fire Company, the Wells Improvement Club, the Wells Fish & Game Club, the Wells Snowmobile Club, the Wells Central School Board, and the Wesleyan Church.

Originally from Rotterdam, NY, Avis began working in the medical field at the age of 17, as an aide at Hallmark Nursing Home. She met and married her husband Greg in 1975 and together they moved to Wells in 1980 with their four-year old daughter Jennifer. Avis joined the fire company and ambulance corps in 1982, where she took her first EMT class. In 1984, she went back to college for nursing, worked one year at Nathan Littauer Hospital, then went to work for Hamilton County Nursing Services, where she is still employed. Avis has two grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Avis understands that many people struggle to find the time to volunteer due to busy schedules and the need to pay the bills. Even so, Avis says, "I think it's more difficult for younger people to volunteer these days because they have to work so hard to make ends meet. But if people do have the opportunity to volunteer it is very fulfilling and an awesome experience."

**AWARDEE:**

## **Leon Smith** **Hamilton County**



Leon “Lee” Smith has worked many years on enhancing the Wells Volunteer Ambulance Corporation (WVAC) and the Wells Volunteer Fire Company. He started a redemption center to raise money for the WVAC, and in doing so, along with the help from others, was able to raise \$60,000 that was used to purchase a new ambulance. Lee devotes his spare time to organizing, ordering supplies, and recruiting new members for the WVAC, as well as teaching EMT classes. In addition to his work with WVAC, Lee also helped create a Town of Wells directory which lists events, churches, businesses, and organizations. He has been with the WVAC for 34 years, the WVFC for 43 years, and works 20 hours a week at Green Thumb NYS, which engages older New Yorkers within the community while providing them with additional income. Additionally, Lee has volunteered with the Algonquin Snowblazers, the Cub Scouts, and the Wells Fish and Game Club.

Lee was born and raised in New Jersey. He was a police officer and also owned a blueberry farm. Since the age of 15, Lee was a volunteer for the Town of Julius fire company and ambulance corporation and was an active volunteer there until he moved to New York in 1983. He has two children and one grandchild.

Lee’s mottos are “‘Never give up’ and ‘Make it happen.’ “Most of all have fun with what you’re doing, but be serious when needed. Take pride in what you’re doing as a volunteer.”



## AWARDEE:

# Martin Sorensen

## Herkimer County



Martin “Bud” Sorensen is 91 years old. A proud American through and through, he has been a devoted Herkimer County resident for his entire life. He has been an active member of the VFW and American Legion for more than 75 years, rarely missing meetings or events. He was the East Herkimer VFW post commander for many years and played an integral role as an officer until the merger with the Herkimer VFW Post. Martin is a WWII Navy veteran who served our country with respect and pride. He served in the Pacific theatre and remembers seeing the aftermath of Hiroshima and Pearl Harbor. Martin is a selfless, honest, and compassionate man who deserves recognition for the work he’s done.

Martin has been active in his community in various capacities including as a Boy Scout troop leader, a volunteer with Clear Path for Veterans, and a volunteer at the Herkimer Reform Church. For as long as anyone can remember he has always answered a call where help was needed and provided his skilled workmanship with plumbing, masonry, painting, and roofing. He has taught others willing to learn his talents as a tradesman. Martin is an extremely accomplished handyman—he can fix just about anything! Martin has also provided, at his own expense, rides for people in need to get to chemotherapy and radiation treatments. He is the kind of man who gives of himself and does not expect anything in return. He is willing to help those that need a “hand up” to get through a time when help is needed most. Martin portrays the essence of Americanism at its finest. His daughter states “I am proud to be his daughter; he has taught me well what it means to be community minded, a good person, and what it means to be American.”

Martin says “Volunteering is interesting. Try to help and give people a hand up.”

**AWARDEE:**

# Margaret VanDelinder

## Herkimer County



Margaret VanDelinder has always been an active presence in her community. Margaret serves on the board of directors for the Community Health & Wellness Fund, an organization dedicated to sustaining the availability of basic health care in the Old Forge community, which is particularly critical for older adults. She also sponsors the local senior social program, known as SHARP. Margaret volunteers with the area not-for-profit thrift shop called the Mission Boutique, where she sorts through donations and displays them. This is an important shop for the community, as all items are available on a donation-only basis and allows those of limited means, including older adults on a fixed income, to easily acquire good quality clothing and household goods. Margaret has volunteered to assist the Town of Webb Historical Society which preserves the history of the Adirondacks and the Old Forge community. She also volunteers for the Polar Bear Ski Club, which provides support to the youth of the community in learning how to ski and competing in competitions. Margaret assists the club with fundraising and organizing ski events for the youth in Old Forge.

Margaret is known for her good sense of humor and doesn't seem to ever have a "bad" day. She is a dependable, active volunteer, ready to help out nearly every week. Many of the community's liveliest older residents really look forward to playing cards with Margaret. She is often found using her skills in the kitchen when cooking is needed, sharing other life skills with the participants and also helping serve lunch and cleaning up. Often she brings in special seasonal surprise treats, like a homemade heart cake on Valentine's Day or candy corn at Halloween time. Of course, she goes all out when she has total control over the St. Patrick's Day decorating and events. One year she even did an Irish dance! (Margaret is full-blooded Irish and was born on St. Patrick's Day in 1949).

Margaret states she has always loved helping others in her community, and that Old Forge is a great place to live. "It feels good to help someone else; it keeps you active and moving."



**AWARDEE:**

## **Lori Thistle** **Jefferson County**

For 22 years, Lori Thistle coordinated the missions program at the Reformed Church of the Thousand Isles In Alexandria Bay serving those in need, whether they needed help repairing a leaking roof or paying an electric bill. She also helped establish the church's community food pantry, which now has its own building and serves the entire township of Alexandria. Presently, she volunteers at the church's Anchor Cafe, where one can drop by two mornings a week for complimentary coffee, muffins, and some friendly conversation. Six years ago, Lori helped start a farmer's market, and during the summer co-manages the market, which brings locally grown fresh fruit and vegetables to her community. Her most rewarding work has been volunteering for the Office for the Aging where she has been the site manager at the nutrition site in Alexandria Bay for 16 years and has met and admired some amazing older adults. She uses the luncheons as an opportunity to teach a chair yoga class and to discuss good nutrition and making healthy food choices.

Lori Thistle grew up in Hollis, New Hampshire and graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a degree in biology. Upon graduation, she pursued a career in scientific research at Tufts New England Medical Center where she met her future husband, James Tague, a dental student from Alexandria Bay. After settling in Jim's hometown, where he joined his father's dental practice, Lori completed a master's degree in education at SUNY Potsdam. Since that time, she has worked as an educator at various schools and with several community organizations in Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties. In 2005, she went back to school and received a diploma in Holistic Health Practice from the American College of Health Sciences in Portland, Oregon. Through her small consulting practice she teaches holistic approaches to health and wellness. Lori has two children, one of whom has also pursued a career in education. She also has two grandchildren.

Lori believes that volunteering in your community is a civic responsibility, especially when that community is a rural one with limited resources, activities, and funds. "Many of the resources we rely on and the activities we enjoy are available because volunteers have stepped forward to implement them. Give a little of your time. You will be amazed at how much you get in return."



**AWARDEE:**

## **Jennifer A. Blackman** **Kings County**

For many years, Jennifer A. Blackman has made a difference in her community by harnessing her personal experiences, energy, and selflessness to make an impact.

Having lost two of her sons to gun violence, Jennifer uses her tragic experiences to help and support other families affected by street and gun violence. She has become strong advocate against gun violence. She is an active member of the Mother Support Group Against Gun Violence, Together We Stand Against Gun Violence, and Mothers Elect Against Gun Violence. Jennifer participates in the Annual “Not In My Hood” antiviolence march organized by East Flatbush Village, and the “Take Over the Corners” initiative spearheaded by the 67th Precinct Clergy Council. As a member of the Remsen Senior Center, Jennifer has served on the center’s advisory board, and is a member of the Steel Pan Band. She also organizes fashion shows, praise dances, the annual Labor Day party, International Day, and the Christmas season parang at the senior center. Additionally, Jennifer assists the center’s staff helping them coordinate shopping and other trips for the seniors. Jennifer was presented with Recognition Award and Citations from Brookdale Hospital Center, PS 181, Remsen Senior Center, East Flatbush Village, for her invaluable assistance and exceptional volunteer efforts.

Jennifer was born in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. She came to the United States in 1970 with her husband and two sons. While living in Brooklyn, she gave birth to three additional sons and worked during the day while raising them and attending night school to acquire her GED. For the past 40 years, Jennifer has been a resident of East Flatbush, where she proudly raised her five sons. She is also proud of her assistance in raising 28 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Despite her busy schedule, Jennifer found time to help preserve and promote her Trinidadian culture. She has been an integral part of the Brooklyn Labor Day Kiddies Carnival and also participated in the Labor Day parade as a member of various mas camps and J’Ouvert groups. Jennifer worked for many years as a nurse’s assistant at Harlem Hospital where she was a union shop steward for DC37. She then moved on to Brookdale Hospital Center in Brooklyn, where she worked for 30 years as a nurse technician and was also a union shop steward for 1199 until her retirement 10 years ago. Jennifer now dedicates most of her time to community volunteering, promoting her Trinidadian culture and using her experience to help others in need.

Jennifer’s advice about volunteering is to do it from the heart. There is no better reward than knowing that you have made a positive difference in someone’s life.

**AWARDEE:**

## **Susan Ponds**

### **Kings County**



Susan Ponds, also known as “Cute” has been a resident of the Sandy F. Ray Senior Citizen Houses for the past 10 years. After residing there for two years, she became a member of the Tompkins Park Neighborhood Senior Center in her building, and has been active at the center ever since. She volunteers in the lunch room serving lunches to residents, and also volunteers at the senior center’s food pantry. Cute serves as vice president of the Tompkins Park Senior Council. She also volunteers in helping with the programs and activities presented at the center. She is a certified tax preparer with the IRS. She prepares short forms and school tax credit form for the older residents. Cute is an active member of her church, where she serves as a Sunday school teacher. She is a member of the Corner Stone Baptist Church, and a member of its Rodman Senior Citizen Council, where she served as treasurer, and also helped plan trips and outings for older adults. She prepared taxes for church members and community members. Cute also volunteers at Kings County Hospital doing clerical work. She volunteered at the Salvation Army where she helped to make up packages for seniors from the Salvation Army’s food pantry, and helped to distribute those packages to the seniors, as well.

Cute was born in South Carolina and has lived in Brooklyn for the past 63 years. After graduating from high school in South Carolina, she came to New York and found employment. She is the sixth of seven siblings; five girls and two boys. Her parents, Hattie and Mack Watson, remained in South Carolina. Her father was a career military man and upon leaving the military, he was a brick layer and built many houses in South Carolina. Cute has one son, one granddaughter, and two great-grandsons. Her son resides in Brooklyn, and her granddaughter and great grandsons reside in Virginia. Cute is retired from the New York Telephone Company, where she worked for 26 years as an administrative and accounting clerk. Cute also worked, after retirement, for two doctors, whose clients were mainly older adults.

Cute said volunteering to her makes a person feel worthy as if they have accomplished something because they made someone else’s life better, or they made a change in their community. “There are multiple opportunities for people to volunteer. In doing so, you provide a great opportunity to learn, to meet new people, and to use your creativity to solve problems. Recognizing the change that you have helped make in someone’s life is the greatest reward.”

## AWARDEES:

# Jo-Ann Lyndaker Wilmer Lyndaker

Lewis County



Jo-Ann and Wilmer “Sonny” Lyndaker are both lifelong residents of Lewis County. They currently reside in Croghan, NY. Sonny grew up in Croghan and graduated from Beaver River Central School in 1969. Jo-Ann grew up in Copenhagen and graduated from Copenhagen Central School in 1969. They were married 50 years ago, in May 1968. Sonny was employed at Kraft Foods for over 30 years and received various awards throughout his career. He was also a part-time and full-time bus driver for Beaver River Central School, and made it his top priority to have a good relationship with each student and ensuring their safety while in his care. Jo-Ann worked for Dr. Higby’s dental office in Lowville for many years, enjoying building relationships with each and every patient. She also worked tirelessly as a multitasking employee at a local fabric/gift shop. They were active members of the Croghan Area Boosters and helped with the Croghan Lumberjack Festival. They volunteer with several different agencies now that they are retired, including Office for the Aging, Lewis County Opportunities, Loving Lewis County, and several more. They are members of New Life Fellowship in Beaver Falls and also help with volunteer activities there.

Together as a couple, Jo-Ann & Sonny give so much to each and every individual in their life. Their family and friends have always been one of their most important priorities. They have spent countless hours and have driven many miles just to visit their family and friends. They help both physically and financially, lending listening ears, shoulders to cry on, coffee hour company, making sewing alterations before the big day, or preparing a meal because someone is feeling a little under the weather. They are always very encouraging to each and every person they encounter. They rarely miss a graduation party, baby shower, bridal shower, wedding, funeral gathering, or family picnic. The couple has always gone out of their way to make sure others are taken care of before themselves. Sonny and Jo-Ann say they couldn’t do so much for everyone else without the love and support from each other.

According to Jo-Ann and Sonny: “You never know what the future holds and one day you may be the one in need, so give whenever you are able whether it’s your money or your time. It’s all important.”

**AWARDEE:**

## **David Hotchkiss**

### **Livingston County**



David Hotchkiss has volunteered for over 20 years to help the Office for the Aging recognize older adults for their civic engagement, and volunteers in numerous capacities for the United Methodist Church. He is a recipient of Rotary's Paul Harris Fellowship and the Lion's Foundation Robert J. Uplinger Distinguished Service Award. Reverend Hotchkiss is "a man for all people." Livingston County Hospice has had the privilege of having Reverend Hotchkiss as volunteer chaplain for 25 years. He has even been known to play the harmonica for patients. His experience as a Navy veteran helps him to connect with fellow veterans on a personal level. As a kind, soft spoken, accepting, and a loving person, he brings comfort to all with whom he comes in contact. Reverend Hotchkiss has never said a cross, unkind word to anyone and he is always willing to love and supports anyone no matter their belief. Serving as a pastor is his calling, and volunteering to provide pastoral services is the most fulfilling part of his work.

David is the third oldest in a family of nine children; he has three sisters and five brothers. He learned early in life to serve and to share. His father was a herdsman on dairy farms, and as a result his family moved four times to improve the compensation package he received to care for his family. It's always difficult to be the new kid, and he learned at an early age to trust his faith and be open to others. David has lived in New York all his life, and he has resided in Dansville for 48 years. After being released from active duty in the United States Navy, he became employed by Agway, Inc. where he worked for nearly 22 years. While still employed by Agway, he embarked upon a calling to ministry in the United Methodist Church. He recently retired as pastor of two Livingston County churches after 40 years of service. While he retired from his official church appointments; however, his ministry continues. In 1967, David married Dorothy Brooks, which he says is the best choice he ever made in his life. The couple has four daughters and sons-in-law, 16 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. All four daughters, Tammie, Victoria, Heather and BethAnne, live within an hour drive.

David's words of wisdom; "A volunteer by definition is a person who chooses freely to do or offer to do something with no promise of compensation. When that volunteerism is born out of a heart-felt desire, or even a need to serve, the compensation is far beyond monetary. It is cloaked in love, which touches the soul of both servant/volunteer and recipient."



**AWARDEE:**  
**Al Johnson**  
**Madison County**



Al Johnson was nominated for recognition by Madison County resident E. Desmore. She states: “I would like to nominate Al Johnson—he is a driver for the Office for the Aging. He transports people to surgeries, office appointments, and to the store for miscellaneous medical needs. Al has been a devoted and compassionate driver for me with my breast cancer appointments, and for numerous other patients, as well. He has never missed an appointment and is always on time. He has sat through long waiting times for surgeries and procedures with no complaints. I would like to recognize him for his commitment and compassion to all of us who he has so caringly transported over the years.”

Al was not born in New York State; but he considers himself a native New Yorker, as New York is all that he remembers. Al currently resides in Oneida County. He and his wife Barbara have been married for 53 years and have two sons and one grandchild. Al has been volunteering with Madison County Office for the Aging for the past 15 years.

When asked about volunteering, Al says “Don’t hesitate; just volunteer. I have a great time meeting new people and enjoy building relationships with my riders.”



**AWARDEE:**

## **Paul Morehouse** **Monroe County**

Paul Morehouse is an active volunteer for the Webster Senior and Community Center. He is an integral part of their programming, and he greets everyone with a positive, uplifting spirit. Paul takes great pride in all he does at the center, where he runs the toddler play time, assists with the center's senior nutrition program serving lunch and cleaning up, and helps set up for the center's exercise and wellness classes. He is also an active volunteer at St. Rita's Church and served/serves on various committees, including planning liturgies. He is also a past president of the pastoral council, and a 37-year member of the Breakfast Club, which serves breakfast every Sunday, September through May, to build the sense of community in the congregation.

Paul attended St. John Fisher College in Rochester where he met his wife, Maureen. They married in 1976. Paul enjoyed his career as a physicist researcher for Xerox. When he retired from Xerox in 2010, he quickly became bored, and began to look for an activity that would not only fill his time, but also his need to provide value to his community. He attended an open house at the community center, and noticed a sign that advertised the need for volunteers. He approached the front desk and asked "What do you need?" The answer was: help with laundry for the recreation center. Paul jumped in and has never looked back. His son and daughter-in-law live in Kansas City. His daughter and son-in-law live in St. Louis. He has one beautiful granddaughter, Teagan Ruth, who is two.

Paul is incredibly dedicated to his community and it shows. When asked what is favorite thing is about volunteering, he stated: "The interaction with the people." Paul clearly loves caring for and socializing with the people he serves. His evident love of his community, and his dedication to service, make him a natural choice for this honor.

**AWARDEE:**

# Susanne VanStrydonck

## Monroe County



Susanne VanStrydonck has dedicated much of her life to the betterment of others and the safety of her community. Her many years leading the Baby Safe Sleep Coalition illustrates the scope and power of her volunteer efforts. Beginning in 2008, Sue mobilized a broad community coalition to focus on educating parents and caretakers about the dangers of unsafe sleep in babies and small children and how to prevent these tragic deaths. Sue has been the driving force of the mission and helped grow their coalition to 25 organizations. With Baby Safe Sleep support, all four of Rochester's hospitals have achieved Gold Standard Safe Sleep Champion status, the highest level recognized by the National Safe Sleep Hospital program, and the only city in New York State to have all hospitals at standard.

Born in Rochester, Susanne is a Western NY native. Sue received a bachelor's degree from the University of Windsor, and master's degree from Syracuse. Sue and her husband Tom raised two children in Rochester. Sue has made it her life mission to help children both in and out of her community. Working at Monroe County's Child Protective Services (CPS), Sue started as a CPS caseworker and rose to a top-level administrator. In retirement, Sue served as interim director for the local branch of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and later interim director of the Bivona Child Advocacy Center, of which she was also the founder. In 2016, she received the "Diane Larter Champion for Children Award." As Sue is the daughter of former "Senior of the Year" John Bedford, she is carrying on the tradition of volunteerism in her family.

Over the last decade, Sue has volunteered to convene and then lead the Baby Safe Sleep Coalition, a group committed to ending preventable infant deaths caused by unsafe sleep practices. Sue has spent years volunteering for NCMEC's annual gala and volunteers regularly at Bivona. Additionally, she is an active member of Penfield Country Club, where she organizes numerous charitable events. Sue's dedication to the safety of children and infants has made an huge impact and created a legacy that will continue to serve her community.



**AWARDEE:**  
**Ronald Dievendorf**  
**Montgomery County**

Ron Dievendorf has always been highly involved in his community in both his personal and professional life. He was a pharmacist with his own business, and also served as the mayor of his community, volunteering many hours at the same time. Ron helps to manage the Comfort Zone ministry at his church, which befriends and ministers to people in need. He and his wife Amy also organize and run used book sales for the Canajoharie Library. Additionally, Ron is in charge of “4th on the 3rd” which is a much anticipated community event in July with music, food, and fireworks. Ron is a person who truly wants to make the world a better place, and he does this through volunteering. He is humble and prefers to fly under the radar and not seek any publicity for his work.

Ron is currently the treasurer for the Montgomery County Office for the Aging board of directors, vice president of the Palatine Society, treasurer of Fulmont Community Action Agency, Inc., is on the board of directors, and a member of the Human Rights Committee of Liberty Enterprises ARC. He is also general chair of the Fort Plain 4th on the 3rd Festival. Additionally, he is co-chair, with his wife, of both the Canajoharie Library used book sales and the Comfort Zone Outreach Ministry of Canajoharie Reformed Church. He is a member of the Central Mohawk Valley Lions Club. For many years, he was a member of the board of directors and an EMT volunteer with the former Mid-County Volunteer Ambulance Service. He was elected mayor of Canajoharie in 1986 and then again 16 years later. Ron has been the recipient of several awards from various community nonprofit organizations, including MCOFA Fr. Girzone Crystal Pillar of the Community Award and the Hoyer Award for caregiver exemplifying the hospice philosophy from Mountain Valley Hospice, and he and his wife were volunteers of the year for the Mohawk Valley Library System, where they raised over \$21,000 in eight years from used book sales for the Canajoharie Library. He has traveled to Louisiana and Mississippi multiple times, as well as to Schoharie County to help with hurricane relief efforts.

Ron grew up in a household that taught him responsibility to others, compassion for the less fortunate, and an imperative to help those who are aging. He was raised in Fort Plain, NY. After graduating college in 1971, Ron began working as a pharmacist in Canajoharie, NY, where he and his brother bought a pharmacy. He then worked at Rite Aid Pharmacy as supervising pharmacist until he retired after his stroke in 2005. Ron and his wife Amy have two sons and three grandchildren.

**AWARDEE:**

**Eileen Oakes**  
**Montgomery County**



Eileen Oakes is an outstanding member of her community. She exudes strength and confidence in all she does. She is always more than happy to take charge of any given task before her. Eileen serves as a caregiver for two friends and still manages to go out and volunteer in her spare time. At the Horce J. Inman Center, Eileen is in charge of the kitchen and an active board member. Eileen is instrumental in organizing the Inman Center's two highly successful main fundraising events: the St. Patricks Day cornbeef meal and Rocking with Santa. Eileen coordinates everything from meal delivery to live music and raffles. These events are essential to bringing in revenue for the Inman Center.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Eileen moved to Amsterdam over 30 years ago, where she has been heavily involved ever since. Since moving to New York, Eileen has been providing daily care for two individuals who she loves very much. When she is not volunteering, Eileen enjoys bowling, boxing, and nature walks. She also enjoys any type of fundraising or participating in causes. In her spare time Eileen uses her hobbies as a way to get involved in many community events. Eileen doesn't like to stay idle and more often than not her free time consists of participating in cancer awareness walks, bowling tournaments, and more fundraising. In addition to her involvement in the Inman Center, Eileen also volunteers for the Montgomery County Office for the Aging and the Polish American Veterans.

With so many great experiences volunteering, Eileen has three pieces of advice for volunteers: "Never give up, because nothing ever works perfectly. Never forget to always demonstrate a good work ethic so others can see. Recognition is wonderful, but the greatest satisfaction comes from knowing you are part of the solution, not part of the problem."

*no photo available*

**AWARDEE:**  
**Karen Horry**  
**New York County**

After returning to the Harlem home in which she was born and raised, Karen Horry became heavily involved in the regeneration of her local block association through volunteerism; guiding it to incorporation in 2008. Since then she has successfully led a multitude of efforts to bring an improved quality of life to her immediate neighborhood and Central Harlem community-at-large. As president and founder of the 142nd Street Block Association, Inc., Karen coordinates a plethora of community events, including annual youth workforce fairs and the 142nd Street block parties. Karen was appointed to Manhattan Community Board 10 by Scott Stringer in 2010 and reappointed to additional terms by Borough President Gale Brewer. She also chairs the Parks and Recreation Committee. Additionally, Karen advocates on behalf of residents, working with a board and block association members to address quality of life issues (housing, health, public safety, education, transportation, concerns of older residents, youth development, and employment) that directly impact the community; working in collaboration with government, private agencies, and elected officials to advance resident needs. In 2007, after being contacted by community residents, Karen undertook and successfully guided a process that resulted in addressing a decades-old problem of dilapidated housing which involved resolving more than 500 building code violations. The law team of Orrick, Herrington, and Sutcliffe provided pro bono work and litigated to provide lease protection, relocation with leasing and return of tenants to rehabbed, state-of-the-art housing, which they continue to enjoy and take pride in to this day.

Karen Horry, a native Harlemit, has lived in New York City for 65 years and currently resides in Central Harlem. She is a retired teacher from the NYC Department of Education. Karen taught middle school math, science, and computers, all while running a household and raising four children with her husband Joseph. She advanced to teach accelerated earth science classes for eighth graders and later coordinated the New York City Department of Education district wide Advanced Math and Science Institute. Karen's children, her pride and joy, are all college graduates; graduating from Howard University, University of Delaware, and Brooklyn College. Growing up, Karen was influenced by the career of her elder first cousin, United States Air Force Major General Rufus Lee Billups, from whom she learned that "If he could do it, she could do it too! Also I learned to be confident in trying."

**AWARDEE:**

**Maria Parilla**  
**New York County**



Maria Parrilla currently volunteers at her New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) building, where she has been caring for two garden plots during the past 10 growing seasons. She says that it brings her a lot of joy to be able to see fruits and vegetables flourish. She says she enjoys the whole growth process and interacting with fellow volunteers who are just as passionate about gardening. At the Henry Street Settlement Senior Center, for the past 10 years Maria has been involved in many different activities, including extensively volunteering in the kitchen. Maria has also served as a wellness advocate where she talks to fellow peers about mental health and depression screenings. She volunteers at the front desk/reception, on a daily basis, by selling lunch and dinner tickets. More importantly, Maria is very vocal about the needs of older members. She is the first one to bring up something to the attention of staff and she's not afraid to bring up issues or bad news—she's always advocating for her peers. Maria really cares about the center and that's why she volunteers, because she knows the difference the center can make for the seniors who are lonely, depressed, and have nowhere else to go. She really likes to see the smiles their services and offerings bring to her fellow members.

Maria came to New York from Puerto Rico at the age of seven with her mother and two sisters. In total, Maria has four brothers and six sisters. When they first arrived to this country, they experienced many challenges, including not speaking English. Maria has been living in the Lower East Side since she moved to New York, and is excited to see the improvements that have happened in the neighborhood. As Maria went through school and made new friends in her neighborhood and in the after school programs, she learned to speak English. She eventually obtained book binding and kitchen work. She is now a vibrant and confident older adult who gives back to her community daily. Her nominator describes her as a pleasure to be around—her energy and joy are contagious.

When asked what she likes about volunteering, Maria says: “Volunteering allows you to meet new friends, socialize, and give back to the community and the neighborhood. It feels great to be a volunteer since you can learn a new skill and be able to help others who are less fortunate. It also provides joy for others and for oneself, and brings out the best in a person. Volunteering really comes from the heart.”

**AWARDEE:**

## **Amy Lobczowski** **Niagara County**



Amy Lobczowski is a native Western New Yorker. She was born in Niagara Falls, and she moved to Hartland in 1963, where she currently resides. Amy has been volunteering at Meals on Wheels for 29 years; first in their kitchen preparing and packaging the meals and most recently delivering meals one day a week to those who are homebound. Amy also spent years volunteering for Gasport Elementary School's reading program called "Rainbow Readers" helping first and second graders with their reading. For many years she was a member of a ladies social group called the Canal Cuties Red Hat Group, and in addition to their numerous social gatherings she volunteered with them as a Salvation Army bell ringer and at Palace Theatre events. She also provided the float for the annual Lockport Fourth of July parade as a Red Hatter. When there were funeral masses and lucheons held at her church, St. Mary's in Gasport, Amy would always help serve the food.

Amy Lobczowski is a very busy older New Yorker who loves to cook and try new recipes. Amy is known for her caring nature and is always willing to lend a helping hand, whether bringing soup to friends when they are sick or driving miles out of her way to pick up an older parishoner she knows every Sunday morning to take her to church and breakfast.

Amy feels that volunteer work is very rewarding, "It makes you feel good and you get more out of it than the recipients themselves."



**AWARDEES:**  
**Carole Grove**  
**Ed Grove**  
**Oneida County**

38 years ago, Carole Grove saw a need in her area to bring meals to homebound people of any age who did not have family or any other outside support system that would allow them to stay in their own home. Carole was able to find support at Zion Church to enable her to provide meals to those in need of this meal service. She and her husband Ed have since expanded their services to add assistance with grocery shopping, and offering transportation to people for medical appointments. Carole recruits the volunteers for these services by speaking to various churches and other groups about the program.

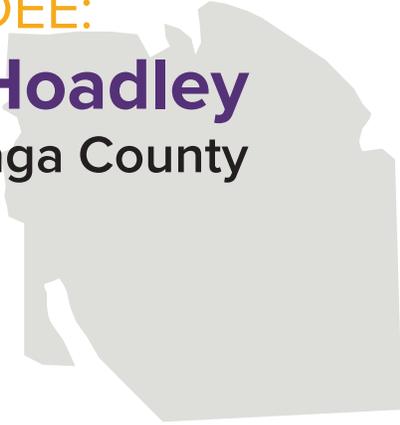
Ed Grove supports Carole by taking collections of cans and bottles to them to turn in for funds to buy more food for local food pantries. Ed also drives people to their appointments, takes them grocery shopping, and has also purchased furniture and a television for someone who had very little in their home. Additionally, Ed also stores and sells donated furniture and donates the money. Carole and Ed focus on one aspect of life in their community and that focus means hundreds of lives are touched and made better because of their efforts.

Ed and Carole moved to New York from Philadelphia in 1978 where they raised their four children. They reside high on a hill in Sauquoit where Ed and his mom (who visits in the winter) make their own maple syrup. Ed was previously an electrical engineer and Carole was a school teacher. They eventually opened up and ran the Bagel Grove in Utica, NY, until their retirement. Besides their four children, they have four grandchildren.

A quote by Abraham Lincoln is what Ed and Carole live by “When I do good, I feel good. When I do bad, I feel bad; that’s my religion.” It is clear that Ed and Carole will continue to do good and feel good because of it.

**AWARDEE:**

**Ann Hoadley**  
Onondaga County



Ann Hoadley selflessly devotes her time to many organizations that help members of her community. Ann has spent over 2,000 hours of her life volunteering at Hospice, but she has also volunteered at the Beaver Lake Nature Center since the 1970s. She given more than 10,000 hours there, where she managed their gift shop, served on their volunteer board, and coordinated many fundraising events, including the pancake breakfast. Ann also volunteered for the Rescure Mission, helping with their annual holiday meals and working weekly at their thrift shops. Ann has clocked in over 1,000 hours of volunteer hours of service to public broadcast station WCNY, where she served on a steering committee, helped with mailings and special events, and participated in their annual community appeal—the Tel Auc.

Ann Hoadley is a lifelong resident of Onondaga County. She is a retired nurse and decided to volunteer at Hospice of Central New York to give back after the support and care given during her husband’s illness and death. Ann’s “take charge attitude”, attention to detail and willingness to help with any task made her an invaluable asset in the Hospice office. Ann’s weekly dedication to maintaining and organizing the medical supplies for Hospice patients is vital to ensuring that the Hospice team members have their supplies readily available and meticulously prepared. The office staff count on Ann to help with ways to streamline processes and maintain high quality standards. When Ann is given a task to complete, you know it will be done perfectly and triple checked for accuracy.

Through her career as a nurse and her many years of volunteer work, Ann has spent a lifetime of putting others before herself.

**AWARDEE:**

## **Nathan Kollar** **Ontario County**



Nathan Kollar is committed to helping others cope with and understand grief and loss through holding training sessions and teaching classes on the issue as well as writing books on grief management. He founded G.R.I.E.F. (Grief Resource Information Education Forum) which is an advocacy coalition that includes members of academia, voluntary health agencies, and representatives from a variety of professions including social work, nursing, funeral directors, and consumers. Over 40 agencies are served by G.R.I.E.F. through its various committees. Nathan has conducted workshops on death, dying, and grief for the Ontario County Office for the Aging and is currently planning a half day seminar for the fall of 2019. These workshops allow participants to share their experiences and understand their grief. He was also a founding member and chair of the evaluation committee of the Monroe County Office for the Aging Advisory Board in 1989 and conducted a systematic review of the quantitative means of evaluating all the county programs for older adults in Monroe County. Nathan also delivers meals to homebound older adults in Ontario County every week. He not only provides them a meal but a warm and caring visit.

Nathan was born in Braddock, Pennsylvania in 1938. He went to school in Braddock and then in Turtle Creek, PA. His first jobs were delivering newspapers and selling eggs for his father, who worked in the steel mill. Other similar low paying jobs followed, along with a number of grants, that enabled him to go to further his education at St. Bonaventure, Notre Dame, and Catholic University. He taught full time in Washington, DC, Tucson, Arizona, New Brunswick, Canada, and Rochester, NY. He was married to Judy Gennusa for 32 years. She died of cancer in 2002. Nathan and Judy had three children: Rudy, David, and Sharon. Rudy died when he was five. Nathan was involved with the religious studies and theology departments of colleges and universities in Rochester area, and he taught religious studies at St. John Fisher for 31 years. In 1978, he began the gerontology program. Since coming to New York in 1974 he has lived in Webster, Pittsford, Canandaigua, and Palmyra. He returned to Canandaigua in 2012 where he enjoys a retirement filled with exciting volunteer challenges.

When asked about volunteerism, Nathan says: “Do it! Just as we start each day by placing one foot on the floor and walking away from the comfort of dreams and bed, so the fullness of our life begins with giving our time voluntarily to others. Both the walking and the volunteering are necessary habits for a full life.”

**AWARDEE:**

## **Esther McGowan**

**Orange County**



Esther McGowan has had a positive impact on hundreds of Orange County residents with her selfless service. She volunteers as the coordinator for the senior dining program at Munger Cottage, and participates in many humanitarian projects through the Cornwall United Methodist Church and Habitat for Humanity. She devotes a lot of time, energy, and resources to Habitat for Humanity's Women Can Build Program. Esther has also donated time to the Cornwall United Methodist Church Sunday School and Lunch with Friends program, the children's Backpacks for Food Program with the Presbyterian Church, and the Cornwall Hospital Pink Ladies. Whenever Esther sees a need, she jumps right in to help. She is truly an inspiration to everyone she meets.

Esther was raised on a farm in Indiana, where she was one of 13 children. She and her husband, Bob, arrived in Cornwall in 1975, where they raised six children, all of whom were involved with a significant number of community groups, ranging from church to senior meal delivery to volunteering at hospitals, schools, and at the Food Bank. Despite all her service projects, Esther still finds time to visit her children, 11 grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren, who live in Oregon, Cape Cod, Syracuse, and Long Island. Esther is 91 and remains active in Cornwall, delivering meals each Monday to homebound seniors, helping with Habitat for Humanity in Newburgh, and in many capacities with the Cornwall United Methodist Church.

When asked her thoughts on volunteerism, Esther said "The more I volunteer, the more I see a need for volunteers. I think it's great to know you are helping someone. I appreciate the recognition, not only for me, but for all the wonderful organizations that I am fortunate to be a part of."



**AWARDEE:**

## **Varnese Ann Mims Molina**

### **Orange County**

In 2002, Varnese Ann Mims Molina was the founder and driving force of a local volunteer organization called the Hudson Valley Women’s Association and Friends. Their mission statement is “Working together to celebrate those who give of themselves to their family, friends, and/or community in an unselfish way, and to promote positive community activities.” For 15 years, Ann led this group; holding a spring recognition breakfast honoring professional and volunteer contributions to the local community and raising funds for college scholarships for local high school students. They organized community activities, bus trips, prom dress sales, clothing drives, basketball tournaments, cancer walks, Thanksgiving dinner deliveries, and many more positive community endeavors. In 2014, Ann expanded the visibility and reach of this group by opening a Main Street storefront using her own money and donations from friends. She rounded up more volunteers to help with homework, tutoring, local history talks, substance abuse education, reading skills, veterans support groups, special needs issues, and more. Ann is also an active member of St. John AME Zion Church, the Harriet Tubman Historical Society, and the Missionary Society. She is currently the secretary for the Highlands Senior Citizen Advisory Council, and accepted a position on the library’s board of trustees. She is proud of her work with the Town of Highlands Community Coalition and the Orange County Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Council. Her expertise, enthusiasm, and cheerful spirit have been invaluable resources for citizens of all ages in her community.

Ann was born at West Point in 1951 and is a lifelong resident of the Town of Highlands. She earned degrees from both Long Island University and SUNY New Paltz. She served for 30 years in a variety of capacities and offices at Letchworth Village in Thiells, New York, touching the lives of their residents with developmental disabilities, as well as the many employees at that institution. Ann is a widow. She has two grown children, and is raising her teenage granddaughter. Her family ties in Highland Falls are strong—she has one brother, two sisters, and nieces and nephews in the area, and she is the primary caregiver for her mother.

When asked her thoughts about volunteering, Ann says: “I love volunteering and working with others to make a meaningful contribution to a better community. I feel enriched and alive. My advice to all is to keep volunteering for as long as you can—it keeps you alive, young, and connected!”

**AWARDEE:**

## **Kathryn Crawford** Orleans County



Kathryn Crawford has worked hard to make a positive impact in her community. She puts great passion into her volunteering position at the Eastern Orleans Community Center, where she puts a smile on everyone’s face while serving hot meals. Kathy shows compassion and empathy for all who walk through the door at the community center. She is a great role model for the other volunteers—her work ethic and compassion shine through in all she does. According to the community center, Kathy is very committed to her role as a volunteer and has not taken a single day off since she started two years ago. She volunteers for events that are outside of her normal position there and is always offering a helping hand when she notices someone who may be in need of help. The community center is beyond grateful for her service day in and day out.

Kathryn was born at Lakeside Hospital in Brockport, NY. She lived in Orleans County until she was 7, when the family moved to Rochester, where she started working in a perfume factory at age 15. She had her first son when she was 19 with her second son following just three years later. She and her husband move to New Jersey in 1983. Kathy has held various professional positions, many of which she worked simultaneously to support her family. She worked for the police department in Caldwell, NJ and the local school district. She has worked at a doctor’s office and as a waitress. Through her hard work, she became the manager of the restaurant. She raised her children then moved back to Orleans County in 1993. She worked in retail for many years after returning to the county, and now has three grandchildren.

When asked for her advice about volunteerism, Kathy says: “Volunteering can become that thing that fills the void you may have in your life. Volunteering may not be for everyone, but depending on where you are in your life, it can be very rewarding.”



**AWARDEE:**

## **Dotty DuSett** **Orleans County**

Dotty DuSett has been a generous volunteer of her time in Orleans County, where she has taught multiple generations of youth through 4-H. As a lead of Council, and the 4-H Hindsburg Hilltop, Dotty has taught sewing, cooking, baking, crafting, parliamentary procedure, public speaking and leadership skills. She has also donated her time to the Murray Baptist Church, was a charter member of the International Exchange of Foreign Youth, she taught genealogy at Cornell University, and delivered home delivered meals.

Dotty was born in Hilton, New York in 1922 to Evalyn and Walt Quinn. She is a 4th generation member of 4-H. In 1948 she married Guy Gibson DuSett, Jr., and they moved to the hamlet of Hindsburg, in Orleans County. There, they raised four children who loved their mom's cooking, always politely asking "who are these for?" before digging into any pies, cakes, and cookies when arriving home, after school. Dottie was a member of the Civil Air Patrol during World War II. She also always took care of neighbors in crisis. Dotty reports that she has collected locally for "every darn disease known to man", as she was taught to say "Yes, I can!" to every request for assistance. Dotty has ten grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. She has lived in the same house for 70 years.

When asked why she started volunteering, she says she felt it benefited and strengthened her own community. "Volunteering is the best way to know the people in your area. You meet many interesting people." Dotty says she always wanted to pay it forward.

**AWARDEE:**  
**Ella Cooper**  
Oswego County



Ella Cooper has been impacting lives in her community both during and after her career in nursing. She realizes the importance of giving back and has always made time to do. She knows staying busy, both mind and body, is extremely important, especially at age 86. Ella has been a volunteer with Oswego County Hospice since 1998, and on many occasions, she has positively impacted the quality of life of patients and their families. Ella provided countless hours in patient care, and during this time she has held patients' hands while they were making their transitions. She has also read to patients, in addition to providing them with supportive services. She has been known to go above and beyond by visiting patients multiple times during the week. She not only provides countless hours in patient care, she also contributes to the hospice program through bereavement care and helping with clerical tasks. Ella works diligently in the Hospice office preparing informational and admission packets. She also assists the Friends of Hospice in their newsletter, fundraisers, and at Camp Rainbow of Hope. The staff at hospice say: "She is truly a Godsend and is a go-to person to help the patients, families, and our program." Ella's children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren have learned huge lessons from watching the way she lives her life, and understand the importance of giving back. Many of her family have careers in fields of helping people and many also do volunteer work."

Ella was born and raised in Oswego, NY as has always lived in there. She raised nine children while working as a registered nurse at Oswego Hospital for her entire career. She belongs to the Retired Nurses Association and lunches with them regularly. Ella is extremely family oriented, and loves living near her children and seeing family on a daily basis. Ella makes it a point to make every family member, young and old, feel important. Everyone gets a birthday card and Christmas gift. She also never misses a concert, dance recital, or other event.

Ella's message has always been that family and giving back are of high importance. Her lifelong career is evident of that, along with the close knit family she has raised.

**AWARDEE:**

## **Vernon Tryon** **Oswego County**



Vernon Tryon embodies the true meaning of volunteering with his compassion, and dedication to make society a better place to live. He is a true humanitarian with his work with Oswego Rotary Club and The Salvation Army Corps. Vern can be seen in the forefront of any project, whether it is bringing clean water to developing countries or helping eradicate polio. Vern is always first to volunteer with his time, resources and knowledge.

Vernon Tryon was born September 21, 1936 in the small town of Boylston, New York. He grew up on the farm on which his father worked. He graduated from Philadelphia High School and attended the State University of New York at Oswego. Vern has lived most of his life in New York except for when he attended University of Maryland, where he earned his master's degree. Vern's first experience with volunteerism was at the church he attended while at the University of Maryland. Vern and his wife, June, made their home in Oswego, New York, where Vern pursued his career as a professor in technology for almost 40 years. Vern currently resides at Springside at Seneca Hill Independent Living where he is the president of resident council. Vern has been married to June for 59 years. They have two sons and four grandchildren.

Vern, considering his 60 years of volunteerism, has some words of wisdom for anyone looking to volunteer: "First, determine what you are passionate about and if an organization mission/goals complement your beliefs. Second, make sure you have the time to devote to the organization Third, call the organizations you might be interested in to discuss volunteering with them."



**AWARDEE:**

## **Susan Drake**

### **Otsego County**



Susan Drake joined the Pierstown Grange when she was 14 years old, creating her first exhibit around that year's theme "Golden Hours." Over the years, Susan has served as lecturer, master, treasurer, and secretary of the Pierstown Grange; youth committee, family activities chair, lecturer, and secretary of the Otsego County Pomona Grange; and ceres, lecturer, youth director and co-chair with her husband Don of the hosting committee for the National Session at Syracuse. Over the years, Susan has served on the Otsego County Dairy Princess Committee and the Cornell Cooperative Extension Board. She was the Grange representative for the Otsego County Soil and Water Board and the director of the Otsego County Fair Board. She also served on the Otsego County Patrons Fire Relief Company for over 20 years as a director and secretary/treasurer. Susan has been the director, secretary and president of the Women's Club of Cooperstown and has been the treasurer of the Roseboom Methodist Church for over 25 years. She was also one of the founding board of directors for the Cherry Valley-Springfield Endowment Foundation for Educational Excellence and has served as chairperson and secretary. Sue and Don supported the Glimmerglass Festival in many ways over the years. Sue has been a board member of the Opera Guild, has served as an usher at the opera house, donated housing to the opera, and was well known for preparing delicious dishes for the opera cast and crew. Sue is also eager to help by preparing meals for a neighbor recently home from the hospital and helping out whenever needed. In her cheerful, unflappable work with the Pierstown Grange and other organizations, Sue has helped to build community, support the musical arts, and improve the health of the environment.

Susan Drake was born and raised in Union, New Jersey. She graduated from Union High School and attended Mt. Holyoke College. Her family spent summers in Cooperstown, which is where Susan met and married Donald Drake. They lived in Roseboom, NY, where Susan still lives, and raised three sons, John (Lisa), Tom (Laurie) and Michael (Beth). Susan has four grandsons and one granddaughter. She recently lost her husband, Don, in January after several years of declining health. Susan worked at Clara Welch Thanksgiving Home as an activities director for 13 years and also spent several years at the Farmers' Museum, providing guided tours to school-aged children.

When asked about volunteering, Susan said "Find something that you love to do, share it, and you will be rewarded. Volunteering in an area you are interested in is good for everybody. There are lots of things to try. Go ahead and do it!"

## AWARDEES:

# Martin Winsor Martha Winsor Otsego County



Martin and Martha Winsor have been volunteering together for over 30 years in Edmeston and the surrounding communities. Both have served in the Edmeston Rotary Club for over 20 years in every officer position. Marty also served in the Oneonta Rotary for 13 years. Martha has organized the Rotary Christmas Spirit event for many years, providing much needed food, toys, and clothes to over 50 impoverished families. Marty and Martha were instrumental in forming the successful Edmeston Rotary Community Corps, which has 60 members from towns across the area who help with beautification projects in the community. One of Marty's passions is the Rotary Exchange Program. Marty is tireless in his support of the students who travel to and from Edmeston on exchange, and both Marty and Martha are intimately involved in arranging host families and activities for incoming students. Over the years, the couple have been very involved in coaching sports at the elementary and high school levels and Marty has also coached the Edmeston Robotics Team for the past four years. Marty and Martha have provided their knowledge, time, money, leadership skills, and overall passion for the community to help others. They are the first to put their hands up when a call goes out for volunteers.

Martha was born in Gloversville, NY and moved to Edmeston when she was 12 years old. Martin was born in Cooperstown and raised in Milford, NY. After high school, Martha attended Oswego College and received a BA in liberal arts and certification in elementary education and art. Martin attended SUNY Albany and received a BA in psychology and continued his education at Oswego, where he received a master's degree in elementary education. The couple met while waiting tables during their summer jobs at the Otesaga Resort. After Marty and Martha married, Martha remained at home initially to raise their first daughter; Martin taught 6th grade at Schenevus Central School. He then pursued a law degree at Albany Law School and just three days before he was to attend his graduation ceremony, Martin and Martha welcomed twin daughters into their family. Martin opened a law practice in Oneonta, where he remained for 31 years. Martha pursued a master's degree in education administration from the University at Albany and taught for many years before becoming principal at Edmeston Central School, where she remained until her retirement in 2014. Martin and Martha both love to garden and enjoy spending time with their children, grandchildren, and cocker spaniel, Gibbs.

When asked their advice on volunteering, the Winsors said: "Get involved! The rewards multiply tenfold for every hour you volunteer and can lead to opportunities for all."

**AWARDEE:**

## **Edward Carrozza** **Putnam County**



Edward “Ed” Carrozza has been part of the RSVP Volunteer Medical Transportation Program for 17 years and never declines transport for a senior to their medical appointment. He is a kind, empathetic gentle giant and has been a member of the Putnam County Office for Senior Resources (OSR) family since his first day. His caring and compassion for veterans should also be spotlighted by his many acts of kindness. One story that exemplifies this is that he used to drive the wife of a WWII veteran to the doctor. After a few trips, her husband also needed to go to the doctor but they could not get him out of the house with his wheelchair. Ed, his brother, and several construction union retirees, took it upon themselves to build a ramp to make life easier for the couple. Ed’s background in construction, combined with his innate kindness, has brought so much joy to so many people. Ed also connected OSR with his brother from Texas who organizes a handyman program to help older adults with small jobs around their homes. He initiated the meeting when his brother was in town to learn about how the program runs and how he could help. In 2007, Ed was the recipient of an RSVP Humanitarian Award and is continuing his kindness today.

Edward was born in Flushing, Queens, on February 10, 1939, into a family of three brothers and two sisters. He was just 17 when he began his construction career with the Local Carpenters Union #279. At age 26, he married the love of his life, Kathy, at St. Matthew’s Church in Mamaroneck, NY. Ed and family moved to Mahopac in 1978. They are blessed with one daughter, Christina, her husband, and three grandchildren: Nicole, Ashley, and Jason, all of whom he adores. Using his construction experience, he and his brothers started a family-owned company, Carrozza Bros., which flourished for 15 years. After the dissolution of Carrozza Bros., Ed went back to work for the local carpenters union until the time he retired in January 2003. By November of the same year, Ed became an active volunteer for RSVP Medical Transportation through the assistance of his friend, Vinny, and has been going strong since. In addition to RSVP, Ed is currently the president of the carpenters union retirees and is active in volunteering through this position, as well. He is a dedicated family man and volunteer with a huge heart devoting time to others.

When asked what draws him most to volunteering, Ed replied, “I love getting out and volunteering. I truly enjoy it and the best is when I can bring a smile to their faces with a silly joke or action.”



**AWARDEE:**

## **Marjorie Williams** Putnam County

Marjorie Williams has been a dedicated volunteer for the Putnam County Retired Senior Volunteer Program since 1997 and has been tireless in giving of herself. She has donated a considerable number of hours to the Gilead Food Pantry in Carmel, New York, where she has been the director for over 20 years. Marjorie is responsible for getting the food for the pantry and providing necessary nourishment to low-income families, who greatly appreciate her efforts. She has volunteered weekly as a puppy socializer at Guiding Eyes for the Blind in Patterson. For five years, she called homebound seniors in the Telephone Reassurance program. Due to her heartfelt interest in her telephone friends, she still calls one of her early clients twice a week even though the client moved to North Carolina. Utilizing her nursing background, Marjorie took blood pressures at the Friendship Centers under the Wellness Program. She monitored and recorded blood pressures, and made each person aware of the risks involved with high blood pressure; alerting family members and doctors, if necessary. She walked in the March of Dimes Golden Mile, raising money to help fight birth defects, and helped with flu clinics for the county health department. In 2006, Marjorie was a recipient of an RSVP Humanitarian Award and is continuing her work today.

Marjorie was born in Davenport, Iowa on May 9, 1934. Her parents and brother encouraged and supported her pursuit of a degree in food and nutrition science from Iowa State. She continued her education and received an RN and master's degree in nursing at Texas Christian University. After completing her education, Marjorie worked in New York City. In 1970, she moved to the town of Carmel and began a career as a public health nurse for Putnam County. Her focus was on the prevention of illness, injury or disability, and the promotion and maintenance of the health of people in Putnam County. Her compassion and kindness helped her maintain lasting relationships with other nurses over the years. After four years of living in Putnam County, she made the decision to permanently make it her home. Marjorie purchased a house in Patterson where she still resides today. She truly loves the rural area and the friendly people.

Since retiring from her career as a public health nurse, Marjorie continues devoting her time to others by volunteering, because, as she says, "It just seems like the right thing to do. You just can't sit home and do nothing. I have a special devotion to helping others because of my nursing background."



**AWARDEE:**  
**Richard Gibbs**  
Queens County

As the founder/president of the 415 Lefferts Avenue Tenants Association, Richard Gibbs spent much time representing older tenants in court for landlord disputes. The 415 Lefferts Avenue Tenants Association was awarded the Self Help Neighborhood Award in 1977 from City Council President Carol Bellamy for converting a vacant lot into a sitting area for residents. Richard was president of the Queens Community Democratic Club for five years. With other NAACP members, he picketed for community based jobs at various sites, including Aqueduct Raceway (Resort World). He also participated in a protest against private developers attempting to seize the St. Albans Veterans Administration Hospital property, attended many civil rights protests, worked on voter registration drives, and transported people in need of rides to their voting polls. As president of the Independent Real Estate Brokers Council (IREB), Richard fought against redlining by banks, and counselled many, especially older adults, against mortgage scams. As a member of two senior center boards, Richard is still advocating for older adults. For approximately five years, he provided LaGuardia Community College students summer internships at his real estate office. Richard has participated in several youth mentoring programs and as an Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity member, he awards an annual \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior involved in community volunteerism. Richard provides workshops on what to do when stopped by the police. He is an active member of the Community Partner Program with the 113th Precinct. At age 80, health permitting, Richard said his community involvement will be constant.

Richard Gibbs was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. He served in the US Air Force from April 1958 to June 1962. He then moved to Manhattan and entered Columbia University in 1965. Richard met his wife, Brenda, at Columbia University while she was pursuing her master's degree. He was called to the New York City Police Department in 1966, and subsequently left Columbia University and returned to Brooklyn to attend the Policy Academy. Brenda and Richard were married in 1968 and are parents of three children, Gigi, Peter, and Brendan. Working nights and weekends on the police force gave Richard little time to spend with his young children, so he left the police department, took a pay decrease, and worked at the court as a court officer, where he was able to work days, have weekends off, and spend more time with his family. Gigi is a graduate of Temple University and is self-employed. Peter is a commodities exchange broker, and Brendan is a Nassau Council Police Detective. Brenda and Richard are still in the same house in Queens, 40 years later.

## AWARDEE:

# Edna Greenwich

## Richmond County



Edna Greenwich has a goal to educate Staten Islanders of all ages about all the wonderful resources that are available in their community. Staten Island is the smallest borough, but there are so many hidden treasures, fascinating people, and amazing histories to be told. She includes a youth component to all her activities and encourages others to do the same. As a caretaker to her mother and an older adult herself, she is especially sensitive to the older residents in her community. She checks on older community members who have no family.

Edna explains, “Assisting the kitchen staff at the West Brighton Center is a joyous challenge. These seniors are feisty and very particular about their food.” In serving them, she sometime gets an earful! Edna is also involved with the Girl Scouts. She was originally selected to chaperone a group of girls to attend the Girl Scout national event, Soul Flaritage, for girls wanting to explore fashion, Black history, and aviation, and subsequently became the event coordinator, where they visited the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building. In addition, Edna was involved with the Daycroft School in Rock Ridge, Greenwich, Connecticut, where she participated in weekly outings for children from the five boroughs of New York City. They would travel every Saturday morning to the boarding school, which became their school and home for the day. Each youngster was paired with a student and tutored in math, science, English, or other subject in which they required extra help.

A lifelong Staten Island resident, Greenwich attended the Fashion Institute of Technology and Finch College. Edna Greenwich is also the founder of Opera Exposures. As a retired performing arts executive, she worked at the Metropolitan Opera for more than 25 years. In 2004, she launched her nonprofit organization to support emerging vocal performers and expand classical performances beyond the gilded walls of world renowned opera houses. She produces opera concerts and recitals in Manhattan at St. Mark’s Church in the Bowery and St. Bartholomew’s Chapel on Park Avenue. She has produced recitals at Snug Harbor, the Reformed Church of Staten Island and the Unitarian Church of Staten Island. Edna has received several awards for bringing opera to the people: City Council citations, State Assembly recognition for community service, and a Staten Island Black Heritage Award. She is a member of Opera America and a patron of several other charitable organizations. Edna is a caretaker for her mother, who lives next door to her. She has enjoyed living a single life in New York with a wonderful extended family, loyal friends, and her first love, the performing arts.



**AWARDEE:**

## **Maurice Samuels** Richmond County

Maurice “Mo” Samuels is a member of the Catholic Charities West Brighton Senior Center where he holds a seat on the advisory board. After observing the low daily turnout for bingo, Maurice volunteered to coordinate bingo games. Shortly thereafter the attendance doubled. At the suggestion of the participants, Mo created a super bingo game where the prizes are valuable household items. This gave the older adults more incentive to participate in the games. On Thursdays, Maurice coordinates a raffle where the winner takes home a fruit basket. Maurice is an active member of his church, where he currently volunteers as a prayer worrier. He leads the members in daily prayers, which help to uplift their spirits and give them a positive outlook. Maurice was hospitalized by a stroke in 2014, but he shares that it was “by the grace of God that I recovered and decided to dedicate my life to God.” He is now a prayer worshiper at Brighton Heights Reform Church. Every Monday to Friday, Mo prays for/with people in the community. He feels that is his way of thanking God for giving him a second chance. Maurice also volunteers as security guard for special events at the church hall, especially when movie productions rent the space to record scenes and footage.

Maurice was born at Harlem Hospital, and lived in West Brighton from the age of five. He is the son of proud parents Eartherine and Maurice Samuels. His mom was a licensed practical nurse (LPN) at Harlem Hospital. She was also the president for the LPN union. Maurice Samuel, Mo’s dad, was the head custodian at the Public Marine Hospital for Service Members, which is now known as Bailey Seton. Mo has four brothers and one sister. The Samuels family moved to Staten Island in 1958. Mo attended PS 19 for elementary school, IS 27 for intermediate school, and graduated in the first graduating class from Susan Wagner High School. Mo met the love of his life, Audrey, at Susan Wagner High School. Mo and Audrey are parents of triplet daughters. When his wife became ill, Mo’s family all chipped in to help raise the girls. In the meantime, Mo had to seek a second job to support his family. He found employment with the Sanitation Department in 1987. Mo says his wife and triplets are all doing well.

Mo’s advice to other volunteers is to see people for who they are, and pray for a breakthrough for whatever they may be in need of, because you cannot change anyone’s behavior. He says he lives his life by the five Ps (passion, persistence, planning, people, and positivity).

**AWARDEE:**

## **Betty Meisler** Rockland County



Betty Meisler has made a difference by serving on a committee that developed a plan for a demand-responsive transportation service for older adults and people with disabilities in Rockland County. She has also been involved in a number of organizations, including Cancer Care, Volunteer Action Center, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, AARP, the Rockland County Senior Health Care Coalition, Meals on Wheels, Mental Health Association, Rockland County OFA Advisory Council, and the Safe Older Driver Consortium.

Betty Meisler was born and raised in the Bronx, where she attended Morris High School and graduated as salutatorian with Colin Powell, the former secretary of state. Betty married after high school and had two daughters. She moved to Rockland County in 1966 and began volunteering for Cancer Care and other local organizations. Betty learned how to fundraise through programming, and how to serve as a board member through various experiences. In 1972, Betty returned to the workforce at the Nurse's Registry in Spring Valley. In 1975, she began work at the Office for the Aging, where she served as a senior account clerk. She was encouraged to return to school and enrolled in Rockland Community College, where she majored in human services. She then went on to Empire State College to further her studies in human services. In 1979, Betty became the director of the Rockland County Foster Grandparent Program, where she led for 30 years, until 2009. She connected the institutions into the community and introduced the program into the schools, head-starts and programs for children with special needs. Working with the older population, she began to see many unmet needs and helped to develop programs to meet those needs.

When asked her advice about volunteering, Betty says: "Prior to retirement, people should think about where their services may be needed in the community. Based on their interests, they can explore what volunteer opportunities are available through a Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). Giving back to one's community is a very rewarding experience."



**AWARDEE:**  
**Frances Pratt**  
**Rockland County**

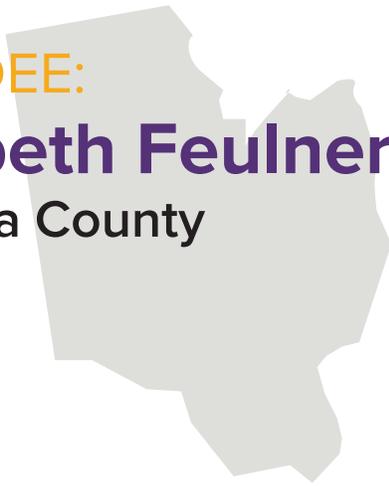
For 48 years, Frances Pratt opened her home to women with mental health challenges as a licensed family care provider. She made sure all felt loved and well cared for. She has made a difference by providing mentorship and effective encouragement to youth and adults alike in her community. She has enhanced the quality of life for every resident. Older adults don't need to be fearful in their neighborhoods, because someone like Dr. Pratt has been around for 40 years helping to influence school board policy, educating parents on health and wellness, and providing encouragement and a venue for talent to be nurtured and showcased.

Dr. Frances Ethel Powell Pratt is a native of Chester County, SC, the 10th child of the Powell family. She received her primary education in the Chester County public School system and graduated from Friendship Junior College in Rock Hill, South Carolina before studying religious education at Barber Scotia College in Concord, North Carolina. After relocating to Nyack, NY, her compassion for helping others led her to later enroll in the nursing program at SUNY Rockland Community College in Suffern, NY. After earning a nursing degree and passing the NYS Board of Nursing Licensure Examination to receive her RN, she climbed the ranks to become the first African American to serve in the position of head nurse in the emergency room of Nyack Hospital. After retiring in 2000, Dr. Pratt returned to full time duty in August 2001, where she was appointed as manager of the newly formed Employee Health Services. Described by an associate as a “solider for social justice and civil rights in Rockland County,” she is respected by all who know her. She has been a resident of Nyack, and the president of the Nyack Branch NAACP for over 40 years and continues to champion the rights of the marginalized and underserved in Rockland. Dr. Pratt was married to the late Marshall Pratt and has one daughter, three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren. Her family remains the source of her greatest pride, satisfaction and accomplishment.

Dr. Pratt believes it is everyone's duty to serve others, and that volunteering enhances the community as well as the person volunteering. An adage she lives by, shared by her third grade teacher, states: “If a task is once begun, never leave it until it's done. Be the labor great or small, do it well or not at all.” Being a volunteer helps one establish relationships which could lead to gainful employment, also.

**AWARDEE:**

**Elizabeth Feulner**  
**Saratoga County**



In 1978, the Galway School budget was defeated. That was the moment when Elizabeth “Liz” Feulner started to question why the town wouldn’t want to pass the budget that would benefit the children in the community. She went door to door to ask “Why?” She soon realized people in her community were suffering, especially older adults. Not wanting to see her people suffer, Liz joined the Saratoga County Red Cross and soon became chair for her area. She started working with EOC Weatherization and Catholic Charities to help bring assistance to Galway. With her impeccable organizational skills, she implemented the local food pantry, clothing pantry, weatherization programs, Meals on Wheels program, transportation for people in need, and helped with Section 8 housing for members in her town. Through the years, Liz has worked on various local projects from helping a child receive medical assistance to orchestrating help for veterans to receive the funds they deserve. Liz has also volunteered in many organizations that contribute to her Irish heritage, which she takes very seriously. She has received numerous awards and honors for her dedication, including the highest honor among the Lions Club International, the Melvin Jones Fellow, and the prestigious American Institute for Public Service Jefferson Award.

Liz was born in Queens, NY to two Irish immigrants and is one of eight children. In 1964, Liz married her husband Alan and together they lived on Midway Island in Hawaii while Alan served in the Navy Seabees during the Vietnam War. After Alan’s service they settled in his home town of Galway, NY, in 1969. Liz was a homemaker and raised their four children. In 1979, when her youngest child started school, she began volunteering and started her transportation company. Liz’s company transported students in need in and out of their school district for 35 years.

Liz believes that volunteering is the most rewarding thing that anyone can do: “You will meet all sorts of people and be grateful for everything you have in your life. The greatest reward is being a part of implementing and organizing programs and knowing that they are still in existence today.”



**AWARDEE:**  
**John Randall**  
**Saratoga County**



John Randall has been a volunteer at the Corinth Senior Center for the past 20 years, where he delivers meals any time his services are needed. The program reports that he always has a smile on his face and is willing to help anyone he can. He says he finds pleasure delivering meals to people who appreciate them so much, and he knows that in some cases, he may be the only person they see all day. Additionally, he has started picking up food twice a month for older neighbors in need within his community. John is a very dedicated volunteer who is famous for his punctuality. The staff jokes “If he doesn’t show up on time, we’d better check on him, because there must be something wrong!” The word “no” is not in John’s vocabulary.

John Randall was born in Corinth, NY in April 1938. He was one of six children, and lives on the land where he grew up. He married his wife in 1959 and had three children. When John’s wife passed away in 1999, he began volunteering. John came into the senior center for lunch and started helping out. He began by assisting with meal preparation, but it wasn’t long before he was delivering the meals, as well.

John’s advice for other New Yorkers about volunteering is to “get out and help other people—especially older people. You may be the only person they see that day. It’s good exercise and keeps you young. The greatest reward for volunteering is making other people happy.” It gives John great pleasure to help others who need it.



## AWARDEES:

**Lawrence King  
Maryde King**

**Schenectady County**

The Kings have contributed greatly to wilderness advocacy, and they have shared their recreational passions with the Schenectady community in novel ways for more than 50 years. They have given tirelessly: giving public talks; holding leadership positions; guiding folk dance lessons; cleaning up the banks of the Mohawk; advocating for the Adirondack Forest Preserve; and helping young people recover from trauma and addiction. From 1970 to 2008, they were closely involved with the Friends of the Bridge Center, a nonprofit rehab for people with drug and alcohol addiction. They started helping with recreational outings, and Larry later became the board president. Larry wrote, "I look upon my 30 some years as a volunteer at the Bridge Center as the most significant work of my life. My work at GE was important since that was how I made my living, but my volunteer work at the Bridge Center was more important in that it benefited society as a whole. Often we would meet the graduates out in the community and they would come up and say, 'Remember me? I was at the Bridge Center, and I've been clean and have a job.' It makes our day and makes the effort worthwhile."

Maryde King was born January 30, 1925 and grew up in Walla Walla, Washington. She moved to Schenectady, New York in the 1960s when she was recruited as a GE librarian. Larry King was born May 31, 1930 and grew up in Johnstown, New York. He moved to Schenectady after he was recruited to GE from high school. They met at GE and shared deep lifelong passions for hiking, photography, music, and nature preservation. Among their many volunteer activities, they together developed a number of slide/motion picture and recreational programs related to various aspects of the natural world for presentation to interested organizations. From those presentations, they developed many community relationships and additional volunteer projects. Maryde had one son who passed away after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. Their granddaughter Amy lives in Albany with her husband Jason and young daughter Miranda. Extended family and many friends live in upstate New York and across the country. The Kings find inherent rewards in enjoying and sharing the beauty of nature and music. They developed their closest friendships with others who are passionate about the Adirondacks, opera, and folk dancing.

When volunteering or doing projects, Larry and Maryde often talk about starting modestly and letting the experiences and relationships develop naturally out of genuine and shared interests. They say that what may appear to many simply as "free time" activities can, over time, become the most significant of life's adventures.

**AWARDEE:**

## **Ann Parillo** **Schenectady County**



Ann Parillo has volunteered for most of her life. When she retired, she felt it was time to give back to the community that nurtured her and her family over the years. At first she thought that she was doing the giving, but what she realized was that she was giving a gift to herself. The joy of engaging and encouraging people, supporting and lifting people’s spirits, and creating new experiences for people—that was all part of the package. It made her life experiences and love of her community increase tenfold. The weekly cable television show that she produces and hosts, Schenectady Today in and Around the Capital Region, is one way that she has been able to give her guests a voice that may not be easily given through traditional means. Now in its 21st year of serving the people in the area, it usually bring six segments each week to the viewers. They highlight community leaders, the arts community, education, health issues, and many other topics. She continues to promote topics on the Web, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and Twitter. This is all done without compensation and by engaging other volunteers to help with the show.

Ann was born in Schenectady and lived here for almost all of her life. She has resided in Niskayuna for 33 years and before that in Rotterdam and Scotia. She was a pharmacist for her entire professional career, having received her pharmacy degree at the Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Ann is the mother of three, the grandmother of eight, and the great-grandmother of one. She is perhaps best known for Schenectady Today in and Around the Capital Region, which reaches over 400,000 households. More than 1,070 shows have been aired. In addition to Schenectady Today, Ann has also worked on the oldest known color photographs of the China Exhibition in Schenectady, Kunming and Beijing, China. She was also instrumental in the Sister Cities Project between Schenectady and Kunming, China, hosting representatives and going to Washington, DC, to facilitate the association between the two cities. Ann is currently working on an exhibition at MiSci, the Museum of Innovation and Science located in Schenectady. She has also served on the board of directors of 440 State Street, Inc. for approximately 20 years.

When asked about volunteering, Ann says: “You will be surprised what volunteering does for your spirit and what joy it brings. Perhaps start with one organization and then expand those opportunities. Volunteer with an organization you care about that has a passion for the community. The fun and joy is out there.”



**AWARDEE:**

## **Joan Baxter** **Schoharie County**

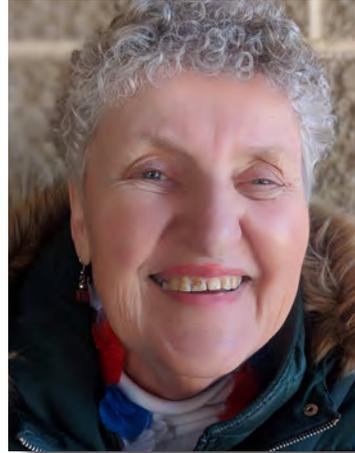
Three years ago, a handful of women took Schoharie County Office for the Aging's A Matter of Balance class, and to this day they get together a few times a week to continue the exercises they learned in class. They credit this to Joan Baxter. The women motivate and inspire one another. After exercising, Joan takes them to the congregate meal site, where they all eat and play games together. She also offers to take her friends to see friends that used to live in the senior housing in Sharon Springs but have since moved on to assisted living or nursing homes. Joan keeps her group from being socially isolated. She takes people to church, to meetings, and to the meal site. She goes above and beyond to maintain ties and to help people that need her.

Joan Baxter has spent all of her 87 years in Schoharie County, primarily in Sharon Springs. She was born and raised in Argusville, and attended Sharon Springs Central School. After graduation, she went to work at the school for 35 years. She started out as the only secretary in the building and by the time she retired, she was the business manager. Joan went to church at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Argusville. She was married there, and three of her four children were baptized there before the church unfortunately had to close its doors. Since then, Joan has been an active member in the United Methodist Church in Sharon Springs. When her oldest child was 19, Joan's husband passed away and Joan raised their four young children by herself. She is fiercely dedicated to her community and the people in it, and goes out of her way to help those in need.

When asked for her advice about volunteering, Joan said: "Do all you can do. Be as friendly, welcoming and helpful as you can be."

**AWARDEE:**

**Dorothy Shaul**  
Schoharie County



Dorothy “Dottie” Shaul has made a big positive impact on the meal site she attends regularly. Her personality shines through, and she talks to everyone, making them smile or laugh. If someone needs help, she is there. She assists the site coordinator with center activities as well as serving meals, wiping down tables, and doing dishes. She does all these tasks with out being asked. The site coordinator states, “There’s nobody here who doesn’t love Dottie. She is an amazing person!”

Dottie has been a lifelong New Yorker, living with her family on their farm in the Schoharie Valley for much of her life. Dorothy currently lives in Fultonham, NY, in a home quite close to her family farm. She enjoys visiting with her brothers and sisters regularly and especially enjoys traveling to see her sisters throughout the country. They plan sister weekends a few times each year so they can spend time together. Dottie has a large extended family that she enjoys seeing as often as she can. She does not have any children of her own but has enjoyed spending time over the years volunteering at several local daycare centers, where she read to children or helped with arts and crafts activities. For fun, Dottie enjoys being a member of a local bowling league, an evening social club, and a performance group, where she sings. Dottie enjoys keeping busy and has gained many friends through these activities.



**AWARDEE:**  
**Diane Edwards**  
**Schuyler County**

After retiring, which was followed by the death of her mother in 2013, Diane Edwards sought to fill the void left after working full time for 43 years. She wanted to find a way to contribute to the betterment of others and not-for-profit organizations by using the skills garnered over a lifetime. She found her way to the Schuyler County Office for the Aging where she used her financial background as a HIICAP volunteer to quickly learn the art of helping others navigate the puzzle of Medicare, and also became a volunteer to drive older adults who are unable to transport themselves to medical appointments. Due to losing her husband to dementia, Diane contacted the Alzheimer's Association and then became fully involved. She helps plan and host social events for people with dementia and their caregivers and helps to provide educational seminars to educate people on the causes of dementia as well as how best to cope with the challenges. Still driven to do more, Diane found opportunities to use her financial background to help her church, the Keuka Lake Association, and the Corning Civic Music Association to manage and protect their financial assets.

Diane grew up in Waverly, NY and graduated from Elmira College with a degree in economics, followed by Cornell University with a master's in business administration. She worked for years in merchandising and financial management at Sears Roebuck in Chicago and returned to the Finger Lakes area in 1999 to help care for her aging parents. She was fortunate enough to land a position as the administrative head of the Department of Applied Economics and Management (Dyson School) at Cornell University, a position she held until 2013 when she retired to help care for her mother. While at Cornell, she applied her skills of financial and personnel management and oversaw the renovation of one of Cornell's historic buildings. Diane has lived in New York for 44 years. Her husband of 39 years passed away in 2012 from complications related to dementia. She has one son, Jon, and three stepdaughters, Sandi, Amy, and Nicole. She has a love for her two dogs, music, the environment, and helping others.

"Volunteering gives me a reason to get up in the morning, to find a way to help others, and to fill my life with purpose. I have watched too many retired people become recluses, spending their days glued to the television, just waiting for something meaningful to come to them. The older I get, the more I realize my healthy days are probably numbered and now is the time when I can reach out to others to help make their paths a little smoother."

**AWARDEE:**

# **Kathleen LaMoreaux**

## **Schuyler County**



Kathleen LaMoreaux has a long history of serving her community. Her teaching career began in West Irondequoit and continued in Watkins Glen Central Schools where she taught English and coached the girls' swim team, amassing an impressive record of wins and state titles. Kate is a member of the WGHS, Section IV Athletic, and Schuyler County Halls of Fame. As a 4-H leader, cub scout den mother, and a member of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) board, Kate has been able to continue working with children outside of the classroom. Since 1973, she has been the program director and Instructor for the American Red Cross Summer Swim Program in which thousands of Schuyler County children and adults have learned to swim. Since her retirement in 2010, she has volunteered for CareFirst, the Office for the Aging Advisory Council, St. James' Episcopal Church as a senior warden, and the Watkins-Montour Lions Club as an active member and past president. As an avid hammered dulcimer player, Kate also volunteers her musical talents to local organizational fundraisers and events.

Kate stays connected to her former students (and sometimes even those students' children) directing and organizing the annual summer swim program. She currently leads 19 staff members including 5-7 teen volunteers who are training to become swim instructors. In addition, she is a certified swim official in New York State, having volunteered at the New York State swim meet at Ithaca College. Kate has educated thousands of children on how to swim while promoting water safety. One former summer swim student even survived treading water for 17 hours off the coast of Indonesia after the ferry she was on sank, all thanks to the lessons she learned from Kate about using her clothing as a flotation device. Kate is also very involved with the Lion's Club. She organizes many events including vision screenings to provide early detection of vision issues in young children, a chicken barbeque to help fund the summer swim program, a workgroup to assist the local Catholic Charities in packing Christmas boxes for families in need, and other Lions activities.

Kate is a lifetime resident of New York State, an alumna of Watkins Glen High School, SUNY Cortland where she received her bachelor's degree, and Elmira College where she received her master's degree in education. Kate married her husband David LaMoreaux in 1970 and together they raised two sons, Peter and Philip. Kate is now the proud grandmother of four.

Kate says that life is about giving to others, "It's a funny thing about giving, the more you give of yourself to others, the more you receive in return."



**AWARDEE:**

## **John Talbot** **Seneca County**

John Talbot's dedication to his community is evident. Since arriving in Seneca Falls he was encouraged to become involved in the community. He served on the board of the American Red Cross in the Finger Lakes and on the board of the Seneca Falls Historical Society. He has served on the board of directors of Literacy Volunteers of Seneca County for more than 9 years, currently serving as treasurer. He was involved in the smooth transition to a new director after the retirement of the long-term former director. Literacy Volunteers is involved in helping adults, including immigrants, improve their ability to speak, read and write English, and improve their math skills, if necessary. He has been a member of the Seneca Falls Rotary Club for over 28 years, serving as president, secretary, and treasurer. In the past he was publisher of their weekly newsletter "The Spokes." Rotary is involved in many programs that aid the citizens of the county. He has been involved for the past 11 years in an AARP sponsored program that does free tax preparation for older citizens under the auspices of the county office for the aging. Preparers are trained and updated every year. Taxes are prepared three days a week by a team of volunteers from February to mid-April. He seems to handle some of the more complex returns, He has also taken on the role of electronic returns originator. This person is responsible for electronically filing the returns prepared each day and resolving any problems that may occur. He is also responsible for attending regional pre-season planning and post-season wrap-up meetings.

John was born in Homer, New York and built a career in banking. He enjoys spending time with his friends and family and is a fan of antique cars, and NASCAR, visiting Watkins Glen for races.



## AWARDEES:

# Fay Sheldon Cindy Sheldon

St. Lawrence County

The husband and wife team of Fay and Cindy Sheldon work together, volunteering their time and resources to help whenever and wherever a need arises. At least three times a week they deliver meals for the St. Lawrence County home delivered meal program. They ensure individuals have a warm meal to eat. If a client needs assistance with anything, they are willing to go the extra mile to help out. The individual that nominated this couple stated: "Cindy and Fay contribute more than their services; they are a kind and caring couple who never let you down. They go above and beyond what is asked." Cindy and Fay promote community events to raise funds for admirable causes that benefit people of all ages, including holiday parties for children, family festivals, benefits for families in need, and blood drives for the American Red Cross.

Cindy is a member of the Ladies Auxiliary AMVETS Post 282 of Potsdam, where Fay has been commander for the past two years. They are both active members of the West Potsdam Volunteer Fire Department, where Cindy volunteers for the auxillary, and Fay has been the treasurer for 15 years. Both Fay and Cindy support veterans and older adults through their volunteer work. Cindy and Fay were both born and raised in New York State. Cindy attended the Massena School of Business and had worked at Adirondack Auto Sales for 15 years. She eventually bought and ran the Schoolhouse Market in West Potsdam for 17 years. Fay retired from the US Army in 1990 after 20 years of service, and then began working at Trimm Trucking as a driver, retiring in 2013. Cindy and Fay have been married for 19 years, and have three children and five grandchildren.

When asked their advice about volunteering, they had the simple suggestion: "A lot of people need help, so find them and help."



**AWARDEE:**

**Susan Arthur**  
**Steuben County**



Susan Arthur retired from teaching in 2002, which gave her plenty of time to dedicate herself to other passions. She has volunteered at Ira Davenport Hospital for the past 12 years, transporting patients by wheelchair, running errands throughout the building and carrying medical samples to the lab for processing. Seventeen years ago, Sue's love for animals brought her to the Finger Lakes SPCA, where she spends an average of 40-50 hours a week caring for at-risk animals. Her volunteer roles include facilities manager, outreach volunteer coordinator, equine supply coordinator and fundraising facilitator. She's a member of the emergency rescue team, taking care of logistics and participating in the rescue of animals from horrible conditions. Vicki Mosgrove, director of the Finger Lakes SPCA, says that she would need to hire three or four people to do the work that Sue accomplishes as a volunteer. Beyond this, Sue is simply a good neighbor. She knows the people in her neighborhood and she looks out for them, especially the ill and older neighbors remaining at home. She checks in on them and spends time visiting. Often, Sue and her husband Jim will attend local fundraising dinners and purchase extra meals to deliver to the neighbors who were not able to get out on their own.

Sue was raised in Marcellus, NY, near Syracuse. After graduating high school, she attended SUNY Brockport, where she earned a teaching degree in physical education and biology. She earned her master's degree from SUNY Cortland. She was offered a position at the Canisteo School District and made the move to Steuben County to begin a 33-year career teaching physical education, life science and biology. An avid sportswoman, Sue also became well known throughout the county as "Coach" to many soccer, basketball, softball, and baseball teams. Although she taught in Canisteo, she was actively involved in youth sports coaching in Bath. In total, Sue has spent about 36 years coaching youth sports. She was the president of the Bath Little League, and was appointed as the first female athletic director in New York State. She met her husband, James, in 1974 after being set up on a blind date by a friend of Jim's. There was chemistry in the match, and the two began a 44-year life together. They remain happily married to this day, adding two sons, a daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren to their family.

On volunteering, Sue believes that everyone has a gift and that once that gift is discovered it should be shared with others. She says that we all require support from others throughout our lives, so when we have the opportunity to give back it is a privilege to do so.

## AWARDEE:

# Nancy Snyder

## Steuben County



Nancy Snyder is a lifelong resident of Steuben County, and currently resides in the town of Pulteney. After graduating from Hammondsport Central School in 1960, she earned her nursing degree at St. James Mercy School of Nursing in Hornell, NY. Her husband of 45 years, Larry, was a professional horse trainer. For the next 10 years, they traveled as he applied his trade, allowing Nancy the chance to work at hospitals in Cooperstown, Oneonta, and Turners Falls, MA. After 10 years on the road, Nancy and Larry returned to Pulteney, and she began work at Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital in Bath. Larry passed away in 2008, and Nancy retired from nursing in 2016. During her career she was a floor nurse, an ambulatory surgery nurse, and an emergency room nurse. Her extended service, particularly on the overnights in the ER, earned her the nickname, “Nancy Night Nurse.” She has been a 38-year member of the Pulteney Presbyterian Church, where she served as an elder. Nancy has also taken the lead in organizing the community’s annual CROP-walk, raising funds to help fight hunger in the community. Most notable has been Nancy’s service as an emergency medical technician (EMT) and her 39-year membership with the Pulteney Volunteer Ambulance Corps (PVAC). She has served as the captain for three terms, the QA/QI Officer for 22 years, the medical director liaison, and as a clinical instructor for EMT classes.

Nancy continues to serve the Pulteney, Hammondsport and Bath areas. As an EMT, she responds to approximately 50% of the emergency calls, and responds personally to more minor medical needs, as well. She is the person neighbors call for help with sprains, strains, cuts and bruises. She helps her neighbors stabilize their situation until they can seek higher care. If an older neighbor needs assistance with minor medical care, like injections, eye drops or wound dressings, Nancy responds to lend a hand. She provides more than just basic medical support by staying to visit with her older neighbors to offer companionship. Her outreach brings comfort, encouragement, strength, and love to the individuals, letting them know that they are cared about and are valued. She continues in the tradition of Florence Nightingale, and serves as an example of how a simple service with the skills of a lifetime can enable older adults to age in their home as long as they can.

When offering advice about volunteering, Nancy believes that one should limit oneself to what one enjoys and is competent at, and then work up slowly to other challenges. Too much involvement offered too quickly may result in a run-down volunteer.

## AWARDEE:

# Steve Rochester

## Suffolk County



After years of positively impacting his students, Steve Rochester now impacts the lives of those attending the SYJCC's senior center. As a volunteer for the past six years, he has assisted with all aspects of the nutrition program on a daily basis. Steve helps participants with computer issues and will often look up information for them. He also teaches an American history class every other week at the senior center. Outside of his activities at the SYJCC, Steve is a volunteer high school coach and president of a local Celiac support group. As volunteers, he and his wife traveled to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina. They also volunteered to assist those affected by Superstorm Sandy.

Steve Rochester was born in Brooklyn and moved to Long Island at the age of four. After attending Syracuse University, he returned to Long Island to begin his career as an educator at Brentwood High School. He retired from the Brentwood School District after teaching social studies for 37 years. Steve has been married to his wife Ilene for 44 years and they have two sons and one grandchild. They both love to travel and help people.



**AWARDEE:**

## **Joanna von Seydewitz**

### **Sullivan County**



Joanna von Seydewitz has worked with people in every stage of life in the community through the volunteer spectrum; from Girl Scouts to veterans to older adults. Her positivity and professionalism are exceptional and she is an exemplary volunteer for the Sullivan County Office for the Aging reception program, as well as providing medical transportation for older adults and those who are homebound. Her nominators say that she gives 100% of herself with everything she does. Since 1977, Joanna has given time to the American Legion Auxiliary, where she is a past unit, county, and district president. She has served as the secretary for the Bethel-Smallwood Seniors since 2016, and has volunteered time to RSVP as the volunteer secretary for volunteer services.

Joanna was born in Bellmore NY, and moved to Sullivan County in 2015. Professionally, she worked as a budget analyst and office manager for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in Jericho, NY before taking the position of church secretary at the Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Patchogue, NY in 2013, from which she retired.

When asked her thoughts about volunteering, Joanna says: “I volunteer because I care about other people and I realize that no government’s budget can help everyone who needs their help. If you find yourself with time, give back to your community. You get more back from volunteering than you give—you meet interesting people and learn more about your community.”

**AWARDEE:**

## **Carolyn Warner**

**Tioga County**



Carolyn Warner’s impact on her community is priceless. She volunteers in many different types of programs, assisting individuals ranging from the very young to the very old. As a volunteer Medicare counselor, Carolyn is patient and compassionate. She truly understands the needs of the clients she serves and frequently refers people to additional programs for assistance. Clients often request to meet with Carolyn year after year for health care plan reviews, as she makes them feel comfortable and encourages them to take their time making important choices. Her nominator says “Older adults in our community rely on Carolyn to help them get to their medical appointments. The feedback from these clients is that Carolyn is always punctual, which alleviates any anxieties of being late for appointments. She’s a terrific communicator, which puts her clients’ minds at ease. Carolyn makes her clients feel safe and provides added comfort by staying with individuals in the waiting room.” Carolyn is a busy volunteer, juggling many different responsibilities, and the organizations she volunteers for prize her high level of organization. She is a true champion of the people she serves.

Carolyn Warner was born in Michigan, but has lived in a variety of locations. In 1969, she moved to Colorado with her husband, followed by a move to Hawaii. After just a couple of years, they moved again, this time to Wilmington, DE, for her husband’s job. Two years later, in 1976, they packed up once again and headed for North Carolina. It was then that Carolyn decided to return to school to get her bachelor’s degree in business administration. In 1989, Carolyn and her family moved to New York and they currently reside in Owego. Carolyn and her husband have two children, one of whom lives in South Carolina, while the other lives in Seattle, WA. Carolyn enjoys traveling to visit with them and their families often.

According to Carolyn, “When you start volunteering, you have an idea about what you can do to help others, but it ends up that you’re the one who has been blessed by meeting new people.”

**AWARDEE:**  
**Beth Harrington**  
Tompkins County



Beth Harrington’s volunteer engagements have been numerous. For some time, Beth has been an active member of the Tompkins County Office for the Aging’s long term care committee. Through this and various subcommittees, Beth has helped implement several initiatives including the “Step Up to Stop Falls” coalition. Beth’s work at the Ithaca Free Clinic includes providing guidance as the chair of the Clinic Operations Committee, where she offers her invaluable experience in nursing and crisis management. Beth has also provided many years of volunteering for Slaterville Volunteer Ambulance and Fire Company. She gives much of her time working celebrations and fundraisers such as chicken barbecues, as well as being a passionate advocate for the critical role that emergency medical services play in the delivery of health care. Beth also has donated her time to the Health Planning Council and the Sothern Tier Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Beth has lived in New York State since 1971, moving to Tompkins County in 1974. She worked for Cayuga Medical Center for 31 years, leaving there (“retiring”) in 2003. She has been working for the Tompkins County Department of Emergency Response since then, as an assistant director/EMS coordinator. Her husband is also a volunteer paramedic and firefighter and he volunteers for a number of other community groups—he is her partner in every way. In addition to their three children and four grandchildren, they have many rescue pets, including horses, dogs, and cats.

When asked her thoughts about volunteerism, Beth said: “As Americans, I believe we are losing our sense of community... a sense of caring about friends, family, and neighbors built upon volunteerism. Organizations of every type are struggling with loss of volunteers; it’s a national epidemic. I would say to everyone—just do it—and reap the rewards of the great satisfaction that goes with volunteering.”

*no photo available*

**AWARDEE:**  
**Louise Matosich**  
**Tompkins County**

In retirement, Louise Matosich has committed her time to volunteering for a number of organizations. Louise never seeks acknowledgement or praise for all that she has done and the impact that she has had on her community. Louise volunteers at the Salvation Army every Saturday and Sunday, preparing and serving food and often cleaning the kitchen, as well. Louise also visits Cayuga Ridge, a local nursing facility, where she brightens the residents' days by singing for them. She will even offer the residents the microphone allowing them to sing their favorite song. There is no doubt that Louise's presence serves to bring energy and joy to the residents of Cayuga Ridge. Additionally, she continues to volunteer at the History Center, which she has done for almost 30 years.

Louise was born and raised in Ithaca, New York. She met her husband there and they started their family. Louise stayed home to raise her children and in that time she discovered the joy of volunteering. She assisted with activities at the school her young children attended and has enjoyed volunteering since. After that she worked part-time at various places including the History Center. While employed at the History Center she was responsible for running the front desk, managing the book store and keeping track of the books. After she retired, she continued to foster her love of history by volunteering there, which she still does today.

For anyone considering volunteering, Louise says: "Volunteering is very enriching. It keeps you busy, especially when you retire. There is so much you can do for other people. It's important to always do what you are interested in, not what someone tasks you with. For example, I have an interest in history, so I volunteer at the History Center."

**AWARDEE:**

# Anita Williams Peck

## Ulster County



Anita Williams Peck was an incredibly successful businesswoman and passionate about her community. She extended genuine kindness and gracious hospitality to everyone she encountered. During her many years at Williams Lake, Anita helped create countless memories for vacationers, beach club members, and others in the community, while providing year-round employment for hundreds of local residents, and summer jobs for area youth. While managing Williams Lake, Anita was an incredible environmental steward, preserving over 400 ecologically sensitive acres, ensuring the land will remain “forever-wild,” aiding in preservation of sensitive wildlife habitats, and protecting endangered species. When Anita decided to sell the property in 2006, land preservation was one of the main reasons that Hudson River Valley Resorts bought it. They will now continue the Williams family legacy in honor of Anita, redeveloping the iconic hotel property as a world class sustainable resort community. Anita was renowned in Ulster County and the Hudson Valley for her countless hours of volunteerism with literally dozens of nonprofit organizations that included local libraries, local schools, health organizations, chambers of commerce, historical sites, children’s agencies, the Rosendale Theatre, SKAL international—the largest tourism organization in the world, and over 56 years at the Junior League of Kingston.

Anita Williams Peck (June 5, 1940 – January 26, 2019) was born in Kingston, NY, and grew up in Rosendale at Williams Lake, the family resort that her Finnish immigrant grandfather founded in 1929. She was a graduate of Kingston High School and the University of Vermont, and also studied at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. She was the mother of Theodore Peck V and Jennifer Patton, and proud grandmother of Alexa Peck. Beginning in 1965, together with her parents, Anita helped operate the family business, the legendary Williams Lake Hotel, a year round family resort. She took over sole management of the hotel and resort in 1987 when her father died. Anita served as a member and as president of the Rondout Valley Central School Board, and was a member of the Ulster County School Board Association. She was also a board member of the Ulster County Community College Foundation, where she had recently completed her third term as chair. Additionally, she endowed the Anita Williams Peck High School Public Speaking Competition, now in its ninth year at the college. Anita was an inaugural donor to the SUNY Ulster President’s Challenge Scholarship, which helps Rondout Valley High School students to be the first in their family to attend college.

Upon her mother’s passing, many people asked Anita’s daughter Jennifer: “What can I do?” Jennifer’s simple and telling response was: “Be like Anita.”



**AWARDEE:**

## **Sheldon Quimby** **Ulster County**

Very little in Ulster County has not been impacted by Sheldon Quimby in some way. He is always working quietly behind the scenes to take care of some small detail that someone else may have overlooked. He has patience, tenacity, and a stick-to-it mentality that are true assets to the community. The O & W trail from Kingston to Ellenville would not exist without his vision, hard work, diligence, and public relations expertise. And Ulster County would not be receiving the accolades for its commitment to caring for its natural resources if people like Sheldon had not been laying the groundwork for decades.

Sheldon “Lee” Quimby was born in Wellsboro, PA. After a three-year tour in Japan with the US Air Force, he was stationed in the Hudson Valley Stewart Air Force Base in Newburgh. He studied accounting and statistics at Orange County Community College, and graduated from SUNY New Paltz in 1973, where he earned his degree in accounting and Asian studies. He continued his studies at Marist college for two years until he and his wife, Bernadine, welcomed their first child in 1975. Lee first moved to Ulster County 51 years ago and has lived in Port Ewen for the past 47 years, where he and his wife Bernadene raised their children, Michael and Elaine. His professional life included many years as deputy treasurer of Ulster County. He retired from public service as deputy county administrator in 2015. During their time in Ulster County, the Quimbys have also celebrated the birth of three granddaughters, Alyssa, Abigail, and Alana.

Sheldon Quimby has a servant’s heart and is the best kind of neighbor. He always offers a listening ear, and connects with people from all walks of life and in every circumstance. He has a kind word for all and his honesty and integrity are impeccable. He is deeply committed to his faith and it shows in the way he cares for others.

**AWARDEE:**

**Patrice Cianci**  
Warren County



Patrice Cianci is the kind of person who can talk to anyone. During the holiday season, she goes caroling to people who are homebound. She worked with the Bolton Health Committee to shop, wrap, and distribute gifts during the holiday season. Pat is one of the volunteer drivers for home delivered meals in the Bolton area in the northern part of Lake George. While her route should only take about 45 minutes to complete, she cares so much about the people she serves that it is not unusual for the staff to find Pat returning two hours after she left. The team at Warren County Office for the Aging describe Pat as “a wonderful person—kind, open, and helpful.” Even though Pat is always on the go, the nutrition program is grateful they can always count on Pat to take a last minute route.

Pat is a native New Yorker, born in Brooklyn, NY, but she grew up on Long Island and in Red Hook. She has a bachelor’s of science in math, and worked as a programmer at the IBM in Poughkeepsie for 30 years. She moved to Bolton in 2007, and enjoys the outdoors and visiting new places and her daughter.

When asked about volunteering, Pat says “Just do it! Find an area you’re interested in that needs help and is separate from your career job.”

**AWARDEE:**

## **John Plantier** Warren County



For the better part of two decades, John Plantier has served on the board of the Hadley Luzerne Library, much of that time as the library's president. He is also a board member of the Southern Adirondack Library System. As president of the Hadley Luzerne Library, John has exhibited a unique management style. He performs the traditional functions of presiding over board meetings, working with the staff, volunteering at library fundraisers, setting annual budgets, and directing library planning. In addition, he can always be counted on to do routine maintenance, undertake small as well as large construction projects, and occasionally repair leaky plumbing. He does it all with a fun sense of humor that enlivens the experience of his co-workers. John is always on the go and always looking for ways to help others. He gives rides to those without transportation to their doctor's appointments and delivers meals for the Warren County Office for the Aging. As he is always excited to promote the library, he also drops off books to people who are homebound. John is also a member of the Lion's Club and the Hadley Luzerne Historical Society.

John was born in Troy, NY. John married his wife, Nan, in 1971, and together they have a daughter. They moved to Lake Luzerne 16 years ago, once Nan had retired. John has a love for the Adirondacks and for the outdoors and has spent a fair amount of time hiking and canoeing. Once he retired from the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, John dived further into helping his community.

When he isn't volunteering, he enjoys spending his time reading and gardening. The staff who nominated him said: "John has a great sense of humor and is quick with witty banter. He's an overall great guy who is humble and loves to help others!"

**AWARDEE:**

# **Anthony Cantanucci**

## **Washington County**



Anthony Cantanucci has been and is still involved with several volunteer organizations. He was with Speigletown Volunteer Fire Co. and was a member of the New York State Guard. Commendably, at the age of 70, Tony trained as a certified first responder, then upgraded to an emergency medical technician for the West Fort Ann Fire Department. He also trained in high angle rescue, swift water rescues, and is a certified scuba diver. In his early years he volunteered his diving skills to assist emergency agencies in underwater recovery. Currently, Tony is with West Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Department as the Fire Police captain and a Class C firefighter. He serves as a honor guard and color guard and is an adjutant with the American Legion Post 703. He is also a member of Fort Ann EMS Rescue Squad, Washington County Fire Police, and New York State Fire Police Association. He has volunteered with the Corner Stone church food pantry and with St. Ann's Catholic Church. He is a member of the Kingsbury Barnstormers Snowmobile Club (trail maintenance and website manager). He has volunteered with the Fort Ann Historical Society assisting with the published Fort Ann's 300 Year History book and creating a DVD about Fort Ann cemeteries. He has volunteered several years with the Adirondack Charity Rodeo Fundraiser. He is currently a member of the Queen Anne Senior Citizens Club and the Senior Center of Kingsbury/Fort Edward. He volunteers his time with local historical sites and helps the Girl Scouts with their tractor parade float.

Anthony "Tony" Cantanucci was born in Troy, New York in 1943 and spent his summers growing up on Hadlock Pond in West Fort Ann, NY. Tony was an altar boy at St. Patrick's in Troy and after graduating from Catholic Central High School, he attended Hudson Valley Community College. In 1965, Tony served in the US Army and Army Reserves during the Vietnam War in 1969. After serving in the Army, Tony started working for Ford Motor Company. In 1968, Tony met Patricia and they were married in 1971. They have one daughter, Gina, a son-in-law James Mitchell, and one granddaughter, Jadyn. Tony worked for Ford Motor Company for 30 years and received several recognition awards for his creative suggestions. Upon retiring in 1997, Tony and Patricia moved to West Fort Ann, New York. At the age of 68, Tony taught himself how to play the drums, and is a drummer for various American Legion parades. Tony enjoys being active, continues to enjoy water skiing, snowmobiling, photography, and being on the Adirondack Foothills Pistol League.

What advice would Tony give about volunteering? "Keep yourself active; it keeps you young," he said.



**AWARDEE:**  
**Arlene Moore-Bolster-Green**  
**Washington County**



Arlene Moore-Bolster-Green attends town board meetings, and is a strong supporter of school activities, sports, religious events, and community functions. She takes great pride in making her community a better place to live. In 2016, Arlene was the Post Star's Shining Star Fort Ann winner. As president of the Old Stone House Library committee, she enjoys organizing children's programs and working with children and adults. Arlene was successful in getting the library placed on the State and National Registry of Historic Places. Arlene is on the finance committee with St. Ann's Catholic Church. She is a charter member of 66 years with the Court Mater Maria, Catholic Daughters of the Americas, where she was the regent and now the treasurer. In 2000, Arlene was a founding member of the Fort Ann Historical Society and currently serves as president. In 2007, after six years of research, writing, and collecting pictures, Arlene was honored to be instrumental in the writing and publishing of the book "Fort Ann: 300 Years of History." For many years Arlene enjoyed providing ushering services at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center. She has volunteered her time for the Fort Ann Cemetery Association, Fort Ann Central School Alumni Association, Fort Ann Town Recreation Committee, Fort Ann Canal Beautification Committee, and Laureate Alpha Mu of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, where she supported Glens Falls' Amanda's House as well as visiting nursing homes. She volunteered with the Glens Falls Hospital Guild (Whitehall Branch). She is also a member of the Queen Anne Seniors.

Arlene was born 85 years ago to Florence and Edward Moore and has been a lifelong resident of Fort Ann. She graduated from Fort Ann Central School and Plattsburgh State Teachers College at Plattsburgh. Arlene married Charles Bolster of Glens Falls and they had two children, Charles (CJ) and Charlene. She has one grandchild, Caroline. In 1988, Arlene's husband passed away. In 2008, Arlene married Stanley Green and has nine step-children, 25 step-grandchildren, and 28 step-great grandchildren. Arlene taught school for 34 years, three years at Hartford Central School and 31 years at Hudson Falls Central School. She began her teaching career as a school-nurse teacher and finished her career as a second grade teacher. After retiring from teaching in 1992, Arlene became a real estate agent for several years. Now, she continues volunteer work, and in her spare time she enjoys her family, flower gardens, traveling, playing golf, and spending the winter months in Myrtle Beach, SC. Arlene's parents were very active in the community and were always helping others. As an only child, she would attend community meetings with her mother and feels that her mother was responsible for her interest and involvement in the community.

**AWARDEE:**  
**Patricia Albrecht**  
Wayne County



Patricia Albrecht has been volunteering since the early 1970s. Many of her volunteer activities are through her church, first the St. John's Parish in Clyde and now the St. Michael's Parish in Newark. She also volunteered for the Notre Dame Retreat House before she became a paid employee. As a cancer survivor she is a member of Visions of Hope, a group of breast cancer survivors offering support to others. Some of her most rewarding work has been doing hospital visitations through her church. It was this connection with the hospital that positioned her to become a founder of the newly established comfort care home "Laurel House" in Newark. Over the course of the past six years, she has managed to secure a location, get the house renovated, get a board of directors, and hire a director. There is only one other comfort care home in Wayne County so the Laurel House is a badly needed resource that will help a lot of people for years to come. She is also an active member of the Newark Rotary and has been a valued member of the senior advisory council for the Department of Aging and Youth for years.

Pat is a lifelong resident of Wayne County. She spent the majority of her life in Clyde, but recently moved to Newark. She has been married to her husband for 52 years and they have one son and two granddaughters. She worked for many years in the insurance industry until she felt a calling to do something different and went to work at the Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua, where she finally felt she had found her niche. She went back to college when she was in her 40s and was working full time, caring for others, and commuting to school at the same time. Despite having to battle winter weather as a commuter, she was able to obtain her certifications as a business manager and pastoral minister. Throughout her life and volunteer experiences, her faith has played a huge role. She felt most at home giving presentations on faith and the role of faith in everyday life while working for the Retreat Center. The saying "Stand on each other's shoulders" is a favorite of hers because it reminds her that you are never in it alone; the people who came before are as important as the people who are now and who will be in the future.

Pat encourages others to get involved, especially if you feel a call or a push. "If something is gnawing at you, do something about it. Volunteering is addictive and you always get more out of it than you give."



AWARDEE:

**Richard Lasher**

Wayne County

Richard “Dic” Lasher was active, and is still a member with the Wolcott Fire Department, where he and his wife organized Toys for Tots and he chaired the Wolcott Summer Festival. He is active with the American Legion, where he started a Memorial Day parade in 1978 (and built floats for it) as well as coordinated with schools to have students help him to put flags on the graves of veterans in area cemeteries. It wasn’t until after he lost his wife and then suffered a heart attack soon thereafter that he realized his dream of working on the Tournament of Roses Parade, where he is now a crew chief. He takes people from his local community out there with him to be part of that whole experience. He puts his float making skills to good use closer to home as well and has organized a Christmas parade that spans across three different towns. All three communities get involved with building the floats and decorating the fire trucks. He loves to see the kids get involved and the community come together as people file out of their houses to see the parade as it goes by.

Dic is a Wayne County native. He was born in Sodus and raised in Wolcott, where he lived for 60 years before moving to a house in North Rose that was custom made by his son. He graduated from North Rose Wolcott High School and in 1963 began his 30-year career working for General Motors. Dic enlisted in the Army in 1965 and served in Germany during the Cold War until 1968. He served on one of the two teams that might have been called upon to activate nuclear weapons during that conflict. In 1972 he built his first float—a wedding float for his wife. They were married on the float as it cruised through town. He started his active volunteer life in Wolcott in 1973 with his wife at his side. They had two children and were married almost 30 years until she passed in 2001. Dic has five grandchildren who are the lights of his life. In addition to working for GM, he also worked for a printing company and as a school bus driver. He spends a lot of his time volunteering with various community organizations and coming up with new ideas for floats.

Dic says: “Do it and give back to your community and country. Use volunteering as an opportunity to educate the kids (who are the next generation) and community. Do it yourself and bring people along with you. It is good for you and good for them.”

**AWARDEE:**

## **Joann Prinzivalli** Westchester County



Joann first started her volunteer work with The LOFT, a Westchester based LGBT Community Center in 2000 and has been a volunteer since, including serving as a member of the organization’s Board. Joann served as a facilitator and co-founder of The LOFT’s Transgender Peer Support Group, a facilitator for The LOFT’s Women’s Group, and also has helped The LOFT provide LGBT and Trans 101 trainings in the greater community. She also helped organize The LOFT’s first Transgender Day of Remembrance Ceremony in 2003 (an event honoring lives lost to anti-transgender violence), which is an event that has been held every year since. In addition to her work with The LOFT, Joann also provides pro bono legal assistance for the transgender community, including processing legal name changes and other issues. She has also been a member of Westchester County’s LGBT advisory board since its inception in 2002. This nomination shows the passion and dedication that Joann has for The LOFT and the greater LGBT community.

Joann was born in Brooklyn, moved to Staten Island as a child, ultimately settling in Westchester as an adult. Joann currently lives in White Plains, in an apartment she once shared with her late spouse Trudy Katz. Joann has four children and five grandchildren. Professionally, Joann has over 35 years of title insurance underwriting experience, and is currently the chief counsel for Insignia National Title Agency in Manhattan. Joann is the founder and state director of the New York Transgender Rights Organization (NYTRO), an unincorporated association dedicated to grassroots transgender activism. She is also a board member and past chair of the Lower Hudson Valley chapter of the New York Civil Liberties Union. In addition to her volunteer work, Joann has been an active policy writer for New York’s LGBT community. In 2003, she wrote the first draft of GENDA (Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act), which very recently passed the New York legislature. She also wrote the first draft of a bill that passed the Westchester County Legislator in late 2018, banning the practice of harmful reparative “conversion” therapy. In recognition of her contributions to Westchester’s LGBT community, Joann was awarded top honors this past December at the Westchester County Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.

Joann sees volunteerism as a civic duty, to give of one’s time and talent to help make communities stronger—to promote justice, equity, and compassion, and to make our world a better place.



**AWARDEE:**

## **Rosemarie Stasio** **Westchester County**

Rosemarie has been an active volunteer at the senior center at Fox Center, FISH (Friends in Service Helping), and My Second Home. At the Fox Center she served on the board for over 20 years, most of those years serving as board president and vice president. Rosemarie did everything from sending out birthday cards to all the participants, to working the annual tag sale, to handling all other activities that came with serving as president and vice president. For 25 years, Rosemarie was also on the board of FISH. There her days would start at 6 AM, receiving phone calls from people needing rides, coordinating with the volunteer drivers, and providing them with the details of their assignments. Rosemarie also volunteered one day a week for five years at My Second Home, where she spent time comforting Alzheimer's patients, as well as being a companion for many other individuals with a variety of medical and mental challenges.

Rosemarie Stasio was born on September 4, 1928 and was raised in the Bronx. In her early 20s she married Ernest Stasio, who was recently discharged from the military after losing his brother over the Pacific, as well as his older brother to PTSD in World War II. A stay-at-home mom, Rosemarie gave birth to four daughters, and a son, and volunteered with the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts while they were young. After her husband's death in 1990, Rosemarie moved to Mt. Kisco to start a new life and be closer to her children (and now nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren), beginning her involvement with the Fox Center and FISH. In recognition of her contributions to senior community, Rosemarie was awarded top honors this past December at the Westchester County Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.

When asked for her advice about volunteerism, Rosemarie shared: "Always treat people the way you would want to be treated—with dignity and respect, putting yourself in their shoes. Also, get involved in any opportunity that arises." Rosemarie always made a point to greet newcomers to the Fox Center, remembering what it was like being in a new area and not knowing anyone. She made herself available to work on projects and take on any role where she was needed.



**Office of the State  
Long Term Care  
Ombudsman**

# **2019 OMBUDSWOMAN OF THE YEAR**

## **Petronella Thomas**

Petronella Thomas has made a huge difference for the residents at her nursing facility- the Upper East Side Rehab & Nursing Center. She is a tireless advocate and doesn't give up on pressing for the best possible results for all of the residents, even when she may encounter obstacles which might have discouraged less persistent individuals.

Petronella's outstanding advocacy won her the 2018 NYC Ombudsman of the Year award. In addition, Petronella acts as a mentor to potential and new Ombudsmen. She has pre-shadowed and post-shadowed with numerous new Ombudsmen, who have praised her guidance. Petronella has also assisted the NYC Ombudsman Program with community outreach. She has gone to different boroughs throughout NYC with our volunteer coordinator in order to educate the public on the program and assist with volunteer recruitment. The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program and its sponsoring agency Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY are fortunate to have Petronella Thomas represent the program.

Petronella Thomas is a native of Trinidad, West Indies, has resided in New York City for 30 years and is a U.S. Citizen. She is a former teacher and has also worked as an office manager. Petronella is also an excellent photographer. She has two sisters, one who lives in New York and one in the West Indies. Petronella has volunteered in various positions in New York. All who know her praise her kindness and caring attitude.



**Office for  
the Aging**

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor  
Greg Olsen, Acting Director



**HIICAP**  
Health Insurance Information,  
Counseling and Assistance  
Program

# 2019 HIICAP VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

## Guy Merrill

Guy Merrill has served as a volunteer in the Health Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP) in Schenectady County for over 10 years. Guy was originally recruited as a volunteer by his former co-worker, the late George Halbfinger, shortly after retiring from a very successful career as an engineer and manager. Since then, he has been a steady and regular presence in the Schenectady HIICAP office, meeting weekly with clients and expanding his base of knowledge through his dedication and strong interest in the HIICAP program.

Guy has amassed a wealth of knowledge over the years on all aspects of Medicare and its assistance programs. Guy is a valuable asset to the Schenectady County HIICAP Program. One HIICAP coordinator recently attributed her knowledge and skills to being able to work side by side with Guy and “learn from the best.” Each year, Guy gains an even more solid understanding of the Medicare system. Coupled with his analytical ability, this makes him an effective counselor and an important resource to the program. Guy volunteers weekly and is client focused. He is very professional and has proven to represent the HIICAP program well.

The HIICAP program depends on Guy, not only for his reliability and expertise regarding Medicare, but also for his calm demeanor and patience at explaining and breaking down the complexities of the system into understandable components. Guy continues to provide accurate digestible information to Medicare beneficiaries who might otherwise get lost in the process. His patience is legendary—he has been known to spend hours over the course of multiple meetings helping an individual client understand the financial implications of choosing among Medigap and Medicare advantage plans—or assisting a client who has been prescribed non-formulary drugs with choosing a Part D plan and developing the knowledge needed to understand his or her options to make informed decisions concerning non-covered medications. Through his handling of such cases, Guy is truly respected by his colleagues and clients for his patience, perseverance, and ability to make the complex system seem simpler.



Older Volunteers by New York State County, Volunteer Hours, and Economic Value, 2015

County	Older Volunteers (55+)	Volunteer Hours	Economic Impact
Albany	18,545	9,847,395	\$275,727,060
Allegany	3,094	1,642,914	\$46,001,592
Broome	12,841	6,818,571	\$190,919,988
Cattaraugus	4,942	2,624,202	\$73,447,656
Cayuga	5,050	2,681,550	\$75,083,400
Chautauqua	4,055	2,153,205	\$60,289,740
Chemung	5,549	2,946,519	\$82,502,532
Chenango	3,148	1,671,588	\$46,804,464
Clinton	5,301	2,814,831	\$78,815,268
Columbia	4,028	2,138,868	\$59,888,304
Cortland	3,129	1,661,499	\$46,521,972
Delaware	3,087	1,639,197	\$45,897,516
Dutchess	18,771	9,967,401	\$279,087,228
Erie	32,345	17,175,195	\$480,905,460
Essex	2,564	1,361,484	\$38,121,552
Franklin	3,284	1,743,804	\$48,826,512
Fulton	3,477	1,846,287	\$51,696,036
Genesee	3,764	1,998,684	\$55,963,152
Greene	3,177	1,686,987	\$47,235,636
Herkimer	4,056	2,153,736	\$60,304,608
Jefferson	7,033	3,734,523	\$104,566,644
Lewis	1,650	876,150	\$24,532,200
Livingston	2,331	1,237,761	\$34,657,308
Madison	4,613	2,449,503	\$68,586,084
Monroe	25,938	13,773,078	\$385,646,184
Montgomery	3,088	1,639,728	\$45,912,384
Nassau	46,335	24,603,885	\$688,908,780
Niagara	7,593	4,031,883	\$112,892,724
Oneida	14,759	7,837,029	\$219,436,812
Onondaga	29,035	15,417,585	\$431,692,380
Ontario	3,761	1,997,091	\$55,918,548
Orange	22,125	11,748,375	\$328,954,500
Orleans	1,507	800,217	\$22,406,076
Oswego	7,611	4,041,441	\$113,160,348
Otsego	4,068	2,160,108	\$60,483,024
Putnam	3,447	1,830,357	\$51,249,996
Rensselaer	13,743	7,297,533	\$204,330,924
Rockland	10,178	5,404,518	\$151,326,504
St Lawrence	7,109	3,774,879	\$105,696,612
Saratoga	10,093	5,359,383	\$150,062,724
Schenectady	9,621	5,108,751	\$143,045,028
Schoharie	2,108	1,119,348	\$31,341,744
Schuyler	1,180	626,580	\$17,544,240
Seneca	2,226	120,006	\$3,360,168
Steuben	6,118	3,248,658	\$90,962,424
Suffolk	51,201	27,187,731	\$761,256,468
Sullivan	4,822	2,560,482	\$71,693,496
Tioga	3,177	1,686,987	\$47,235,636
Tompkins	6,774	3,596,994	\$100,715,832
Ulster	11,720	6,223,320	\$174,252,960
Warren/Hamilton	4,515	2,397,465	\$67,129,020
Washington	4,018	2,133,558	\$59,739,624
Wayne	3,219	1,709,289	\$47,860,092
Westchester	32,519	17,267,589	\$483,492,492
Wyoming	2,680	1,423,080	\$39,846,240
Yates	1,551	823,581	\$23,060,268
NYC	417,387	221,632,497	\$6,205,709,916
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>935,060</b>	<b>495,454,860</b>	<b>\$13,872,706,080</b>

Sources: Corporation for National and Community Service, New York State Data, 2015:  
<https://data.nationalservice.gov/Volunteering-and-Civic-Engagement/New-York/g59b-xbb5>  
 American Community Survey 2015 Five-Year Estimates: <http://FactFinder.Census.Gov>







# Office for the Aging

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Greg Olsen, Acting Director

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**CONNECT, CREATE, CONTRIBUTE** MAY 2019