

United Way of Southern Chautauqua County

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United Way Honors Volunteers

The United Way and thirteen of its member agencies honored special volunteers Tuesday during the annual Volunteer of the Year Reception, which was held at the James Prendergast Library. While the event highlights outstanding volunteer leaders, it also pays tribute to all volunteers who freely give their time, energy and talents to make positive change in our community and commemorates National Volunteer Week.

United Way Executive Director Mike Moots said, "We feel it is important to recognize volunteers each year, so we work closely with our member agencies to put on this event. Volunteers make a difference in our community, not just those we are recognizing today, but all volunteers. Volunteering is one of the pillars of our LIVE UNITED motto – give, advocate, volunteer."

United Way recognized two long-time volunteers with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program as its Volunteers of the Year. United Way Director of Community Building P. Richard Fleurant said Martha Grilla and Charles Heinz have been dedicated to the program and the people it serves.

"People who are returning to get their taxes done will often request Martha or Charlie as their tax preparer. They have come to know them and trust them," Mr. Fleurant said. "They are willing to help whenever they can, and both have said that they like volunteering to do taxes because they really get to see the benefits of helping those who need it."

United Way Board President Vickye James hosted the event, and refreshments were donated by Elegant Edibles.

Additional volunteers honored this year by United Way agencies are:

Allegheny Highlands Council, Boy Scouts Janet Thom
American Red Cross Donna Meder
Boys & Girls Club of Jamestown Dick Kalfas
Chautauqua Adult Day Care..... Carol Cooper, Shari Grice and Allie Grice
Chautauqua Blind Association..... Lois Estabrook and Lillian Henry
Chautauqua County RSVP.....Phyllis Ramsey
Chautauqua Striders, Inc.....Marie and Ed Vos
Court Appointed Special Advocates Cathy Moots
Family Service of the Chautauqua Region Katrina Jones
Girl Scouts of Western New YorkConcetta Young
Joint Neighborhood Project Mary Moore
Meals on Wheels.....Aspire of Western New York
YMCA Michael Garvey

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