



NEWS RELEASE – Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc.

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Thanks Given and Awards Presented at AAA7 Annual Appreciation Brunch

Giving thanks. That was common place at this year's Area Agency on Aging District 7 (AAA7) Annual Appreciation Brunch, which was recently held at the Southern Ohio Medical Center Friends Center in Portsmouth.

During the special event, several individuals and groups throughout the Agency's 10-county district were recognized for their service and dedication to not only the Agency as a whole, but more importantly, the communities and seniors served by the Agency. The Area Agency on Aging District 7 serves the following counties: Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton.

Special awards that were presented at the event to individuals or groups included:

William A. Jenkins Award (Outstanding Contributor to Our Southern Ohio Aging Network)

This year's Area Agency on Aging District 7 "William A. Jenkins Award" was presented to Jane Taylor, Past State Director of the Ohio AARP, who recently retired. The AAA7 presents the award annually to an outstanding contributor to the southern Ohio aging network. The announcement of the recipient of the award is kept secret until the day of the Appreciation Brunch. The award is named in memory of William A. Jenkins, a native of Gallia County, who helped build the aging network in southern Ohio through the Area Agency on Aging District 7.

Taylor, who in the past has also been the Executive Director of the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging, as well as Director of the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging in Columbus, has been an individual the AAA7 has enjoyed working with in a variety of capacities for many years.

During the award presentation, Pam Matura, Executive Director of the AAA7, acknowledged Taylor for the significant impact she made during her career throughout the aging network, not only in our local district and the state of Ohio, but also her contributions to providing input and change on a national level.

Intergenerational Educator of the Year Award

The Area Agency on Aging District 7 "Intergenerational Educator of the Year Award" was presented to nine (9) local university/college programs that, over the years, have assisted the AAA7 with student placements in order to enrich the learning experience for their students and give them a real life work environment. The AAA7 appreciates the opportunity this provides not

only for the student, but the fresh perspectives and fresh ideas and resources gleaned from the students. The universities/colleges that were recognized included: Ohio University Social Work Program in Athens, Ohio University Chillicothe Campus Social Work Program, Ohio University Southern Campus in Ironton Social Work Program, Ohio University Nursing in Athens, Shawnee State University Department of Nursing in Portsmouth, Shawnee State University Department of Business Administration Health Care Administration in Portsmouth, University of Rio Grande Social Work Program in Rio Grande, Southern State Community College Human and Social Services in Hillsboro, and Morehead State University at Ashland Social Work Program in Kentucky.

Partnership Award

This year's Area Agency on Aging District 7 "Partnership Award" was presented to the University of Rio Grande Esther Allen Greer Museum for their wonderful work with the AAA7 during the annual Senior Citizens Art Show and Poetry/Essay Contest that is held during May and June each year on the campus of the University of Rio Grande.

Staff at the Museum have been a huge supporter and friend of the event for many years, providing use of the Museum for the actual hanging and preparation of the Art Show, as well as the two weeks the art is exhibited and the closing Meet the Artists Tea that is attended by artists, guests, and the community. The AAA7 Senior Citizens Art Show, which began in 1982, has grown over the years and during this time, the University of Rio Grande has been a steady supporter and partner. Their continued assistance has been a vital asset to the success of the event, which is a favorite among many seniors in the district.

Caregiver of the Year Award

The Caregiver of the Year Award was presented to Aaron Bollinger of Lawrence County.

Informal caregivers are those unpaid individuals such as a spouse, partner, family member, friend, or neighbor who are involved in assisting others with activities of daily living or medical tasks. 65 million caregivers make up 29 percent of the adult population providing this care in the United States.

A Gallup survey in November 2012 found 72 percent of caregivers were caring for a parent, step-parent, mother in-law or father in-law, with 50 percent of these caregivers being employed full-time. Working caregivers often must rearrange their work schedules, decrease their work hours, or take unpaid leave to care for their loved ones.

The Caregiver Support Program at the Area Agency on Aging District 7 (AAA7) was created in 2001 through Older Americans Act funding to assist informal caregivers with information about caring for themselves and their loved ones, providing respite services, and linking caregivers to other needed services.

Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Volunteers

Chelsea Adams, Ronda Bivens, Carol Carter, Daniel Farley, Jeannette Hayburn, JoAnn Hilderbrand, Lois Ann Lemley, Nancy Miley, Dena Morris, Debra Neal, Joan Phillips, Maryellen Pratt, Elizabeth Prayner, Lavon Shields, Gerald Towler and Kathy Wolf-Utter.

Wellness Coach Volunteers

Cher Bellar, Linda Black, Libby Brisker, Etta Charlebois, Ashley Daniels, Brittany Farley, Cindy Goodman, April Greer, Diane Hewitt, Kim Johnston, Tami Jolly, Joyce Lewis, Colleen McCambridge, Dee Meddock, Marty Newman, Terri Pearson, Susan Pitts, Cathy Shipley, Sandy Shirey, Tracey Smith, Patty Snyder and Sandra Williams.

Art Show and Essay/Poetry Contest Volunteers

Joan Arrowood, Shelia Arrowood, Kathy Bays, Rita Baker, Clara Borden, Alice Chinn, Jack Chinn, Dennis Crabtree, Penny Crabtree, Ruth Davis, Martha Detty-Foster, Diana Evans, Doris Evans, Phyllis Fulk, Joyce Haag, Mary Johnston, Carolee Lewis, Freda Lowery, Mary Maxson, Rushie McAllister, Annabelle Miller, Maudine Minnis, Pat Parsons, Joan Shasteen, Nancy Shaw, Lavon Shields, Irena Skaggs, Jim Skaggs, Joann Smith, Anna Summers, David Summers and Phyllis Taylor.

Also recognized were winners at this year's Art Show, including: Alice M. Smith of Adams County – "Victor Potts Best of Show Award" in the Amateur Category; Pat Thompson of Adams County – "Victor Potts Best of Show Award" in the Professional Category"; Rita Haley of Gallia County - "Mary Peck Friend of Animals Award"; Sharon Brown of Jackson County – "People's Choice Award" – Norma E. Graf of Scioto County for "Best Overall Essay"; and Jeri Ingles of Gallia County for "Best Overall Poem."

Outstanding Seniors (As Selected by Each County Senior Center)

Adams County – Pastor Phil Fulton; Highland County – Juanita Kelley; Jackson County – Wanda Cross; Lawrence County (Ironton Senior Center) – Doris Roberts; Lawrence County (Sybene-Chesapeake Senior Center) – Lorene Plybon; Pike County – Richard Rundels; and Ross County – Betty Hougland.

The Area Agency on Aging District 7 was pleased to host another successful Appreciation Brunch to extend its thankfulness and appreciation to all the individuals and groups who make the district so special.

Your local Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc. provides services on a non-discriminatory basis. These services are available to help older adults and those with disabilities live safely and independently in their own homes through services paid for by Medicare, Medicaid, other federal and state resources, as well as private pay. The AAA7's Resource Center is also available to anyone in the community looking for information or assistance with long-term care options. Available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am until 4:30 pm, the Resource Center is a valuable contact for learning more about options and what programs and services are available for assistance.

Those interested in learning more can call toll-free at 1-800-582-7277 (TTY: 711). Here, individuals can speak directly with a nurse or social worker who will assist them with information surrounding the programs and services that are available to best serve their needs. The Agency also offers an in-home assessment at no cost for those who are interested in learning more. Information is also available on www.aaa7.org, or the Agency can be contacted through e-mail at info@aaa7.org. The Agency also has a Facebook page located at www.facebook.com/AreaAgencyOnAgingDistrict7.

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2015 AAA7 William A. Jenkins Award

Presented to Jane Taylor (second from left), Past State Director from Ohio AARP (retired). Also pictured is, left to right, Pam Matura, Executive Director of the Area Agency on Aging District 7; Larke Recchie, Executive Director of the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging; and State Representative Doug Green.



2015 AAA7 Intergenerational Educator of the Year Award

Pictured front row, left to right, Carole Alder, Ohio University; Charles Gorman, Southern State Community College; Gary Fenderbosch, AAA7 Board of Trustees President; and State Representative Doug Green. Second row, left to right, Megan Brown, Shawnee State University; Joy Shytle, Ohio University Southern; Kaci Compton, Field Representative for US Congressman Brad Wenstrup; Juli Stephens, Field Representative for US Congressman Bill Johnson; and Pam Matura, AAA7 Executive Director. Back row, left to right, Ginny Pinson, Department of Business Administration Health Care Administration at Shawnee State University; Eliza Harper, Ohio University School of Nursing; Leeann Denning, Shawnee State University Department of Nursing; and Paul Dovyak, University of Rio Grande Social Work Program.



2015 AAA7 Partnership of the Year Award

Presented to the University of Rio Grande Esther Allen Greer Museum. Pictured is AAA7 Executive Director Pam Matura and Jim Allen, Art Professor at the University of Rio Grande.



2015 AAA7 Caregiver of the Year Award

Aaron Bollinger of Lawrence County was presented with the Caregiver of the Year Award. Pictured are, left to right, Vicki Woyan with the Caregiver Support Program at the AAA7; AAA7 Executive Director Pam Matura, Bollinger; and Vicki Abdella, Director of Community Programs at the AAA7.



AAA7 Ombudsmen Volunteers Recognized

Front row, left to right, Lois Lemley; Mary Book with the AAA7 Ombudsman Program; and State Representative Doug Green. Second row, left to right, Kaci Compton, Field Representative for US Congressman Brad Wenstrup; Debbie Collier with the AAA7 Ombudsman Program; Dena Morris; Lavon Shields; and Pam Matura, AAA7 Executive Director. Back row, left to right, Juli Stephens, Field Representative for US Congressman Bill Johnson, Rex Sanders, Kaye Inoshita and Cindy Oakes with the AAA7 Ombudsman Department; and Gary Fenderbosch, AAA7 Board of Trustees President.



AAA7 Wellness Coach Volunteers Recognized

Front row, left to right, Kim Johnston, Cindy Goodman and Ashley Daniels. Second row, left to right, Kaci Compton, Field Representative for US Congressman Brad Wenstrup; Sandra Williams; Vicky Abdella, AAA7 Community Programs; Juli Stephens, Field Representative for US Congressman Bill Johnson; and Pam Matura, AAA7 Executive Director. Back row, left to right, State Representative Doug Green; Vicki Woyan, AAA7 Community Programs; Dee Meddock; Etta Charlebois; Libby Brisker; and Gary Fenderbosch, AAA7 Board of Trustees President.



2015 AAA7 Art Show Volunteers Recognized

Front row, left to right, State Representative Doug Green; Kaci Compton, Field Representative for US Congressman Brad Wenstrup; Annabelle Miller; Irena Skaggs; Doris Evans; Diana Evans; Carolee Lewis; and Phyllis Fulk. Second row, left to right, Juli Stephens, Field Representative for US Congressman Bill Johnson; Rushie McAllister; Bonnie Harris; Mary Johnson; Anna Summers; and Martha Detty-Foster. Back row, left to right, Lavon Shields; AAA7 Executive Director Pam Matura; AAA7 Board of Trustees President Gary Fenderbosch; Dennis Crabtree; Penny Crabtree; and David Summers.



2015 AAA7 Art Show Winners Recognized

Front row, left to right, Sharon Brown, Jeri Ingles, Rita Haley, and AAA7 Executive Director Pam Matura. Back row, left to right, Juli Stephens, Field Representative for US Congressman Bill Johnson; Kaci Compton, Field Representative for US Congressman Brad Wenstrup; State Representative Doug Green; and Gary Fenderbosch, AAA7 Board of Trustees President.



2015 Outstanding Seniors Recognized

Outstanding Seniors selected by their county Senior Center who were in attendance included, pictured front row, left to right, Lorene Plybon (Sybene-Chesapeake Senior Center in Lawrence County), Richard Rundels (Pike County); Pastor Phil Fulton (Adams County); and Betty Houglund (Ross County).