



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

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Contact: Jenni Dovyak, Communications Manager

F-32 PO Box 500

Rio Grande, OH 45674

Phone: 740.245.5306/Toll-Free 1.800.582.7277

E-Mail: jdovyak@aaa7.org

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's Appreciation Brunch, which was recently celebrated 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, Inc. 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, Inc. "William A. Jenkins Award" was presented to the AAA7 Provider Network. This group of nearly 150 partners, who contract with the AAA7 to provide home and community-based services, work diligently for seniors and those with disabilities.

Specifically for 2011, the AAA7 Providers were a huge help and asset with advocacy projects that surrounded funding and support for services that give seniors and those with disabilities a fair choice concerning their long-term care options. Providers exhibited strong support of the AAA7's goal of ensuring that consumers have the services and programs they rely on today and in the future.

"Our Providers' involvement in not only advocacy, but sustained efforts to maintain quality care for our consumer is so important," said Pamela K. Matura, Executive Director with the Area Agency on Aging District 7. "Our Providers are a huge part of our care delivery process, and we are so very appreciative of them and the work they do to assure our consumers are receiving the services they need in order to stay safely and comfortably in their home."

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, Inc.

Partnership Award

This year's Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc. "Partnership Award" was presented to Dale Gillette, who is currently with the Pickaway County Sherriff's Office where he is the Triad Coordinator.

Gillette has had many years of partnership work with the Area Agency on Aging District 7 through a number of programs, groups and support, and served as the State of Ohio's Triad Coordinator under General Richard Cordray of the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Triad partnerships are designed to help seniors learn of the scams and crimes that target them, increase their communication with law enforcement, and create awareness about community resources. Deputy Gillette has served on the National Triad Advisory Board and was the Triad Coordinator in Ross County for ten years. He initiated the SHIP program for Ross County and Project Lifesaver for Ross County, and now serves as a trainer for Project Lifesaver.

Most recently, Gillette was asked to serve on a national advisory committee for a US Department of Justice-funded project that will result in a national "Pocket Guide on Legal Issues Related to Elder Abuse." The project will also adapt the pocket guide to reflect state laws and resources.

In addition to recognizing Gillette, the AAA7 also took the time to recognize one of the projects Gillette has been so instrumental in – Project Lifesaver. Project Lifesaver first came to Ohio in 2002 in Ross County, and is now in several counties across the state, including six counties in our district – Gallia, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross and Scioto. The primary mission of Project Lifesaver is to provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children who wander due to Alzheimer's, autism and other related conditions and disorders. Participants in the program wear a personalized bracelet that emits a tracking signal. When a family member or caregiver notifies the local agency that the person is missing, a search and rescue team responds to the wanderer's area and starts searching with the mobile tracking system. During the event, the AAA7 recognized local law enforcement partners who support Project Lifesaver. These include the Gallia County Sherriff's Office, Jackson County Sherriff's Office, Lawrence County Sherriff's Office, Waverly Police Department in Pike County, Ross County Sherriff's Office, and Project Lifesaver of Scioto County.

Community Service Award

This year's Area Agency on Aging District 7 "Community Service Award" was presented to the American Red Cross Smoke Alarm Program.

Through a grant from the American Red Cross, the Area Agency on Aging District 7 was designated as a distribution center for smoke alarms and carbon dioxide detectors. Individuals who benefit from the program include those who are disabled and/or over the age of 65, or PASSPORT consumers who reside in Adams, Brown or Highland Counties in Ohio. Because of this geographical area, the Area Agency on Aging District 7 West Union office seemed the ideal center for distribution. Qualified consumers in the program can receive one carbon dioxide detector per household and one smoke alarm per household for each floor in the home. Area

Agency on Aging staff assists the consumer with completing the application, equipment testing and education about the devices and safety information. Kim Paquette, of the AAA7 West Union Office, was also recognized for her assistance with the project.

In 2010, the American Red Cross and Area Agency on Aging provided 24 smoke alarms and 22 carbon dioxide detectors to those in need in Adams, Brown and Highland Counties.

Special recognition was also given at the event to the following groups and individuals:

Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Volunteers

John Brewer, Rhonda Bivens, Mary Book, Rich Burton, Doug McCoard, Debbie Mersiel, Margaret Miller, Paul Plymale, Lavon Shields, Don Swisher, Jerry Towler and Connie Watkins.

Art Show and Essay/Poetry Contest Volunteers

Helen Arnott, Joan Arrowood, Sheila Arrowood, Rita Baker, Jane Bragg, Phyllis Copley, Wanda Czechlewski, Diana Evans, Doris Evans, Eleanor Fadeley, Hazel Fields, Jeanne Fisher, Gladys Flowers, Martha Foster, Phyllis Fulk, Jean Gray, Joyce Haag, Carolee Lewis, Mary Maxson, Rushie McAllister, Betty Means, Paul Means, Annabelle Miller, Shirley Miller, Rick Mitchell, Bob Powell, Vicki Powell, Nancy Shaw, Lavon Shields, Irena Skaggs, Anna Summers and David Summers.

Also recognized were winners at this year's Contest including Rosemary Imes of Lawrence County – "Victor Potts Best of Show Award;" Rick Mitchell of Gallia County – "Mary Peck Friend of Animals Award;" and Sharon Brown of Jackson County – "People's Choice Award."

Outstanding Seniors (As Selected by Each County Senior Center)

Adams County – In Memory of Johanna M. Phipps; Gallia County – Lily Holley; Highland County – Andrea Schneider; Jackson County – Opal Crabtree; Lawrence County – Juanita Meadows (Sybene Senior Center) and Carl Dean (Ironton Senior Center); Pike County – Juanita Bryant; and Ross County – Roy Burns.

State Awardees (District Honorees from the Ohio Department of Aging)

Elder Caregiver of the Year Award – Rhonda Madison and June Meade (Scioto County)
Elder Caregiver of the Year Award - Mary Weagle (Scioto County)
Senior Hall of Fame Inductee – Kathryn Loxley (Jackson County)
Joined Hearts in Giving – Paul and Sharon Reiser (Scioto County)
Joined Hearts in Giving – James and Wilma Rockwell (Scioto County)

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 in the following Ohio counties: Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross,

Scioto and Vinton. 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.

Those interested in learning more can call toll-free at 1-800-582-7277 (TTY 1-888-270-1550). 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. Information is also available on www.aaa7.org, or interested individuals can also e-mail info@aaa7.org.

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William A. Jenkins Award – Pictured are representatives from a number of the Provider Agencies contracted through the Area Agency on Aging District 7, who were in attendance to receive the Award. Pictured back row, left to right, Clarice Boldman, Best Choice Homecare; Bertha Scowden, Pike County Senior Center; Renee Ellis, United Scioto Senior Activities, Diane Renner, Pike County Senior Center; Emily Cobb Thomas, Scioto Community Action Organization; Janet Dean, Home Helpers; Henry Dillon, Gallia County Council on Aging; Ed Cierley, All Care Home Health; Vicky Cierley, Every Day Home Care; Joshua Fry, Senior Home Care Unlimited; Mike Webb, Community Action Committee Pike Home Health; Pamela Matura, Executive Director of the Area Agency on Aging District 7; Cheryl Mitchell, Home Care Network; Sara Jane Stofac, Traditions at Bristol Village. Second row, left to right, Nadine Porter, Best Choice Home Care; Melody Stapleton, Adams County Senior Center; Jennifer Wallace, Adams-Brown Counties Economic Opportunities, Inc.; Beth Frazier, Lawrence County Community Action Organization; Teresa Jones, Adams-Brown Counties Economic Opportunities, Inc.; Kim Hardesty, Ross Home Health Agency; Vicki Daily, RSVP of Scioto County; Susan Rogers, RSVP of the Ohio Valley; Terri Day, Frontier Community Services; Tami Law, Abbott Home Care; Jennifer Jordan, Homecare Network; and Karen Steinbrook, Traditions of Chillicothe. Front row, left to right, Trish Powell, Unity One Home Care; Shelley Lyon, Pike County Senior Center; Pam Tingler, Staker’s Drugs; Mary Sanford, Horizon Home Care; Vickie Bevins, Special Touch Home Care; Connie Leonard, Special Touch Home Care; Terri Davis, Special Touch Home Care; Christy Kennedy, Interim Health Care; and Brenda Hurley, B&B’s Catering.



Partnership Award - Pictured is, right, Jan Harper-Keeton, Secretary of the Ross County SALT Council, who accepts the Area Agency on Aging District 7 Partnership Award on behalf of Dale Gillette, who was unable to attend. Pam Matura, AAA7 Executive Director is pictured at the left.



Community Service Award - Pictured is, right, Mary Arzen, from the American Red Cross, who receives the Area Agency on Aging District 7 Community Service Award from AAA7 Executive Director Pam Matura. Also recognized was AAA7 staffer Kim Paquette who assists with the Red Cross Smoke Alarm Project at the AAA7’s West Union Office.



Partnership Recognition – Law enforcement partners were recognized for their support of Project Lifesaver in their communities.

Pictured Left – AAA7 Executive Director Pam Matura and Jimmy Spears of the Gallia County Sherriff's Office.

Pictured Center – AAA7 Executive Director Pam Matura and Dave Weber of the Ross County Sherriff's Office.

Pictured Right – AAA7 Executive Director Pam Matura is with representatives of Project Lifesaver of Scioto County including, left to right, Christine Arms, Portsmouth Police Chief Charles Horner, Vicki Daily, Pam Matura, Hughie Blair, Portsmouth Police Detective Andy Dawes, and Bob Pratt.



Ombudsman Volunteers Recognized - Front row, left to right, Ashley Phillips, Communications Intern with the AAA7; Volunteer Rhonda Bivens; Volunteer Mary Book; Volunteer Don Swisher; Staff Member Cindy Oakes; and Pam Matura, Executive Director. Back row, left to right, Volunteer Doug McCoard, Staff Member John Hogan, Staff Member Debbie Collier, Volunteer Debby Mersiel, Staff Member Rex Sanders, and Volunteer Lavon Shields.



Art Show Volunteers and Winners Recognized - Pictured is, seated, left to right, Irena Skaggs, Annabelle Miller, Diana Evans, Doris Evans, Helen Arnott and Nicole Lantondress with RSVP of the Ohio Valley. Standing, left to right, is Pam Matura, Executive Director of the AAA7; Ashley Phillips, Communications Intern with the AAA7; Lavon Shields; Rosemary Imes, Winner of the Victor Potts Best of Show Award; Jean Gray; Anna Summers; David Summers; Mary Maxson; Sharon Brown, Winner of the People's Choice Award; Rushie McAllister; Joan Arrowood; and Susan Rogers, Director of RSVP of the Ohio Valley



Outstanding Seniors Recognized - Pictured are a couple of the individuals representing their county's Outstanding Senior. Left to right, Juanita Meadows, Outstanding Senior for Lawrence County (Sybene Senior Center); AAA7 Executive Director Pam Matura; Corbett Phipps, who accepted the award on behalf of and in memory of his mother, Johanna Phipps, Outstanding Senior for Adams County; and Ashley Phillips, AAA7 Communications Intern.



Joined Hearts in Giving Recipients - Pictured are those couples who were recognized in 2011 by the Ohio Department of Aging at the "Joined Hearts in Giving" celebration that recognizes couples who are at least 60 years of age, married more than 40 years, and share a commitment of volunteering. Pam Matura, center, AAA7 Executive Director, recognized James and Wilma Rockwell, pictured left, of Portsmouth, and Paul and Sharon Reiser, pictured right, also of Portsmouth.



Elder Caregiver Awardees Recognized - Pictured are those individuals who were recently recognized by the Ohio Department of Aging with the Elder Caregiver Award. Fifteen (15) Ohio caregivers were recognized. From District 7 were Rhonda Madison and June Meade of West Portsmouth, and Mary Weagle of Wheelersburg. All are pictured w/ AAA7 Executive Director Pam Matura.