

Volunteers honored for decades of service



All that charity and good looks, too: Meals on Wheels volunteers were recently honored for their dedicated service.

Meals on Wheels for Western New York, a nonprofit organization providing home-delivered meals to the homebound elderly and disabled in Erie County, recently honored its 20-, 25-, and 30-year volunteers at its annual Volunteer Recognition Reception at its Community Learning Center in Buffalo.

Each year, Meals on Wheels for Western New York holds a volunteer recognition reception to pay

tribute to its long-time volunteers. This year, more than 100 gathered to honor 27 meal delivery volunteers for their years of service to the agency. Among those honored were Gertude Wozniak for 25 years of service, and Jaqueline Jurewicz, John Carpenter, and Patricia Wilkowski, who were all honored for 30 years of volunteer service. They deliver meals to homebound residents in the Lovejoy District

of Buffalo.

During the reception, each volunteer was presented a commemorative plaque, which will be added to the "volunteer wall of fame" at the Meals on Wheels service center. The wall of fame includes a collection of plaques dating back to 1996.

The organization has nearly 1,600 meal delivery volunteers—making it one of the largest volunteer-based organizations

in Western New York. Volunteers deliver meals to frail homebound seniors Monday through Friday.

"We are privileged to have such loyal volunteers, who are dedicated to serving their homebound neighbors," said Benjamin A. Gair III, chief executive officer at Meals on Wheels for Western New York. "Volunteers not only deliver food vital to sustaining proper nutrition, but they

also ensure the well-being of meal recipients."

In 2010, Meals on Wheels for Western New York delivered more than 810,000 meals to nearly 3,300 homebound elderly and special-needs persons throughout Erie County. The mission of Meals on Wheels for Western

New York is to deliver daily nutritious meals and to provide related support services to those members of the community who have a limited ability to shop and/or prepare meals for themselves. For more information, including volunteer opportunities, visit www.mealsonwheelswny.org or call (716) 822-2002.

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