

Volunteer of the Month

2007

January 2007 Don Moore

The editor of Volunteer Voices is **Don Moore**, who joined us this past year. His technical skills and creativity are helping us move forward into the new year, utilizing technology to cut our printing and mailing costs and save time as well. The newsletter was done totally off-site, out of our office space, and transmitted electronically for each step of the editorial process. We've come a long way in a few years!

We are happy to name **Don Moore of Guilderland as our Volunteer of the Month for January, 2007**. He is a great addition to our production crew, and a welcome addition to the Caregivers team. He demonstrates that there are many different ways for volunteers to help this organization, some in direct service to clients, and some behind the scenes.

Thanks so much, Don, for all your newsletter work. We appreciate you! Volunteer Voices will help us feel close and in contact, even as we grow.

March 2007 Carolyn Byrne and Winsor Lott

Community Caregivers has a special husband and wife volunteer team: **Carolyn Byrne and Winsor Lott** have earned our thanks by a diverse group of services. Both Carolyn and Winsor drive for us, providing transportation to all sorts of appointments. We are so glad that they are a two-car household, and some days have had both cars on the road for our clients. Sometimes we aren't sure which one will do the actual driving, but the answer to our request is, "Oh, yes, we'll be sure that Mary gets to her appointment," and they commit to seeing that Mary's need is met.

Winsor, in addition to getting folks to appointments, helps others with shopping, both at the grocery store and at the food pantry. He has signed on to assist some clients with shopping on a regular basis, once a month or every other week.

Carolyn supplements her driving by being part of part of "Team O", serving as one of our office volunteers. She brings an extra flexibility to the job, because she is on call to fill a shift when another regularly scheduled volunteer can't make it. Once in the office, Carolyn may assist with a mailing project or other task that needs organizing skills, or serve as a receptionist, taking requests from clients – we love her detailed notes!

Since signing on in 2004, Carolyn and Winsor have given more than 450 hours to Caregivers, and have driven almost 4500 miles. **We are happy to name this Albany couple as our Volunteers of the Month for March 2007!**

April 2007 Betsy Whitlock

Many of our new volunteers come to us after picking up a Caregivers' brochure at a local store or bank. They see our clear plastic brochure holder and our cream-colored brochure printed in blue catches their eye. Is that how you first heard of Caregivers?

The person in charge of the distribution of brochures and their plastic holders is **Betsy Whitlock**. She's a part of the Public Relations Committee, and comes to us with a background in graphic arts. Her organizational skills are a gift to us also, as she figures out how and when to contact her Brochure Distribution Team members, and how many brochures will be needed and where. Her graphics work was on display at the Volunteer Reception this year and last, as she had created special ways to recognize our volunteers, the things they do and the time they've spent with us. She's helping, too, with publicity for our outreach into Berne. And sometimes Betsy provides a needed ride for a neighbor.

For her contributions in this variety of ways, we are happy to recognize **Betsy Whitlock of Altamont as our Volunteer of the Month for April 2007**. We appreciate her enthusiasm for helping Caregivers "get the word out", and her willingness to help staff and committee volunteers in their tasks.

Thanks so much, Betsy! You're an important person for Community Caregivers.

May 2007 Barb Catlin

It's a pleasure to name the **Volunteer of the Month for May 2007: Barb Catlin** of Albany. Barb is one of those wonderful people who serve on "Team O", volunteering here in the office for Community Caregivers, answering the phone for incoming calls from clients, volunteers, other agencies, community friends and other public contacts. By picking up that steadily ringing phone on Tuesday mornings she frees staff members for other ongoing projects; she's giving the gift of time.

Barb has been the office volunteer who prepares and mails information packets to prospective volunteers, and prepares our supply of training manuals for new volunteer orientation sessions. Since we now have two, three or more information and orientation sessions each month, this takes more and more time.

She also serves on the Volunteer Recruitment, Education and Recognition Committee, helping to plan outreach events and the annual Volunteer Reception. This committee is becoming much more involved in the recruitment process. Barb is now assisting as a helper at orientation sessions, making sure that all the paperwork is completed. This is a big help in getting new volunteers started as quickly as possible.

Most of the connection that the Caregivers office has with our surrounding neighbors is by phone, but as we have relocated back to Altamont we find that more neighbors are stopping by to see our new quarters and to say hello. Most recently we've noticed what a particularly good job Barb does with these guests and the unexpected drop-in visitor.

Thanks so much, Barb! We appreciate your flexibility and willingness to help in so many areas, and your skill in dealing with the surprises that come our way.

June 2007 Donna Chardeen

We want to particularly recognize Donna Chardeen.. Donna is a new volunteer, but she has already done her first BIG service for Caregivers. Donna served as prime organizer for our participation in the Freihofer Community Walk, enlisting walkers and runners and keeping track of sponsors and donations for Caregivers. She worked with our PR committee, and webmaster to get the news out, she wrote and emailed many contacts. The end result? It appears that we have had a record-breaking success in terms of monies raised by this year's Walk on behalf of Caregivers.

We are happy to name **Donna Chardeen of Albany as our Volunteer of the Month for June 2007**. She signed up, then plunged right in to activities to support the mission of Caregivers, sharing with us her enthusiasm and her skills in communicating and organizing. Thank you so much, Donna, for all your help and hard work!

July 2007 Allan Bausback

We'd have a special volunteer to introduce to you this week. He comes from the Bethlehem side of our service area. **Allan Bausback** has been a frequent driver for Caregivers' clients since he joined as a volunteer in October, 2005. He has driven 1200 miles, taking clients to medical appointments, the food pantry, adult daycare, the occasional hair appointment, a social event, the gym or to visit family in a nursing home. His willingness to drive just about anywhere, for any purpose, has endeared him to our coordinators.

Sometimes a coordinator will make a dozen phone calls before finding a volunteer who is available at the day and time needed. Some drivers direct their volunteer hours and miles to getting people to medical appointments, and medical appointments are the largest and most critical part of our transportation. But Allan represents those volunteers who simply want to help make a neighbor's life a little easier and a little more pleasant, and if transportation can help, he is ready to roll.

He was in fact nominated for Volunteer of the Month by two of our coordinators. Volunteers who go "above and beyond" come to our attention in many ways: sometimes in a note or call from grateful clients, sometimes by way of fellow volunteers serving on the same committee or working on an event. And the office gets to see many volunteers in action and/or see the results of their work. If you know of an outstanding volunteer, we'd love to hear from you, too.

Our coordinators, however, are our folks on the front lines, and we especially depend on their hard work. So, when two coordinators at the same time commented on how nice it was to call on someone who was so willing to say "yes", and who was so pleasant to deal with, we decided that it was time to name **Allan Bausback of Slingerlands as our Volunteer of the Month for July 2007**.

August 2007 Clare Homer

We'd like to recognize our **Volunteer of the Month for August 2007** at this time, and introduce **Clare Homer of Delmar** to you. Clare has been a volunteer for a year and a

half, and in that time has earned herself the title of “the volunteer who never says ‘no’”, according to our coordinators.

She’s one of our drivers on the Bethlehem side of the Caregivers’ service area, and drives many local trips for residents there, for medical appointments, shopping, social activities and physical fitness sessions at the gym. Clare has also driven for residents of the Guilderland hamlet, and for people who live in Fort Hunter, logging miles across our entire service map.

Thank you, Clare, for your willingness and your care for your neighbors, whether right next door or across town. We appreciate you!

Clare came to Caregivers back in the spring of 2006 at the suggestion of another volunteer. So our gratitude goes also to Sue Griffiths, for illustrating one of the best ways we find new volunteers. If each one of our volunteers recruited just one friend, we’d be able to help so many more neighbors in need.