

An Organization's Recipe for Success: V.O.L.U.N.T.E.E.R.S.

As the Life Enrichment Center focuses on goals set for 2014, our expanding volunteer program is a vital ingredient for success.

On April 30th, local officials and Nassau County representatives joined in our annual Volunteer Recognition Celebration. These government officials understand the value of volunteers to organizations like ours.

This year, citations were presented to Mimi Treacy, an East Norwich resident who manages the Center's food pantry among her other duties; and the wonderful volunteer team that manages our Silver Threads Thrift Shop. These volunteers make it possible for the entire community as well as our Members to benefit from a well-stocked food pantry and great clothing at bargain prices. Our Recognition Celebration also paid tribute to the 300+ Members who volunteer at the Center daily.

Our Goals for 2014 directly correlate to more volunteer opportunities:

- Expanding homebound programs: A friendly call or visit can make all the difference in the world to a lonely senior. *Compassionate individuals are needed to call a senior to check-in or to stop by for a visit.*
- Enriching daily activities: Learning something new or engaging in intellectually stimulating conversations do benefit brain health. *Knowledgeable individuals are needed to lead discussions or make presentations.*
- Launching new projects: We are hoping to open a Gift Shop to feature hand-made items from our members or from the community. *Please let us know if you or someone you know would like to make things for the Shop.* A project to host once a month evening activities is underway. *If you know a community group that might be interested in co-hosting an evening activity please let me know.*

Volunteers are our best ambassadors. We can't do it without you! Please consider volunteering or invite a neighbor, friend or family member who may be retired and looking for something meaningful to do with their time to visit the Center.

Don't forget to check the calendar for our Father's Day picnic on June 12th – Rain or Shine we promise it will be a beautiful day! See you then.

Silvana LaFerlita Gullo, Executive Director