

Jennie Sonnessa – Volunteer of the Year

On April 30th during National Volunteer Appreciation Week, 55 Kip Center honored its volunteers. More than 100 volunteers who have served over 25 hours were recognized and invited to the dinner. At the dinner, the Virginia A Marass Community Service Award was presented to Jennie Sonnessa for her dedicated volunteerism to 55 Kip Center and to the community, especially the Williams Center. Mayor Bernadette McPherson presented Jennie with a certificate from the Rutherford Town Council recognizing her service. Jennie's name was added to the volunteer plaque of our previous recipients displayed at 55 Kip Center. We are very fortunate to have Jennie as a volunteer, and we all congratulate her on being chosen the recipient of this award.

Senior Showcase

May was "Older Americans Month" and we were very busy at the center. On Friday May 2nd, 14 hearty members accompanied Peggy Letsche, Fitness Instructor to the Senior Showcase hosted by the Division of Senior Services. For one hour, the group entertained the large crowd that gathered at the Bergen Mall. Congratulations to Barbara Burns, Jean Benzing, Joan Everleens, Anna Ferrara, MaryLou Geadrities, Fran Heim, Marge Knox, Denise O'Hara, Clara Rio, Helen Schenck, Renee Schlesinger, Carol Sienicki, Marion Trafton and Gerry Wilke for taking the show on the road and demonstrating the meaning of "vital again".

Golf Outing

On May 19th the Eighth Annual Golf Outing was held at High Mountain. One hundred and twenty golfers joined us for lunch and a 12:30 shotgun start. The gorgeous weather combined with the generosity of our golfers and sponsors produced a very successful outing. Dinner and prize awards started at 6:30. Thanks to the great effort of Dot Clare and Anna Ferrara (the Prize Committee), over \$5,000 worth of prizes were given out. Thanks also to members Gerry Wilke and Barbara Burns along with Anna Ferrara who volunteered their time to help us out all day. There are many, many people who worked very hard over the last few months to make this day a success. When all the final facts and figures are in, a more detailed article will follow thanking everyone for their help and support. The 50/50 raffle drawing brought in \$5,604! The lucky winners were:

Theresa O'Keefe \$1,410.00

Vincent Mariano \$846.00

Ralph & Marie Lilore \$546.00

Congratulations to this year's winners and thanks to all of you for participating in our fundraising efforts.

Kip Fitness Day

The Eighth Annual Kip Fitness Day was held on Wednesday May 28th. "Living Longer, Growing Stronger in America" was the theme for this year. The day included a one-mile walk, healthy breakfast, demonstrations and audience participation of our balance and aerobic classes and

Kip Courier

Volume X, Issue V

Building Bridges for Successful Aging

May 2003

entertainment by “The Decades”. This event was made possible by the generous sponsorship of Kearny Federal Savings Bank. Their ongoing support and commitment to our fitness program assures our continued success. Thank you also to one of our new members, Roseann LaRusso, for her generous donation of the bottled water that was given out. Our volunteers Linda D’Astolfo, Jean Bensing, Joan Everleens, Fran Heim, Marion Trafton, Adela Soto and Jennie Sonnessa helped to make the morning even run smoothly. We appreciate the help of all of our volunteers who we rely on throughout the year – we couldn’t do it without you.

KIPBITS.....

The 55 Kip Center lost two special members this month. Bob Goetzl died on May 14th and Marie Bertone on May 21st. Our sincere condolences to the Goetzl family and the Bertone family on their loss. They will be missed here at the Center.

The Strawberry Tea will be held on Friday, June 20th at 1:30. New and unused gifts can be donated for the Tricky Tray. Volunteers meet on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons at 1 p.m. to assemble the gift baskets and other prizes. If you would like to help out in any way, come on down and see Adela. Tickets are not on sale for \$7.00. See Mildred for additional information.

On May 2nd the Senior Prom was held at Rutherford High School. Our thanks and appreciation to the Rutherford High School Interact and Key Club members and their advisors.

DONOR NEWS.....

Many thanks to all who helped to make our celebration of National Volunteer Week a special time to acknowledge the selfless donation of time, talent and energy contributed by our corps of volunteers. We gratefully acknowledge the support of Felician College who sent students to serve dinner for our guests.

Kearny Federal Savings Bank was once again our sponsor for Fitness Day. The bank has been a generous partner helping 55 Kip Center to promote vital aging through physical activity. Many thanks for Kearny Federal for their continuing support.

Mark your calendars! 55 Kip Center in partnership with the Rutherford Downtown Partnership will be hosting “A Taste of Rutherford” on July 17th from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. It will be a summer night filled with great food, entertainment and shopping. Tickets are available at the Center and are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.