

WILLIAMSPORT SUN-GAZETTE



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Pictured, top left, from left, are Clinton County Community Center Coordinator Tara Coleman, Aging Advisory Council Chairperson Ray Humphrey, George C. Meck Award Winner Barbara Hendricks, STEP Office of Aging Director Fred Shrimp, STEP President and CEO Jim Plankenhorn and Clinton County Commissioner Paul Conklin. Top right, STEP AmeriCorps member Carrie Myers and Member Services Coordinator Brittany Tasch work in the RiverWalk Center kitchen. Above left, are volunteers at the STEP RiverWalk Center, and above right, STEP Ombudsman Coordinator Traci Foster serves meals to volunteers.

STEP Office of Aging honors volunteers at annual banquet

As a Community Action Agency, STEP relies on volunteers as a vital component of its engagement with the residents of Lycoming and Clinton counties, particularly in the Office of Aging. The sacrifice and commitment of these volunteers were recently recognized at banquets held in April at the RiverWalk Center in South Williamsport and at the Clinton County Community Center in Lock Haven.

"Volunteers receive the reward of the gratefulness and praise given by those they help, and the feeling have improved many people's lives," said Fred Shrimp, STEP Office of Aging director.

During the 2017-2018 fiscal year, it is estimated that 600 volunteers will provide 50,000 hours of service to STEP's Office of Aging. Volunteers provide a wide range of services, from packaging and delivering meals, preparing taxes, providing APPRISE Medicare counseling, acting as ombudsman for nursing and personal care home residents, and assisting STEP staff in the centers for healthy aging.

At the RiverWalk Center, STEP AmeriCorps service members and STEP staff helped serve meals to the volunteers. Speakers included STEP President and CEO Jim Plankenhorn, STEP Office of Aging Di-

rector Fred Shrimp, Aging Advisory Chairperson Ray Humphrey, and Lycoming County Commissioner Jack McKernan

At the Clinton County Community Center, Central Mountain High School's National Honor Society served meals to the volunteers. Speakers at the Lock

Haven facility included Jim Plankenhorn, Fred Shrimp, Ray Humphrey and Clinton County Commissioner Paul Conklin.

Barbara Hendricks, who volunteers at the Clinton County Community Center, was presented with the George C. Meck Volunteer of the Year Award.