

# County News

## Council on Aging volunteers recognized for service and saving lives

MENTOR - The Lake County Council on Aging's annual Volunteer Appreciation Event drew more than 325 in attendance May 2 at the American-Croatian Lodge in Eastlake. Marking the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the agency, volunteers were recognized for their role in delivering critical services to Lake County seniors such as Meals on Wheels, grocery shopping, and Medicare counseling. Madison Nutrition Site volunteers were presented with an award solely created by a senior client who was having a stroke

when the volunteer Meals on Wheels Drivers arrived at her home.

Invited volunteers and guests enjoyed a 1950s theme, a luncheon and award presentations given to volunteers marking five, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years of service. The Council on Aging has more than 600 volunteers who give of their time to meet the needs of Lake County's senior residents.

"We have such an outstanding group of people in our volunteer corps. Their dependability and compas-

sion are second to none," said Volunteer Services Manager Traci Hissam, CVA. "Our oldest volunteer is 96! If there is anything that I've learned from our senior volunteers, it's that staying active, social, and leading a purpose-driven life is truly a recipe for healthy aging."

Volunteers are currently needed to serve as Friendly Visitors and Meals on Wheels drivers. Meals on Wheels drivers deliver hot, lunchtime meals to homebound seniors one weekday each week between 10:30 a.m. and noon.

Friendly Visitors directly schedule visits with a senior client two times per month. Visits may be scheduled during the week, evenings or weekends. A 30-cent per mile optional mileage reimbursement is available to all agency volunteers. For a small but regular time commitment, volunteers make a big difference in the lives of Lake County's homebound seniors. For more information, call Volunteer Services Manager Traci Hissam, CVA at (440) 205-8111 ext. 228.