

**Herkimer County Office for the  
Aging Advisory Council 2025  
Annual Senior Awards  
September 18, 2025**

*Person of the Year*  
*Ruth Morgan*



*Outstanding Contribution*  
*Volney Seeley*

**Ruth "Ruthie" Morgan** has been a resident of New York for 90 years. She volunteered with Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency Head Start Program and was on the Mohawk Valley Community Action board. Since 2001, Ruth has been a volunteer with the organization's Foster Grandparent Program. A 25-year volunteer at Head Start, she has helped students reach their academic and social goals.

Ruth was born into the foster system saying she was "underestimated but never quit proving people wrong," publishing the story of her life in the book "Ruthie Deeply." It is a story of strength and perseverance. Ruth has spent her whole life helping others and giving back. She makes the world brighter for those who need a ray of sunshine.

**Volney "Spike" Seeley** is known for his friendly demeanor and constant smile. He is not only loved by his fellow volunteers but also deeply appreciated by the clients he serves. His ability to bring people together, foster a sense of community, and offer encouragement during difficult times has made a lasting difference. Whether organizing food distribution, assisting those in crisis, or simply offering a kind word, Volney's unwavering commitment has strengthened the safety net for countless individuals.

Since his retirement in 2010, Volney has dedicated his time to volunteering, continuing to give back to his community, including the Boy Scouts for three years, coaching Little League sports for four years, and serving as trustee at the Methodist Church in Dolgeville, New York for six years.

*Persons of the Year**Outstanding Contribution*

Ruth has three children, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Her profession was as a housekeeper. Before that, she was volunteering at a wraparound day care in Herkimer New York.

A valuable asset to the community. Ruth makes room in her heart for every child, teacher, parent or neighbor she encounters. She is kind, thoughtful and makes everyone that she meets feel special. She also has a sense of humor that makes hard times easy, offering two favorite pieces of advice: "The first 100 years are the hardest; and you can't kill cast iron."



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For 12 years, he has supervised the Dolgeville Food Pantry and served as an ecumenical food and shelter volunteer. With over 3,400 hours of volunteer service for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Herkimer County, Volney has played a vital role in ensuring that individuals and families facing hardship receive the assistance they need.

Volney was born at Little Falls Hospital and grew up in Dolgeville, where he attended school and graduated. After serving three years in the U.S. Army, including a year in Vietnam, he returned home and married in 1969. Since then, he has lived in Salisbury Center, New York where he and his spouse raised four children. Volney has eight grandchildren. He spent his career in construction, specializing in bridge building, before retiring in 2010.

Volney said "I enjoy being around both the volunteers and the people we serve at the food pantry. Everyone should give volunteering a try."

*Persons of the Year*



*Outstanding Contribution*



“It is great to  
volunteer and every-  
one should try it.”

*~Ruth Morgan~*

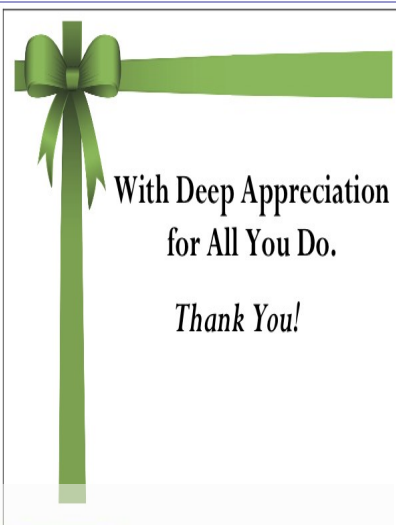


“If you can volunteer,  
it is the greatest thing  
that you can do.”

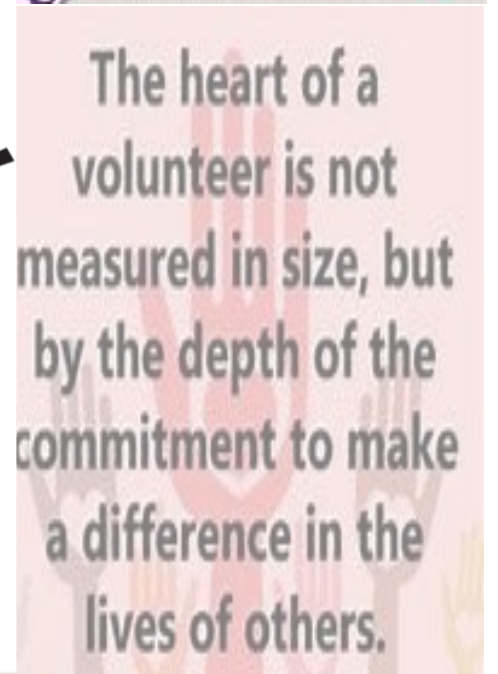
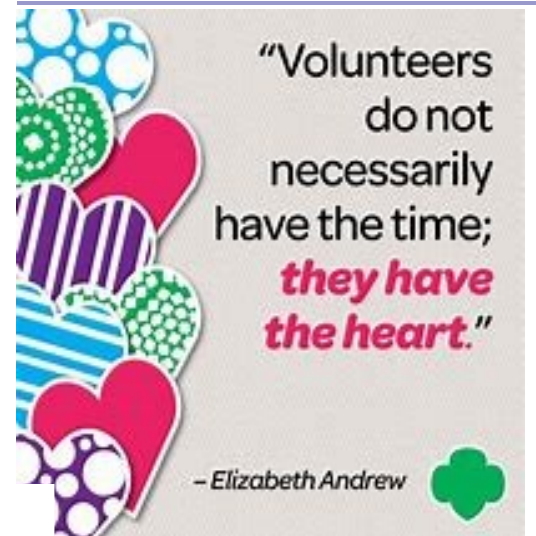
*~Volney Seeley~*







**WE**   
**VOLUNTEERS**



Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier

Mother Teresa



*Previous Senior Citizen of  
the Year Award Winners*



*Previous Outstanding  
Contribution Award Winners*

2024 Eilleen Manno, Frankfort  
2023 Roy and Joan Van Slyke, Little Falls  
2022 Lydia Sexton, Frankfort  
2021 Doug Capraro, West Winfield  
2020 Gail Domion, Ilion  
2019 Martin Sorensen, Herkimer  
2018 Barbara Curran, Newport  
2017 Jane Dieffenbacher, Fairfield  
2016 Esther Austin, Dolgeville  
2015 Laverne McMurray, Frankfort  
2014 Ray Lenarcic, Herkimer  
2013 Eileen Tobin, Thendara  
2012 Joanne Amato, Frankfort  
2011 Ralph Dow, Newport  
2010 Eleanor Pederson, Ilion  
2009 Lucy Brown, Little Falls  
2008 Emily Sokol, Little Falls  
2007 William McEachern, Herkimer  
2006 Vivian Davis, Herkimer  
2005 Earl Alexander, Ilion  
2004 Ruth Nelson Brussel, Old Forge  
2003 Robert Sanzo, Ilion  
2002 Elizabeth Williams, West Winfield  
2001 Arlene Folts, Cold Brook  
2000 Ferris Foster, Frankfort  
1999 Annabelle Marquissee, Herkimer  
1998 Jean Neary, Herkimer

2024 Charles Brockett, Dolgeville  
2023 Michael Bulger, Little Falls  
2022 Joann Capraro, West Winfield  
2020 Ralph Dow, Westdale  
2019 Margaret VanDelinder Old Forge  
2018 Hazel Dellavia, Old Forge  
2017 Helen Brandon, Ilion  
2016 Patricia Sullivan, Ilion  
2015 Carol Zaffarano, Frankfort  
2014 Rev. Alfred A. Lamanna, Herkimer  
2013 Barbara Goodson, Mohawk  
2012 Darryl Grubner, Herkimer  
2011 Margaret Hall, Herkimer  
2010 Albert & Ruth Brussel, Old Forge  
2009 Ernest Maine, Newport  
2008 Edward S. View, Jr., Mohawk  
2007 Sylvia Rowan, Herkimer  
2006 Judy Steele, Ilion  
2005 Anthony D'Arpino, Herkimer  
2004 Marion McKenney, Little Falls  
2003 Pat Herringshaw, Herkimer  
2002 Ed Przestrzelski, Ilion  
2001 William Stubba, Newport  
2000 Gerald & Catherine Drake, Winfield  
1999 Anthony Baggetta, Herkimer  
1998 Marian Jones, Poland  
1997 Rose Cirillo, Mohawk



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*The Advisory Council of the Herkimer County Office for the Aging has been honoring seniors since 1977. These winners are representative of hundreds of Herkimer County residents who selflessly give of themselves for others. Bless you all.*

### *Previous Senior Citizen Award Winners continued*

1997 Jack Carney, Poland  
1996 Rosemary Coffey, Old Forge  
1995 Raymond "Pete" Bleau, Mohawk  
1994 Donald Costello, Ilion  
1993 Milford G. Woodrick, Herkimer  
1992 Stephen Ivan, E. Herkimer  
1991 Sister Adelina St. Hilaire  
1990 Elmer Smith, Herkimer  
1989 Arthur Burgess, Mohawk  
1988 Margery Anderson, Herkimer  
1987 Ruth Miller, Ilion  
1986 Doris Sehring, Mohawk  
1985 Ann Klimacek, Herkimer  
1984 Nan Grossman, Frankfort  
1983 Harry Enea, Herkimer  
1982 Clarence Patterson, East Herkimer

### *Previous Outstanding Contribution Award Winners continued*

1996 Elizabeth Gage, Ilion  
1995 Edward Ervin, Herkimer  
1994 Mary J. Barbuto, Frankfort  
1993 Louise Biederstedt, Mohawk  
1992 Martha Endres, Herkimer  
1991 Robert Dreizler, Ilion  
1990 Betty Bice, Herkimer  
1989 Vivian Smagalski, Herkimer  
1988 Harry Enea, Herkimer  
1987 William Brynes, Newport  
1986 Harold Talbott, W. Winfield  
1985 Sister Rachel, Little Falls  
1984 Howard McCumber, Little Falls  
1983 Pearl DeLun, Dolgeville

