Any volunteers?

County has Hometown Heroes

heir work was described as a "spiritual nourishing of the heart" and praised as the manifestation of God's will.

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At the second-annual Home-Town Heroes Volunteer Awards
Luncheon at the Townsend-Hotel in Birmingham Thursday,
five people and a business were
honored for their volunteerism
in Oakland County.

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Ariola Shani, vice president and general manager of Neiman Marcus at Somerast Collection in Troy, told the volunteers that she saluted them.

"What you have done was out of selfless giving — not for any profit or benefit," she said. Gratitude and warmth from those you serve are the true rewards of a volunteer."

Winners were chosen by a panel of judges from businesses and organizations in Oakland County, including United Way, William Benument Hospital, Lighthouse of Oakland County.

papers.
Tom Baer, Oakland County editor at The Eccentric and a HomeTown Heroes judge, praised the volunteer movement. There are more than 100 million Americans who help

without pay," he said. "Where would we be without them? It's a scary thought."
Honorees received clocks embossed with their names, a weil as a proclamation from their county commissioner.
Proceeds of the awards luncheon went to support the Unit-dWay's Volunteer Place, which trains and places volunteers.

True heroes

True heroes

Denald Bowman, the recipient in the Faith-Based entegory for his work with the Salvation Army Church in Royal Cok, said the award reminded him of an experience he had as a child.

"I remember standing at the train station after World War II was over, and welcoming home the men who surved our country," the Warren resident said. "They were the true hometown heroes."

Clindy Cirar, a Rochester Hills resident who arrived at the luncheon with a large group of supporters, has been volunteering since her cellege days.

"Yoe met long-lasting friends who have been as good to me," Cirar said. "When you give to others, you receive so much in return."

Cirar received Direct Service award for starting the Assistance League of Southeastern Michigan, which has more 150

members who help kids, families and various causes throughout Oakland County.

Andrew Pepper, recipient of the Senior volunteer award, has been volunteer award, has been volunteer award, has been volunteering for Lighthouse of Oakland County for the past 15 years.

The "eighty-something" Waterford Township resident said he encourages others to get involved in their communities and volunteer organizations.

There is immense satisfaction in knowing that you are helping, Pepper said.

Katrina Donalson, a senior at Northern High School in Pontiac, received the Youth volunteer award. For the past six years, Donalson has been visiting sick children in the pediatrics unit of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital on Tuesday nights,
Coleen Giniel of the hospital staff accepted the award for Donalson.

General Motors Truck Production division was honored in the

onalson. General Motors Truck Produc General Motors Truck Production division was honored in the Business volunteer category. Employees of GM have donated their time to Lighthouse, the Hunger Walk and Beacon of Hope fund-raisers. Employees also host a holiday party from which all proceeds go to Lighthouse. Fred Devendorf accepted the award for GM.

Bloomfield Township resident Dan Devine, recipient of the Board Volunteer award, has served as the president of the board of directors for the Child Abuse and Neglect Council of Oakland County since 1993.

Although Devine's first

Council of Oakland County since 1999.
Although Devine's first wife, Teresa, passed away just prior to the start of his presidency, he elected to continue serving. Devine was the sole caregiver of four children under age 10, but decided that his service to the cause was too important not to lead.

"When we experience suffering, we can let it destroy us, or we can learn that there is always someone suffering more than we are," Devine said. "Volunteering provides us with grace and strength. Get involved while you still can."

Our Hometown Heroes!

Winners of the 2001 edition of HomeTown Rochester Hills.

■ Faith-based — Donald Bowman, War-

Winners of the 2004 canded with the rose are:

■ Senior — Andrew Pepper, Waterford.
■ Board Member — Dan Devine,
Bloomfield Township.
■ Direct Service — Cindy Cirar,

■ Faith-based — Donald Bownsan, vis.

**Faith-based — Donald Bownsan, vis.

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Top volunteers: HomeTown Heroes winners for this year are (from left) Dan Devine, Cindy Cirar, Don Bowman, Coleen Giniel (standing in for winner Katrina Donalson), Andrew Pepper and General Motors Truck Product Center's Fred Devendorf.



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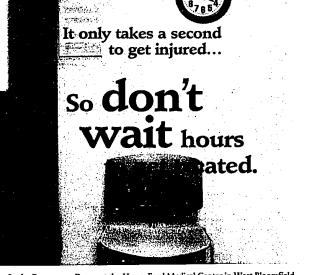


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