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Talbot Hospice Volunteers (l to r) Elsie Collings, Fran White, Gil Anderson and Susan Deerin enjoy the recent Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at the Talbot Country Club.

Talbot Hospice Volunteers Honored at Luncheon

Talbot Hospice Foundation honored over 120 volunteers on April 18th at the Talbot Country Club with a luncheon, awards and door prizes. Michelle Burgoon, Volunteer Coordinator, organized the event which gave special recognition to 42 volunteers who received The Presidential Service Award. Over 13,075 hours of volunteer time were recognized in calendar year 2007, which according to the Independent Sector, is a value of more than \$255,000, or the equivalent of seven full-time employees. According to Executive Director Julie L. Crocker, MSN, RN, the luncheon was “just one small part of a large thank you” with appreciation given to every volunteer.

The Presidential Service Award recognizes individuals who donate over 100 hours of time over a 12 month period. Of the 42 who received this award, 15 were new recipients with 27 returning volunteers receiving an additional Distinguished Volunteer Award. Exceptional volunteers Marian Miller, Bob Paulus, Susan Haddaway, Anne Brennan and Peggy Frampton logged over 200 hours for Talbot Hospice in 2007. President Bush issued a challenge to all Americans in 2003 to make time to help their neighbors, communities, and Nation through service. He called on each person to dedicate 4,000 hours – or two years – of service over the course of their lives.

R. Michael S. Menzies, Sr., President of the Board Directors for The Talbot Hospice Foundation, expressed gratitude to the volunteers, noting their contributions as part of the Hospice solution. “You really are the unsung heroes” he stated, “and truly make a difference in the lives of our guests.” Menzies thanked Ms. Burgoon for her commitment to the volunteers and Hospice Chaplain Nevin Crouse for his dedication to the community.

National Volunteer Week is April 27 through May 3, 2008. Ms. Burgoon recognized that Talbot Hospice offers the best care possible to people in the community in a large part due to the indispensable role of the volunteers. “I greatly admire our volunteers for their generous gift of time and talent and for their courage to work with people who are dying, a task that so many fear. They are willing to take risks and venture into new relationships knowing that they will experience a loss, but doing so for the benefit of the patient. This is a true act of selfless love,” Burgoon stated.

Door prizes were generously donated by Mr. & Mrs. Palanchi, Mr. Menzies, The Inn at 202 Dover, Garden & Garnish, Chesapeake Bay Cruises, The Tidewater Inn, L’Salon, The Tilghman Island Inn, The Village Shoppe, Hog Neck Golf Course, The Rustic Inn, Safeway, Wal-Mart, Serenity Massage, Hair I Am, Chesapeake Laser, Embroidered Images and Relaxations Station. The luncheon was fully funded by the Marita Menzies Endowment Fund in loving memory of Marita Menzies, former Talbot Hospice Volunteer Coordinator.

