

Please take a moment to read about your 2009 Hometown Heroes for Chautauqua County



Front row

**Susan Swanson
Michael Valvo
Bryan Stevens
Don Woodfield**

Back Row

**Stephen Roach, Jr.
Wesley Beuhler
Peter Hertlein
Matt Metzger
Mrs. Beverly Ashley
(accepting for Deputy Wayne
Ashley)**

Bryan Stevens of Ashville, NY is the recipient of the NRG Dunkirk Power, LLC Humanitarian Award. On December 12, 2008 Bryan was operating a Town of North Harmony snow plow when he noticed skid marks and saw a vehicle off the road, upside down in a creek. Immediately after calling 911 and radioing for help he assisted the passenger out of the car. He then forced the driver's side door open, pulled the driver out of the partially submerged vehicle and administered CPR until rescuers arrived. The quick and effective actions of Bryan saved the life of a Chautauqua County Citizen and is truly deserving of the humanitarian Hero award..

This year the Nestle Purina Pet Care Award was presented to Susan Swanson of Ashville who runs "Four Legers" Pet Day Care. In addition to kennel free day care, she often makes sure that abandon and injured animals and pets have temporary homes.

Deputy Wayne Ashley of the Chautauqua County Sheriff's Department is the recipient of this year's Law Enforcement Award sponsored by Farm Fresh Foods in Jamestown. Deputy Ashley is the Brocton Central School resource officer. From kindergarten through high school, Deputy Ashley has developed a rapport with the students and staff and is instrumental in the safe and secure environment of the school. He is a role model for the kids and is active in educating the students on the danger of drugs and alcohol.

This years' Youth Award sponsored by Allstate and Encompass Insurance is awarded to 3 recent students of Fredonia High School. Wesley Buehler, Peter Hertlein, and Matt Metzger, all of Fredonia performed with great skill in a dangerous situation last July when they rescued a fellow high school classmate. Their reaction as trained life guards to rescue an unconscious victim who had fallen down a 40 foot ledge near Arkwright Falls saved the life of a fellow class who was in critical condition. From immediate lifesaving care to coordinating emergency responders, the calm and effective actions of the three high school students were truly deserving of the 2009 Hometown Hero Youth Award.

Stephen Roach Jr. of Falconer is recognized for this year's Workplace Award, sponsored by Cummins Inc. During a delivery of a Falconer Printing order, Steve witnessed a young girl under attack from a dog. He immediately pulled over his delivery vehicle to the side of the road and ran to pull the attacking dog away from the young girl. His quick action prevented further injury to the young victim and is a tribute to this hometown hero from Falconer.

This year's Allied Alarm Services Fire Fighter Award was presented to Battalion Chief Don Woodfield of the Jamestown Fire Dept. As a 24year veteran of the Fire service Chief Woodfield was recognized for his repeated humanitarian work to assist community residents in need. From helping a needy family during Christmas with presents for their children to building a wheelchair ramp at the home of an injured police officer, this award truly recognized a fire-fighter going well beyond the call of duty.

Michael Valvo of Forestville was awarded the Chautauqua Patron's Insurance Company Rescue Squad Award. As the oldest active EMT in NYS, Michael has dedicated his life to community service. A 24 year Red Cross CPR instructor, NYS EMT Instructor, School Board member, Village Trustee, VFW member, American Legion Member, and decorated WWII veteran, Michael is the epitome of how the greatest generation has made a huge contribution to the welfare of our community and our Nation. Michael Valvo is a Hometown Hero in so many ways.

These heroes and those sponsoring their awards are being recognized by the American Red Cross in what has become an annual tradition. This year's winners received their awards at the Hometown Heroes Breakfast held at Moonbrook Country Club in Jamestown on Friday morning, May 22nd, 2009. The Hometown Heroes Special Events Committee extends special thanks to those who made the awards possible, to Moonbrook Country Club staff, to the USAF Recruiting Office and MSgt Chris Warsitz, Ms. Melanie Gritters who sang our National Anthem, and to our many corporate award sponsors. In addition to our Award Sponsors, the following local companies were table sponsors helping us to defray the cost of the breakfast event: DFT Communications Inc, and Spectrum Eyecare of Jamestown. According to Chapter Chair, Bill Johnston, "This year's celebration of our hometown heroes is a great tribute to those who help make this county such a wonderful place to live and work in where neighbors help neighbors." Executive Director, Vince Horrigan, said it this way: "Our Hometown Heroes Event is a wonderful way to recognize ordinary people doing extraordinary things." Funds raised through the event will go to support local Chapter programs- Across Chautauqua.