



**May 2, 2008**

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### **Blackford Community Hospital Celebrates A Special Volunteer, Volunteer Week**

Hartford City, Ind. – A 97-year-old Blackford Community Hospital Auxiliary member was named Volunteer of the Year on Thursday for her service as an information desk attendant.

As part of a National Volunteer Week celebration, Blackford Community Hospital celebrated its 71 volunteers with an afternoon reception, recognizing the efforts of the BCH Auxiliary.

Crystal Stump was honored for her many years of volunteer service. Stump not only volunteers 25 hours a year at BCH, but she also volunteers at the Red Cross Blood Drive and at Heritage Commons, where she lives in Hartford City. Prior to her volunteer years, she worked at Waters Funeral Home, and had worked at BCH in the obstetrics department as a nurse's aid for more than 30 years.

"I'm speechless," Stump quietly said as she received three pink roses, a certificate and a heart-shaped key chain. "Thank you so much."

Kathy Robbins, co-chair of the BCH Employees Activities Committee, said Stump loves to talk to people and that everybody loves her.

Blackford Community Hospital and the Employee Activities Committee, which recognized the volunteer service of the other 70 BCH Auxiliary members, about 35 of which were present, with certificates and key chains, and individually served each one punch, nuts, fruit and cupcakes as a token of their appreciation.

"We celebrate Volunteer Week every year as a way to show the dedicated volunteers of the Auxiliary that we appreciate them at Blackford Community Hospital," said Steve West, President and Chief Executive Officer at BCH. "Crystal Stump and all the other Auxiliary volunteers are truly symbolic of our community's dedicated citizens."

After the reception, Stump said it was an honor to be selected Volunteer of the Year. She said she likes to keep busy and that she does, in fact, like to talk to people.

“I just didn’t know about this,” she said, and then she grinned. “Had I known I would have prepared a speech. But then everybody would have gotten tired of listening to me.”

National Volunteer Week, which is from April 27 to May 3, is about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging people to seek ways to engage in their community. The 2008 theme is “Volunteer to Change the World,” which reflects the power that volunteers have to inspire by example. Volunteers both encourage those they help and motivate others to serve.

National Volunteer Week began in 1974 when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order establishing an annual celebration of volunteering. Every president since has signed a proclamation promoting the week.

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