

TO: ALL MEDIA

FROM: TOMPKINS COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING

RE: VOLUNTEERS HONORED BY ASSOCIATION ON AGING

DATE: MAY 12, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Volunteers from Tompkins County were recently honored in Albany at Senior Citizen's Day by the Association on Aging in New York, the New York State Legislature and the New York State Office for the Aging.

Project Generations, a collaborative initiative between the Tompkins County Office for the Aging and Ithaca College and Cornell University students, was the recipient of the 2016 Volunteer Innovations Award from the Association on Aging in New York. This program has served older adults in Tompkins County since 2011. Students are matched with an older adult in the community and they visit them each week for at least two semesters. In addition, in bi-weekly meetings, the students are exposed to issues of importance to aging by hearing speakers discuss topics such as falls prevention, dementia and elder abuse. In the spring, the students hold a "Senior Prom" for the older adults which is very popular and well attended. Tompkins County is fortunate to have about 90 volunteers between Ithaca College and Cornell University.

The New York State Office for the Aging and the New York State Legislature also recognized Lucy Brown and Nancy Istock for their outstanding volunteer contributions to Tompkins County. Lucy Brown was honored for her work at Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Service where she was a founding board member. "Lucy is the heartbeat of INHS," says Paul Mazzarella, INHS Executive Director. "She has worked tirelessly to help INHS create affordable housing opportunities in this community." Nancy Istock has volunteered with the Cancer Resource Center for the past five years. Additionally, she volunteers with a tax preparation program and for the Tompkins County Democratic Committee. As one community member said of Nancy, "She is the type of person who does everything, and then always does more."