

# Community Action honors volunteers during banquet

From Staff Reports

OAKLAND — The Garrett County Community Action Committee recently held a banquet to honor their volunteers.

Various department directors, such as Asset Development, Aging & Nutrition and Child & Family Development, recognized attending volunteers for their hours of service and dedication to helping those served by Community Action.

More than 70 volunteers and their spouses, as well as local elected officials, attended the event, which was held at the Mary Browning Senior Center in Oakland on May 4.

Susan Taylor from the Maryland Department of Aging was the guest speaker. She noted that GCCAC volunteers gave 7,899 hours of their time to helping in Head Start classrooms, or helping to prepare and deliver meals to seniors and shut-ins, or helping to prepare and file tax returns for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, or volunteering as a VISTA (Volunteers in Service To America) worker.



Submitted photo

Barbara Miller is shown at left in each photo presenting awards to Community Action volunteers Kim Tressler, Alysha Sines, Tabitha Cuppet and Rodney Durst, respectively.

The value of volunteers' hours would be worth \$195,026 in wages when using the accepted value of \$24.69/volunteer hour, according to GCCAC.

Kim Tressler received Community Action's Volunteer of the Year award for her work with the VITA program.

Alysha Sines and Rodney Durst are employed by GCCAC, but were acknowledged for significantly volunteering

their time and talents to help with agency initiatives on their own time.

Tabitha Cuppet was recognized as the Volunteer Parent of the Year for her work with the Head Start program.

Cuppet was also recognized by the Maryland Head Start Association as the Parent Volunteer of the Year at the spring conference of the Maryland Head Start Association, which was held May 11 at Wisp Re-

sort. Cuppet is a parent volunteer at the Dennett Road Early Learning Center Head Start.

Tracy Bowman noted that Cuppet is active in the Parent Group, participates in the monthly "Moms' Breakfast," participates in and also helps provide ideas and materials for the monthly Craft Day activities and also attends many of the parenting and financial literacy classes offered by Head Start and the Judy Center.

"Tabitha has proven to be a reliable, caring, conscientious, and valuable resource for our Head Start program," Bowman said.

"Volunteers play a critical role in helping the agency, and there are many different departments where they can contribute," said Gregan Crawford, vice president of strategic initiatives.

Daphne Gooding, a second-year VISTA volunteer

working with the Rural IMPACT project at GCCAC, said she volunteers because "I know that I can help to make a difference."

Information about volunteering or about any of the programs and services offered by Community Action can be found at [www.garrettcac.org](http://www.garrettcac.org). The public can also follow Garrett County Community Action on LinkedIn social media.