



VILLAGE OF NEW LENOX

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New Lenox, IL – On November 29, 2012 the Village of New Lenox received a Governor’s Home Town Award for “ShareFest 2011” which represents the Village’s continued commitment and support of the annual ShareFest event. The prestigious award was presented during a ceremony at the Executive Mansion in Springfield, IL. The Governor’s Hometown Award Program is administered through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and recognizes volunteers for their work in improving their communities.

Award recipients are selected by volunteer judges who review and rank applications based on a variety of factors, including local need, volunteer participation, use of resources and the results achieved. The projects are judged within their population categories as well as within their assigned project categories. Each project winner receives a road sign for its community and a plaque recognizing their efforts.

Volunteers that participated in ShareFest 2011 (September 1st thru the 11th), collected 5,293 books, hundreds of items for overseas troops, a semi-trailer filled with clothing, 8,796 food items, and 147 new toys. With the assistance of volunteers, ShareFest also sponsored a career service day, job fair, blood drive and health fair which included free health care services. ShareFest volunteers also cleaned Old Plank Trail, participated in a forest restoration project at Barrens Access and completed twenty-two service projects for elderly, the disabled and others that were in need of assistance. 453 cars representing 466 households participated in ShareFest 2011’s Household Hazardous Waste Collection. 33,952 pounds of household hazardous waste was collected along with 16,000 pounds of electronics, 2,200 pounds of scrap metal and 73 pounds of Styrofoam. Consistent with each year’s event, ShareFest 2011 concluded on September 11, 2011 with a Patriot Day Ceremony in the Village Commons.

Village of New Lenox Mayor Tim Baldermann, Village Administrator Kurt Carroll, Gary Cheney ShareFest Committee Chair and Public Safety Division Chief Daniel Martin attended the ceremony in Springfield. Mayor Baldermann thanked Gary Cheney as well as the volunteers and partner organizations that participate in ShareFest each year. “ShareFest is a great example of the true spirit of volunteerism that we have here in New Lenox. Receiving a Governor’s Hometown Award is a great honor which could not be achieved without the commitment and dedication of the ShareFest volunteers,” said Baldermann. Gary Cheney added that he’s also grateful for the success of ShareFest and what its volunteers have done for the community. “It’s great to see a village where local government, schools, churches, businesses, organizations and residents can unite in compassionate community service for those in need. It’s easy to see why we are the Home of Proud Americans,” said Cheney.

ShareFest volunteers that contributed to this year's Governor's Home Town Award will be recognized on January 14, 2013 / 7:00pm at the New Lenox Village Board Meeting. Any questions regarding the 2012 Governor's Hometown Award may be directed to Daniel Martin, Public Safety Division Chief, who may be reached at (815) 462-6100 or via email dmartin@newlenox.net.