

news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 18, 2009

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MARY "DOLLY" SWEET RECEIVES HOOSIER LIFETIME AWARD

Mary "Dolly" Sweet of Cambridge City received the 2009 Hoosier Lifetime Award at the Senior Expo on May 14th held at the Leland Residence in Richmond in celebration of Older Americans Month – Living Today for a Better Tomorrow. This award recognizes an individual 60 years of age and older for his/her lifetime of service to the community and for helping improve the quality of life for others. It is the highest honor bestowed on an older individual by the Area 9 In-Home and Community Services Agency. In recognition, Dolly received a plaque, gift card, and bouquet of roses from Area 9 In-Home and Community Services Agency.

Nominations for the Hoosier Lifetime Award were received from throughout the Area 9 Agency's five county region (Fayette, Franklin, Rush, Union and Wayne). A committee of six members from the Area 9 Council on Aging reviewed the nominations and recommended the individual to be honored, which was then confirmed by the whole Area 9 Council. Other nominees included Margurite Clark of Cambridge City, Pauline Millsaps of Richmond, Ida Jeanette Moreland of Cedar Grove, Catherine Ringley of Richmond, Robbie Robinson of Richmond, and Billy Trew of Fountain City.

Dolly spends many hours volunteering her time and efforts improving the quality of life for others. From securing funding for the football field and exercise equipment for boys and girls in the Western Wayne area, to organizing the collection and distribution of home canned goods for victims of tornados, to founding and operating the Western Wayne Meals on Wheels program for several years, her service is wide spread.

Dolly volunteers as a counselor for cancer patients, knowing that they will listen to someone who has gone through the problems they face. She purchased and maintains a lending library for cancer patients. Dolly organized a group of women to make turbans for those who have lost their hair due to treatment and to sew arm pillows for those who have had a mastectomy. She works with several hair stylists to provide wigs for patients and helped develop the "I Can Cope" series of cancer seminars and brochures that has been a part of Reid Hospital's cancer outreach.

She worked with Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for the rights of children and helped secure adoptions in many cases. She co-founded Exodus Home, a sanctuary for unwed mothers.

Dolly has served on the St. Elizabeth's Parish Council, served several terms as president of Psi Iota Xi sorority, and represented the Catholic Community on the FEMA Board.

She is an avid communicator, sending hundreds of cards to those who are ill, have suffered a loss, are celebrating a special day, or just need a "lift" in life.