

## NRCA HONORS LOCAL VOLUNTEERS

NRCA, with the help of several local financial sponsors, hosted the Annual Appreciation Dinner to honor the agency's key volunteers and community partners. Approximately 150 volunteers and associates from the faith-based community, businesses, health and human service agencies attended the event. Nikki Nicholau, Director of the Virginia Department of Social Services Office of Volunteerism and Community Service in Richmond, was the keynote speaker. Virginia General Assembly Senators Phillip Puckett and John Edwards attended as special guests.



*Iva Lewis and Robert and Connie Duncan, 2008 NRCA Volunteers of the Year*

New River Community Action (NRCA) has named Iva Lewis of Christiansburg and Robert and Connie Duncan of Radford as the 2008 NRCA Volunteers of the Year. Lewis and the Duncans were honored at NRCA's Annual Volunteers and Community Partners Appreciation Dinner held May 15 at the German Club Manor in Blacksburg.

The NRCA Volunteers of the Year Awards are presented annually in recognition of outstanding volunteer service to NRCA, its program participants and the community. Lewis received the award in recognition of her service to her local NRCA Head Start Center and the NRCA Head Start Policy Council. The Duncans were recognized for their service as host site coordinators for NRCA's SHARE (Self-Help and Resource Exchange) food distribution and community service program. Other NRCA volunteers nominated for the Volunteer of the Year Award included Sally Grogan, Chrystal Bailey and

Brandy Ray of Narrows; Alice Taylor of Dublin; Amanda Strickhouser, Deena Flinchum, Jeremy Hart and Dr. Victoria Fu of Blacksburg; Patricia Boothe and Jackie Barlow of Floyd; Jerry Higgins of Christiansburg; Pam Hylton of Pembroke; Deloris Billups of Mt. Hope, West Virginia; and Barbara Grizzell of Mt. Carmel, Tennessee.

NRCA also honored Robert Kelly of Riner as the recipient of the NRCA Philip Sadler Memorial Community Service Award and Hannah Henson, a Floyd County High School senior, as the recipient of the NRCA Reverend George Ducker Memorial Scholarship Award.

Kelly was named recipient of the Sadler award in recognition of his fifteen years of service to New River Valley Habitat for Humanity and Hannah Henson received the Ducker Scholarship in recognition of her academic achievements.

NRCA also recognized Amanda Clark for her service as an AmeriCorps volunteer working in the SHARE program and Sue Farrar for her service as a VISTA volunteer for the CHIP program.

New River Community Action sponsors a variety of programs to address conditions of poverty, working in collaboration with many health and human service partner agencies, faith-based groups, and over 1,000 volunteers, NRCA offers a "hand up, not a hand out" to more than 12,000 individuals each year.

"Our work would not be possible without the help of dedicated NRCA volunteers and the many churches, civic groups and agencies that partner with us to provide services," stated Terry Smusz, NRCA Executive Director. "Working together, we become community action."



*Hannah Henson, 2008 Rev. George Ducker Memorial Scholarship Award Recipient*



*Virginia General Assembly  
Senators John Edwards and  
Phillip Puckett, Nikki  
Nicholau, Virginia Office of  
Volunteerism and  
Community Service with  
Terry Smusz, NRCA  
Executive Director and Rev.  
John McCandlish, Chair of  
NRCA Board of Directors*