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**Volunteers awarded**

By JB Clark

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SENATOBIA - Hundreds of community volunteers from Northwest Mississippi gathered in the Haraway Center on the campus of Northwest Mississippi Community College Tuesday night to celebrate the spirit of volunteerism.

Twenty-five community volunteers serving eight counties throughout Northwest Mississippi were awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award.

"Our mission at the Community Foundation and Volunteer Northwest Mississippi is connecting people who care with causes that matter and there are so many people out in the community who care and so many causes that matter that tonight is just an example of what's going on," said Peggy Linton of the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi. "There are so many more hours that can be given and are given each day through our volunteers."

DeSoto County volunteers are:

Linda Smith who assisted in establishing the Olive Branch Food Ministry; Bettye Taylor, who volunteers in senior reading programs, community garden, disaster preparedness and reading assistance; Daphine crag, who volunteers for hospice and emergency relief, Mary Dee Swatzyna, who works with Palmer Home for Children, Hernando Optimist Club and Habitat for Humanity; Petronella May, who works with the Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation; Charleen Shields, who volunteers for Relay For Life and Clean Up America; Patsy Vick, who teaches English as a second language in Horn Lake; and Pam Selby, who coordinates school and community gardens to promote green living; and Evette Porter, who founded the Taffi T. Crawford Domestic Violence Memorial Fund.



The President's Volunteer Service Award winners are (sitting from left) Glenda Gookin, Lenagene Waldrup, Mary Slaughter, Betty Brown, Daphine Craig, (standing first row from left) Louanne Cossar, Rose Atkins, Gail Johnson, Patsy Vick, Charleen Shields, Chelius Carter, Bettye Taylor, Pam Selby, Linda Smith, Mary Dee Swatzyna, (back row from left) Lt. Deputy Earl, Burdette, Tracy Reynolds, Robert Grayson, Terry Rodgers, Evette Porter and Petronella May. Photo by JB Clark

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