

by Slava Vero, SeniorNet Learning Center Historian, NY



Pictured from left to right: front row: SeniorNet's Slava Vero, Eric Vero, Sandy Marquez and Barbara LoMoriello (senior aide to Legislator Jon Cooper). Back row the elves: Jean Tesoriero (KeySpan Foundation) and SeniorNet's honorees Joe Fiore, Rudi Abatelli, Ed Kristol, Marty Kushnick, Heber Marquez and Peter Cann.

The Huntington Chamber of Commerce paid homage to the eight SeniorNet volunteers that work for the KeySpan/SeniorNet Computer refurbishing Project. Over 2000 computers have been donated and refurbished so far. The place of work at the KeySpan Hauppauge facility is better known as Santa's workshop (for obvious reasons) and the skilled volunteers are the Elves. With the project donating computers to non-profit organizations people who would otherwise not be able to learn computer skills, or use computers, are getting a chance. Just as remarkable is that the elves are really enjoying their work and wouldn't miss it for anything.

The Huntington Hilton was the scene of a ceremony in which SeniorNet members were honored as the 101 volunteers of the year. The volunteers honored were: Rudi Abatelli, Peter Cann, Al Sarnelle, Ed Kristol, Marty Kushnick, Joe Fiore, Eric Vero, Nick DeFlorio and Jim Wernert.

Family Service League, the site sponsor of SeniorNet, recommended this dedicated and committed "team."

The 101 volunteer awards were established in 2000 by the United Nations celebrating the year of volunteers. The Huntington Chamber of Commerce under the leadership of Denis Sneden wanted to honor volunteers that have performed outstanding community tasks. After the tragedy of September 11th, the nominees for this award have been selected for their community leadership. They are volunteers that give their time and energy to better the lives of those of us who are less fortunate. The ceremony consists of having the honorees brought into the hall in a long snaking line with the Huntington audience applauding. It was a truly moving occasion for those attending.

Some of the SeniorNet volunteers recognized recently have been Slava Vero, Fred Atkin, Irene and John Nordin, and now the computer refurbishing Project. Congratulations to all; you make us proud.