

Volunteers Who Helped City Agencies Cited

By DAVID BIRD

Mayor Lindsay gave the city's first Volunteer Service Awards yesterday, calling the volunteers who work for municipal agencies without fee "people willing to become involved rather than just standing aside."

The Service Awards, which were given out in ceremonies in Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, went to 38 persons and groups that

have worked through the Volunteer Coordinating Council of New York City. In addition, 364 persons and groups received Citations of Honor.

Since the council was established by the Mayor three years ago, the number of volunteers working for city departments and programs has increased from 10,000 to more than 32,000.

The volunteers give four or more hours a week, doing such things as patrolling

the streets and housing projects as auxiliary policemen, serving as aides in libraries and hospitals and on athletic fields, and caring for the aged.

Hundreds of the award-winners and their families crowded into the modern auditorium, some wearing the latest fashions and some in stiff Sunday suits. The Mayor did not stay for all the ceremonies, saying he had to inspect snow removal equip-

ment in Queens because of the threat of heavy snow.

The coordinating council said the awards went to winners "ranging in age from 10 years to 80 and representing all economic strata, every religious, ethnic and national grouping and all boroughs."

The awards were as varied as the ages. A group of Manhattan 10-year-olds received special notice for having transformed a rubble-strewn lot into a garden. An 83-year-old woman was cited for her special contributions as a volunteer at Misericordia Hospital in the Bronx.

Many volunteers use their professional talent directly. Accountants, for example, volunteer to help fill out income tax forms at special neighborhood offices.

As the winners fidgeted nervously in the wings waiting to go on stage for their awards, Mrs. Hiram D. Black, a co-chairman of the council, said that volunteer work "is a big business today — people seem to have a real need to give of themselves"

Award Named for Mayor

The top award, the John V. Lindsay Volunteer Service Award of the Year, went to the Tenant Patrol Program of the New York City Housing Authority.

That program was cited for the "tireless efforts of 5,500 volunteers who, in addition to controlling crime and vandalism in the city's housing developments, engage in a wide range of community service activities reaching all age groups from children to senior citizens."

All award-winners received plaques with a bronze "V" embedded in clear plastic and the Mayor presented a plaque awarded by the housing volunteers to Albert A. Walsh, the chairman of the Housing Authority.

In praising the volunteers, the Mayor said that they were showing "that the great City of New York is not the cold, indifferent place so many people seem to think it is."

The Mayor added, "I only wish [your work] received more daily attention from the media." He said the media seemed to find it easier to report mistakes and unfinished tasks.

Ed McMahon, the announcer on the "Tonight" television show, gave out some of the awards before the Mayor arrived.

"Mayor Lindsay will be along shortly," Mr. McMahon said. "He's over in Queens shoveling snow."

Yesterday's program was the first of what is expected to be an annual "Salute to Volunteers."

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