

1,158 senior citizens acclaimed by SERVE

Project SERVE, the experiment that worked, began its 11th year in service to Staten Island with a gala tribute to its volunteers yesterday in the Columbian Lyceum, West Brighton.

To Serve and Enrich Retirement by Volunteer Experience was the aim of the Community Service Society of New York, when it initiated the three-year research and demonstration project here those many years ago.

Starting with just 23 volunteers, the St. George agency began to identify areas of need in the community and set about providing concerned seniors to pitch in and help — for both their own and the community's benefit. Over the last 11 years, SERVE members have donated 645,000 hours of their time to SERVE programs.

Though all of the 1,158 senior citizens who work with SERVE received commendation yesterday, three were singled out for special honors.

First was Fannie Carannante of Port Richmond, who has worked in practically every field of SERVE's endeavors, from Willowbrook to the Sea View Hospital and Home, the Clove Lakes Nursing Home, U.S. Public Health Service

Hospital in Clifton and Doctors Hospital. Mrs. Carannante has amassed 7,046 hours of volunteer service.

The second highest number of hours was accumulated by Henry Hansen. The retired machinist, a resident of Mariners Harbor, has given 6,618 hours of his time to working in the machine shop of the Willowbrook Developmental Center.

Also cited was Mary McCarthy, whose three days a week in the Carmel-Richmond Nursing Home, Grasmere, have totaled some 5,861 hours in her SERVE log.

A special award was made by Molly Hanratty, volunteer chairman for the American Red Cross, in recognition of SERVE's participation in the Swine Flu immunization program.

The guest speaker was Acting Borough President Ralph Lamberti, who joined other guests in congratulating the smiling volunteers before him for their work in SERVE's 89 programs.

Among other prominent guests were William Horn, senior account agent for Allstate Insurance Co., who presided over the afternoon's activities; Frances Mantell, SERVE advisory committee chairman; Jerome S. Berg, president of

Staten Island Community Chest and Council; Margaret Geffken, coordinator of the Older Americans' Volunteer Program; and Mark Barrett, director for finance and administration, Community Service Society.

The program yesterday was coordinated by Polly Normann, executive director of SERVE, and her staff. Don Richards and his orchestra played.

Besides the three top volunteers, those with 2,000 hours or more were: Gwallys Knudson and Hanna Sandbeck — 5,000 hours or more.

Harry Dittmar, James J. Gallagher, Ethel Pollack and Grace Steen — 4,000 hours or more.

Ethel Brown and Alexander Perez — 3,500 hours or more.

Millie Avignone, Gerda Nelson and Enock Nilsen — 3,000 hours or more.

Mary Buebendorf, Marion Burke, Linda Cairo, Edith Hansen, Marthine Johnsen, Rita McDonough and Katherine Perlman, Perlman — 2,500 hours or more.

James Baker, Leonka Germer, Agnes Luciano, Mary McMurray, Margaret Moog, Sadie Romeo, Eloise Ronchette, and Irene Willshaw — 2,000 hours or more.



The three top SERVE volunteers who, among them, donated about 19,000 hours to the community, chat with William J. Horn, right, master of ceremonies at the SERVE tribute program. The three volunteers are, left to right, Mary McCarthy, Fannie Carannante and Henry Hansen.