

## 'Volunteer hands that serve hearts that care:' RSH honors volunteers

By **QUINTEN BOYD**  
STAFF WRITER

Rusk State Hospital took time out to recognize "volunteer hands that serve hearts that care," handing out awards for various community volunteers at their Volunteer Services Council luncheon, held last Thursday on the grounds of Rusk State Hospital.

Volunteers raised donations of more than \$35,000 in 2008 and accounted for over 4,300 hours of service to RSH.

Sarah Summers of Rusk was recognized for 50 years of service to RSH and to the Volunteer Services Council.

"She is a crown jewel of volunteerism and we want to recognize her in appreciation of her service," said Volunteer Services Council president Chuck Jeter.

Austin Bank Rusk president Larry Long received the Community Leader award.

The Group Service award went to Rusk Church of Christ, which organized a program to deliver hand-written letters and \$5 each month to 36 RSH patients.

The Group Service Rookie award went to "The Seekers," who organized parties and a dulcimer concert for the San Jacinto Unit of RSH. Member Lynn Stanley was recognized by Rusk State Hospital as well as the state of Texas for her volunteer efforts.

"Actions such as these show the compassion of our community," said RSH superintendent Ted Debbs. "Volunteerism gives our patients hope that people care."



PHOTOS: QUINTEN BOYD

Austin Bank Rusk president Larry Long received the Community Leader award at the Volunteer Services Council luncheon held last Thursday. Presenting Mr. Long with the award is Glenda Bruce, RSH director of community relations.



Sarah Summers (right) stands with Volunteer Services Council president Chuck Jeter after being recognized for more than 50 years of service with the council.