

# City honors volunteers



RON SIDDLE/Valley Press

**APPRECIATION** — Volunteer Yvonne Knowlton receives recognition for her work at the Palmdale Playhouse from Mayor Jim Ledford during Wednesday's Palmdale Volunteer luncheon. Approximately 150 volunteers were honored for their efforts.

## Mayor hands out certificates of appreciation

By **JOANNA PARSONS**  
Valley Press Staff Writer

**PALMDALE** — A group of people were honored with a luncheon of chicken, crisp salad, lemonade and angel-food cake at the Palmdale Cultural Center on Wednesday.

These men and women devoted time to assist the city of Palmdale in everything from tutoring children at the Palmdale Youth Library to assisting in emergency procedures to ensure the city's safety.

But these people weren't city officials. They were volunteers, about 150 of them.

"Our city would not be what it is without our volunteers," said Mayor Jim Ledford, "I don't think you can measure the impact in dollars, cents or involvement."

Ledford and Garrett W. Rickert, the city's personnel analyst, said the number of volunteers for the city has increased over the years.

Volunteers take the burden off employed city workers and the volunteer element in Palmdale brings the community together, Ledford added.

"To me this is a small thank you, having lunch for these people, but their impact is large," Ledford continued.

Volunteers help out in several city departments, including the Palmdale Playhouse, Plant 42 Heritage Airpark, the Palmdale youth and main libraries, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Public Works, Parks and

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Recreation, the senior center and South Antelope Valley Emergency Service, a food bank that donates foods and supplies to struggling families in the Antelope Valley.

Deputy Dave Miklos said sheriff's department volunteers free up deputies to do police

work. Volunteers are trained to aid in ways such as conduct traffic control if there is a traffic collision or a potential crime scene.

"We couldn't do a lot of things without them," Miklos said.

Also honored was Volunteer Search and Rescue-1 (VSR-1), a volunteer search and rescue organization that works with the city of Palmdale to assist in carrying out emergency and disaster preparation plans.

VSR-1 helped city officials take precautions over New Year's Eve, in case the computers went haywire or riots broke loose, said Matthew Hall, VSR-1 captain.

The volunteers enjoyed lunch and a message from Ledford. All volunteers also received a certificate of appreciation from the mayor for

their contributions to the city.

"It's great that the city is recognizing us for what little bit we do," said Bill Berlin, a volunteer for the sheriff's department.

For information about volunteering, call (661) 267-5112.