

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

# Valley Terrace Honors Helpers

## Lay Minister, Nonprofit Recognized

**WILDER**— A White River Junction man and a local nonprofit and were recently honored for their community service by Valley Terrace Assisted Living.

Roger Tatro received the Valley Terrace Senior Service Award for his dedication to giving back and his willingness to put the needs of others first, according to a news release from the senior living community.

A Eucharistic minister at St. Anthony's Parish in White River Junction, Tatro has visited Valley Terrace every Monday for the past 15 years to perform religious services, play guitar and sing songs for the residents, the release said.

"He spends the majority of his personal time during the week volunteering and serving others, with the intent of spreading joy and happiness to all those he meets along the way."

Tatro said he was honored to receive the award.

"My mission in life is to serve God, and I do so fully with the commitment of serving others to the best of my ability and to bring



**COURTESY PHOTOGRAPH**  
**Roger Tatro, of White River Junction, and Bobbi Trombley, activity director at Valley Terrace Assisted Living, smile as Tatro receives an award for his volunteer work.**

them joy and happiness," said Tatro, who also volunteers at hospitals and other local organizations.

"Being able to visit with the residents and see the joy and happiness our time together brings them makes it all worthwhile. While we are able, it is our responsibility to do what we can to help others, even in the smallest of ways."

Willing Hands was recognized for its commitment to improving the lives of seniors and others who may not have access to nutritious food, according to the release.

The nonprofit distributes food that would otherwise go to waste to local organizations that serve people in need.

Every week, Willing Hands picks up food from more than 22 donors and delivers to at least 50 organizations, according to its website. In 2015, it delivered approximately 199 tons of food, 93 percent of which was fruit and vegetables.

Gabe Zoerheide, Willing Hands' executive director, said the nonprofit was honored and surprised to receive the generous award, and that knowing its work in the community is appreciated "means a lot."

"There are so many people in the local community that are unable to gain access to nutritious and wholesome food that is so vital to living a healthy lifestyle," Zoerheide said in the release. "It's such a joy to see the support for those in our community who truly need assistance."

Willing Hands and Tatro each received \$500 from Valley Terrace Assisted Living during a ceremony last week.

— *Staff report*

**Do you know an Upper Valley volunteer whose efforts deserve to be recognized in a Volunteer Spotlight story? Send suggestions by email to [Volunteers@vnews.com](mailto:Volunteers@vnews.com), or by mail to Volunteer Spotlight, Valley News, P.O. Box 877, White River Junction, Vt. 05001. Be sure to include your name and a daytime telephone number. For more information, call 603-727-3221 during regular business hours.**