

## *New Hampshire Veterans Home (NHVH) receives Gold Circle Partner Award from New Hampshire Partners in Education (NHPIE).*

TILTON, NH - The New Hampshire Veterans Home (NHVH) recently received a Gold Circle Partner Award from New Hampshire Partners in Education (NHPIE) for helping to enhance and enrich the education of students this year in the Winnisquam Regional High School and the Winnisquam Regional Middle School.

The Gold Circle Achievement Awards ceremony was hosted by the New Hampshire Partners in Education to recognize relationships between schools and local businesses, charitable organizations, police and fire departments, and departments of the state government. The students of the local New Hampshire schools and the outside organizations who are cooperatively involved all benefit from an exchange of learning programs and presentations. According to Governor John Lynch, New Hampshire has recently been identified as the best state in the country to raise children, and the theme at the awards ceremony was that the State was so recognized in part because of these community connections.

The New Hampshire Veterans Home's Intergenerational Program involves elders from the Veterans Home in regular activities with students from Winnisquam Regional High School, Winnisquam Regional Middle School, Tilton School, Paul Smith School, and the New Hampton School. Others, such as the Sant Bani Ashram School in Sanbornton, the Life Centered Learning Institute, the Jenny Blake School, Casey Family Services, Lakes Region Bible Church, Project Extra, Weare Home Educators, and Laconia Middle School have participated on an occasional basis. Students come in to read to the veterans, plant and grow flowers and vegetables, perform music, dance, and volunteer in a variety of other activities. Veterans act as mentors to many of the students and encourage them. Bob Blanchard, a NHVH resident says, "This program could be entitled, 'The Heart to Heart Program.' We, as veterans, meet with local school children. Through an exchange of ideas, experience, and life, we learn from each other."

*Photo: A student from Winnisquam Regional High School's Agricultural Program helps NHVH Resident Vic Dennis create a flower arrangement.*

One student from Winnisquam Regional Middle School commented, "These veterans are interested in me because of who I am; they encourage me to continue my education to higher levels. They never put me down. They have a great deal of experience and knowledge. They make me feel good about myself and I am going to 'go for it.' Thank you, guys. I'll make you proud of the time you spent with me."

James Mazzuchelli, MSW, Social Work Consultant at NHVH, says, "It's a win-win situation. Students discover life challenges and joys the residents have experienced over the years, and the residents learn about current trends, interests, and career ideas from the youth. Our veterans have a history of service and the Intergenerational Programs provide many new, interesting, and rewarding opportunities to serve the community. We hope to expand the Intergenerational Program in the coming years."

The New Hampshire Veterans Home was established in Tilton in 1890 as the Soldier's Home for Civil War Veterans. One of just four New Hampshire nursing homes to win the first Quality of Life Award in 2007 from the NH Department of Health & Human Services, NHVH was recognized again this year for its continuing commitment to nursing home



culture change and quality of life. The NHVH campus is home to 200 men and women who have served their country and fellow New Hampshire citizens. The mission of NHVH is to provide high quality, professional long-term care services to the Granite State's elderly and disabled veterans. NHVH is the only long-term care facility in the Granite State that is dedicated exclusively to veterans.