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# Orchard Park Bee

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## Senior Wishes receives excellence award



Senior Wishes, established in 2013 by the United Church Home Society, recently accepted the Program of Excellence award from Network in Aging of Western New York, according to a press release from the organization.

The award was received at a Nov. 4 luncheon. Senior Wishes was honored for its innovative contributions to the geriatric citizenry of Western New York, the release said.

Wendy Miller Backman, a resident of Orchard Park, accepts the excellence award from Network in Aging of Western New York on behalf of Senior Wishes.

“It is amazing to think that just two years ago we were developing the concept of what Senior Wishes would become today,” said Wendy Miller Backman, director of programs and development. “Coming up with a

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name, designing a logo and all that comes with launching a new start-up program. I share this award with Mike Maloney, my mentor, who helped me bring to fruition the idea of a program to recognize low-income seniors by granting their wishes.”

Backman, an Orchard Park resident, also thanked Meals on Wheels for playing a role in building public awareness of the Senior Wishes program as it was being launched.

Recent wishes that have been granted include trips to Buffalo Bills games, painting lessons and art supplies, a WXRL bus trip, and several reunions for long-separated family members, the release said.

Wish recipients must meet the following guidelines: at least 65 years old and a U.S. citizen residing in Western New York; annual income for a household of one less than \$38,000 or household of two less than \$44,000; cognitively, emotionally and physically capable of communicating and experiencing the wish; and unable to fulfill the wish on his or her own.

Visit [www.seniorwishes.org](http://www.seniorwishes.org) or call 508-2121 for an application or additional information about the program.

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