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James and Ellen Schimpf pictured with Latrobe Hospital president Peggy Hayden

CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION: CLOCK MEMORIALIZES SERVICE

LATROBE, PA, APRIL 26, 2010 ... A new wall clock in honor and memory of longtime Latrobe Hospital volunteer Jessie Schimpf marks the precious gift of time so willingly shared over the years. Dedicated April 20, the timepiece was made possible by donations from Volunteer Services staff past and present and family friends, who recognized the decades-long relationship Jessie and Willis Schimpf, Latrobe Hospital's first obstetrician, had with their community.

The Schimpfs' son and daughter-in-law, James and Ellen Schimpf, attended the dedication ceremony, which celebrated 24,000-plus recorded volunteer hours, but also a half-century relationship with physicians, staff and patients, as acknowledged by hospital president Peggy Hayden in her remarks.

The face of Latrobe Hospital at the lobby Information Desk, the former Greater Latrobe School District teacher saw the hospital as an extension of her classroom, instructing new volunteers in the proper way to answer a phone, greet a visitor, provide directions, or otherwise problem solve to the benefit of all.

The passing of Jessie Schimpf earlier this year leaves a void that will not soon be filled, but as the wise teacher would acknowledge, her influence will be far-reaching and demonstrated in countless ways as yet unknown. Sharing in the celebration were former Volunteer Services staff, including Diana Kreiling, Dave O'Brien and Brenda Geesaman. Latrobe honored all 265 hospital volunteers at its luncheon April 22.

