

MaH Members Honored by Vaughan Award

On Monday May 5th, the 2014 Joseph D. Vaughan Award was presented to Bobbie and Tuck Gilbert, founding members of Monadnock at Home (MaH). The Vaughan Awards are presented annually by the State Committee on Aging and EnGAGING NH to an individual or couple over the age of 60 in each county who has shown outstanding leadership or achievement as a volunteer on behalf of older citizens and others in New Hampshire. Award recipients were honored at a special ceremony with Governor Hassan at the State House in Concord.

The Gilbert's were chosen for their tireless volunteer efforts to bring their vision of establishing a local "aging in place" organization, that enables older adults to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible, to fruition. The couple realized that bringing an "aging in place" model to the rural, eastern Monadnock region required innovation. "The countless hours invested by the Gilbert's on behalf of others exemplifies the civic leadership of this energetic couple...", said Owen Houghton, former President of the State Committee on Aging and current Board member of MaH. Rick Harnden, current Chair of MaH, nominated the couple, and added, "Their willingness to 'get down in the trenches' and their ability to unite dozens of volunteers in a common effort sparked a huge initiative that brought their vision into a reality, now known as Monadnock at Home."

In response to this recognition, the Gilbert's commented:

" We were touched and honored to receive the Vaughan Award and to have 12 of you come to Concord to share the occasion. We are glad to have been part of the birthing of Monadnock at Home along with Owen and Norma Houghton and Laura and Michael Redmond and then to be part of the expanded group who came on board to develop and share the leadership of MaH.

In accepting this award, we see it as a tribute to that larger team of people who have helped bring MaH into operating existence (2010) and who continue to develop and sustain it with wisdom, caring and countless hours of time. You are incredible, each sharing your special talents on the Board, in committees, and with our members. It's impossible to mention all your names, but you know who you are and we hope that you will feel that we accepted this award on your behalf also."

Soon to begin its fifth year of operation, MaH serves over 125 seniors in seven area towns. More information on the Vaughan Award and MaH can be found at www.monadnockathome.org or by calling (603) 371-0809.