

GRACE SNIVELY

Community work makes woman proud

By JULIE E. GREENE

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Looking around at the various plaques and certificates she has been awarded for decades of community work, Grace Snively is proud, but a bit somber.

"They mean a lot to me because I put a lot of living in — not for publicity's sake, but I enjoyed community work," said Snively, 91, of Hagerstown.

"I think nobody will be interested in me after I'm gone," Snively said.

However, she already was immortalized in the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame in 1999.

Among her achievements noted in the book are:

- Being an elections precinct worker for more than 30 years and becoming a chief judge.

- Serving on the Community Correctional Service Committee, which supports inmate groups at the Maryland Correctional Institution-Hagerstown.

- Working with the American Cancer Society in the 1950s.

That work included going door to door on North Jonathan Street, handing out home Pap smear kits for early cancer detection.

"I was known as the cancer woman, and they wouldn't let me in and said they weren't interested," Snively said. Some people believed that if she was coming to their door, that meant they had cancer, she said.

Snively said she knows of at least two women who took the tests, which detected cancer, and survived for years.

"Each time I would see them, they said, 'Thank you,'" Snively said. Snively said she thanked them for following through with the test.

Snively still helps the American Cancer Society. In March, she wrapped boxes of daffodils at the Alsatia Club for an American Cancer Society fund-raiser.

Snively serves on the Community Correctional Service Committee, is a missionary and trustee for Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church on Bethel Street and belongs to the Elks Sharon Temple 160 and Deborah



By Joe Crocetta/Staff Photographer

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Snively says helping others is in her blood, a trait inherited from her late mother, Naomi Mason.

Whenever anyone in the rural

Hedgesville, W.Va., community was sick or needed someone to help out, her mother was there, Snively said.

"Mother just did for everybody, anything that had to be done," Snively

Q&A

- **Date of birth** — July 23, 1913

- **Occupation** — Retired from doing house and office work for the late Dr. Jack Beachley, a general practitioner.

- **Most notable achievement** — Doing for people that couldn't do for themselves, that needed help, needed support in any way, physically, mentally — going and talking to them.

- **Your proudest moment** — "That I helped to save their lives." (Referring to two women who took home Pap smear tests Snively handed out in the '50s and discovered they had cancer.)

- **Who is the person you most admire and why?** My mother (the late Naomi Mason), definitely my mother, for the moral principles she instilled in me.

- **What is the best piece of advice you ever received to do unto others as you would have (them) do unto you?**

- **What is the most advice you would like to receive?** (If I don't have any now, please give me some.)

- **What three words best describe you?** Love, kindness, generous.

said. "She felt it was part of her and she had to do it, wanted to do it."

In 1943, Snively married Russell Snively and moved to Hagerstown, where he worked at a hotel.

Snively said she got her husband, who died in 1995, involved with community work, too, so they could go to activities together.

That they were busy helping their community is evident by the plaques, certificates and other honors covering the walls of their bedroom and basement.

"To me, (helping others) was something that not only needed to be done, that had to be done," Snively said.

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■ **What is the best piece of advice you ever received?** To do unto others as you would have (them) do unto you.

■ **What is the next goal you would like to achieve?** "Oh, I don't have any now. Heaven, I guess."

■ **What three words best describe you?** Love, truthfulness, generous.