

Congratulations...

...to Patricia Owairu and Lisa Patrino/The Grill Team for their recognition by the Tennessee Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (TNAHSA). Patricia received the statewide Hero Award and The Grill/International Grill was recognized as Innovator of the Year.

Lisa and members of the Eden Steering Committee began plans for the Grill in late 2006 with a debut on February 18, 2007 for 18 residents. In the three years since its inception, the weekly 50s Soda Shoppe has grown to an event that serves between 125-150 residents and family members and attracts community volunteers who wish to support the unique dining experience. Last July the Grill added an international component on the second Tuesday of the month, and residents and staff have enjoyed cuisine from Italy, Germany, Spain, Ireland, the Philippines, the Caribbean, Kuwait and Mexico—in addition to Southern soul food and many of Elvis' favorites from Graceland.

A dedicated interdepartmental team of BLTC staff and family/community volunteers work every week to set up, cook, serve, bus tables and transport residents who wait for the special dining opportunity.

Patricia Owairu was named the TNAHSA Hero for her dedication and commitment to elders and staff. While earning her degree in social work, she chose to continue as a CNA doing what she says she was born to do. Working with elders is her passion and joy. She has established a private foundation to assist caregivers with resources that enables them to continue the work that benefits those entrusted to their care. **Patricia's foundation has partnered with the BLTC Human Resource office and community agencies to provide outreach programs for staff and recreational programs for elders.**

***Congratulations to everyone whose efforts with the Grill and assistance with Patricia's events and activities have brought happiness to elders and staff.
A salute to all from your TNAHSA peers***