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PRESS RELEASE

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First Annual Award Presented to Carol McLimans

Carol McLimans received the first annual Trail Blazer Award on Tuesday, March 1, 2016, at a luncheon ceremony at Land of Sky Regional Council. The award is given annually to a professional in Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, or Transylvania Counties who is a pioneer and innovator in the field of aging and adult services.

Carol, the Family Caregiver Resource Specialist at Land of Sky Regional Council, exemplifies what it means not to be daunted by challenges, but to embrace them. To Carol, meeting the demands that aging and adult services require is simply a matter of taking a deep breath, applying knowledge, and steering her program with the wind at her back, always one step ahead. The energy, commitment and innovation she holds in one finger is more than most will hold in a lifetime.

Carol leads by living her life with boundless curiosity, taking courses and training one after the other as if they were delicious fruits to be consumed. The rest are left to say, "Glad she's taking that class. It's more than I want to take on." Her legacy is blazing a trail for those who are following and who will follow in the future. She teaches all to dispute the barriers to services for those we serve, make a path if one doesn't exist, build bridges across differences and stretch our every resource until more resources arrive.

Most important, as we all age, Carol serves as a guide for a good place to be whenever we get there. We acknowledge that by the time we get where Carol is she will have blazed an entirely new path leaving us to ponder how she always gets ahead of us. She has taught her professional peers that old age is a figment of other people's imagination and petite is just another word for powerful.

Carol also celebrated her 80th birthday on March 1. At the ceremony, Carol received recognition for being the oldest Area Agency on Aging employee in the state of North Carolina.

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