



THE
**HUMAN
SERVICES
COUNCIL**
OF MID-FAIRFIELD

*Community Planning
For Community Needs*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Voluntary Action Center of Mid-Fairfield Honors Volunteers at its' Annual Recognition Reception

Norwalk, Connecticut – On April 29, 2010, the Voluntary Action Center of Mid-Fairfield honored volunteers from Norwalk, Weston, Westport and Wilton for their outstanding contributions to local not-for-profit agencies at the Annual Volunteer Recognition Reception which was held at Norfield Congregational Church in Weston. Gayle Weinstein, First Selectman of Weston, greeted the guests and read a proclamation naming April 29, 2010 *Volunteer Recognition Day*. Both adult and youth volunteers received certificates of appreciation for their exceptional service and commitment to the not-for-profit agencies in which they so generously volunteer their time.

Norwalk honorees included: John Agati (The Courage To Speak Foundation), Robi Ancona (Children's Connection), Chris Arnette (Junior Achievement of SWCT), Virginia Atkinson (Norwalk River Rowing Association), Don Avery (The Maritime Aquarium), Arianna Bailey (Stepping Stones Museum for Children), James Bilko (Norwalk Hospital), Donna Custer (Norwalk Mentor Program), Dot DeFinis (Norwalk Senior Center), Kate Downes (Family & Children's Agency), Kathy Greco (Connecticut Hospice), Jacob Henny (Christian Community Action Center), Raeven McFadden and Isabel Bullen (Norwalk Public Library), Theresa Tavella Quell (Dr. Robert E. Appleby School-Based Health Centers), Carmina Tessitore (Connecticut Legal Services), Katharine Smith (Norwalk Reads!), Susan Son (Norwalk High School Earth Club), Alexis Ehrlich and Desiree Waters (The George Washington Carver Center), Letricia Harris and Mayra Zapata (Norwalk Housing Authority).

Westport honorees included: Bobbi Reilly (CLASP Homes), Karin Dale (Domestic Violence Crisis Center), Candace Twiss (Earthplace: The Nature Discovery Center), Rob Leder (T.A.I.L.S.), Ed Marcantonio (United Way of Coastal Fairfield County), Sarajane Lynch (Westport Woman's Club), Lori Sochol (Westport Young Woman's League), Rosemary and Steve Halstead (Westport/Weston YMCA).

Weston honorees included: Samantha Seath, Khadija Lalani, Ross Karlan, Daniel Goldberg, Karen Sitney (Alcohol and Drug Awareness of Weston - ADAP) and Sian Nimkoff (PAWS).

Wilton honorees included: Eileen Goldfield (Brookdale Senior Living), Marilyn Dugan (Christian Community Action), Kathy Olstein (Family Services Woodfield Literacy), Devyn Jeffries (Family and Children's Agency), Ann White (Norwalk Hospital), Ginny Berzin (Nursing & Home Care/Mid-Fairfield Hospice), Jack McDonald (R.S.V.P. of SW CT), Stephanie Barksdale (Wilton Family YMCA), Kevin Houska (Wilton Youth Council's Task Force to Reduce Substance Use Among Youth, Mimi Houska (Wilton Youth Council) and Bronislava Slagle (Trackside – The Teen Center of Wilton).

The 2010 Spirit Award was given to the youth group at St. Philip Church in Norwalk for the 400 hours of community service they performed during their 30-Hour Famine Project.

The Voluntary Action Center of Mid-Fairfield is a source for volunteer recruitment, management, training and recognition and serves over 150 not-for-profit agencies throughout the region. VAC is a program of the Human Services Council -- a private, non-profit organization which was established in 1944 to develop programs to help meet the needs of families throughout the greater Norwalk community -- other programs of the Human Services Council include: Children's Connection, Community Prevention Task Force, the Dr. Robert E. Appleby School Based Health Centers, Mid-Fairfield Substance Abuse Coalition and the Norwalk Mentor Program. For further information about Voluntary Action Center please contact the Human Services Council at (203) 849-1111 or visit us online at www.hscct.org/vac.