

The Massachusetts Commission
on the Status of Women's

Ninth Annual Unsung Heroines of Massachusetts

*They don't make the news...
they make the difference.*



Wednesday May 16, 2012
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Massachusetts State House
Boston, Massachusetts



Thank You To Our Sponsors

This 2012 Unsung Heroines event is made possible through the kind contributions of a number of exceptional businesses and individuals. We thank them for their generosity.

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Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women

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Boston, Massachusetts 02114
(617) 626-6520 | www.mass.gov/women

The MCSW is an independent state agency that was legislatively created in 1998 to advance women of the Commonwealth to full equality in all areas of life and to promote their rights and opportunities. The Commission provides a voice for Massachusetts women and is comprised of 19 members who are appointed by the Governor, Senate President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Caucus of Women Legislators.

Commissioners

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Katie Hayden
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Sam Zapora

Greetings,

Welcome to the ninth annual Unsung Heroines celebration. It is an honor for us to identify extraordinary women from across the Commonwealth and we are proud to thank them publically at the Massachusetts State House.

We would like to thank NewsCenter 5's Liz Brunner for taking the time to be our mistress of ceremonies today. Also, to thank our many legislative leaders who are with us today as we honor the 2012 Unsung Heroines from communities across the Commonwealth.

Massachusetts women have always been in the forefront of advancing the status of women. Today, thousands of women from across our Commonwealth perform unheralded acts of public leadership and volunteerism that make our neighborhoods, cities, and towns better places to live.

The Unsung Heroines of 2012 are the glue that keeps a community together. They may not make the news, but they most assuredly make the difference. A grateful Commonwealth sings their praises today to show each of these special women how much we value their efforts.

As you read about and listen to their stories today, we know that you will be moved by all that is happening in our Commonwealth every day because not-so-ordinary women are doing extraordinary things. We thank the nominating legislators who have their finger on the pulse of their communities and see the impact these women make every day. We are also deeply grateful to the corporate sponsors, those who donated goods and services, and the volunteers who helped make this day so special for our honorees.

Sincerely,
Victoria A. Budson

Massachusetts Unsung Heroines of 2012 Celebration

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Great Hall, Massachusetts State House

Welcome

Victoria A. Budson, MCSW Chairwoman

In Praise of Unsung Heroines

Liz Brunner, Co-Anchor, NewsCenter 5

State House Greeting

Senate President Therese Murray

We Sing Your Praises

MCSW Commissioners Share Reading of 2012 Honorees

Closing

Victoria A. Budson, MCSW Chairwoman

2012 Heroines Photo Assemblage

All honorees proceed from the Great Hall to the Grand Staircase for the 2012 Unsung Heroines group photo.

“Just Desserts” Refreshments & Reception

After the group photo all event attendees are invited to the *Just Desserts* reception.

Donna Abdulla, Salisbury

Mrs. Abdulla's Family business – Joe's Playland – is a landmark arcade and recreation center that provides thousands of children and adults with life-long memories and fun. Her love of the region extends beyond Salisbury through her years of service to the North Boston Convention and Visitor's Bureau – an organization that ensures that visitors to the state are aware of the wonderful recreation opportunities beyond Boston. This past year Mrs. Abdulla was named Chairwoman of the organization's Board of Directors, enabling her to undertake a leadership role of the Merrimack Valley Economic Development Council. Mrs. Abdulla was also instrumental in ensuring the long-term viability of the Maria Miles Visitor Center, a facility on Interstate 95 that serves as a gateway to the North Shore tourist region and now houses the NBCVB.

**Linda Ahronian, Holliston**

Linda has been an active volunteer in the community for years, and is a model for young people in giving back to the community. An active member and past president of the local Lion's Club, Linda is a perpetual volunteer, helping coordinate annual events including a local carnival, triathlon, and pancake breakfast to raise funds that benefit the local food pantry, public services, scholarships for local youth, and the sight impaired. Linda was also key in helping establish a local "Leo's" organization that fosters community

service among young people and provides opportunities for students to begin giving back to their communities at a young age. Linda is also a dedicated active supporter of efforts to combat cancer, annually volunteering to raise funds for Relay for Life and Holliston Walks Against Breast Cancer. Linda is an example of a woman who is selfless in giving of her time to make her community a better and healthier place to live.

Lauren Alukonis, Saugus

Lauren went to grade school in Saugus and then graduated from Saugus High School. It was in high school that she decided to join the Army ROTC program. She was later accepted to the University of Rhode Island where she received a degree in nursing. Nursing is truly a passion of Lauren's. During her time serving our country she was a Medical-Surgical Nurse, 66H, at the Dewitt Army Hospital in Ft. Belvoir, VA. She became a Sexual Assault Coordinator. She has helped to start many programs for women who have been sexually assaulted and are in desperate need of help and counseling. She truly cares about everyone. Lauren is very humble about her dedicated service to our country and all that she has accomplished. It is women such as Lauren, who unselfishly give their lives for us and our country, that make it a safer place to live.



Lucia Amero, Gloucester

As an assistant to the Veteran's Agent in Gloucester for the past 17 years, Lucia puts in more hours than she could ever be paid to work with veterans, both those currently returning from service in Iraq and Afghanistan, and those who have previously served, to find employment, receive health care and other essential services. She plans informational fairs for veterans, and plans the Memorial Day and Veteran's Day services acknowledging all that have and currently serve at home and abroad. Moreover, Lucia has volunteered with the Salvation Army for the past 17

years, and has revived a committee to commemorate fisherman who have been lost at sea.

Katie Anastasia, Mansfield

Katie has devoted her time to educating students with various learning disabilities by cultivating their communication and academic skills. Through her involvement in Project Teammate and the Next Steps program, she has endeavored to set these students up for success by honing their ability to navigate the job market in areas of job interviewing and workplace conduct. Using her position as a speech therapist, Katie makes a difference in the lives of these students every day.



Patricia L. Andrews, Orange

Pat has been a lifelong resident of her town and has made an outstanding difference in neighboring communities through her public service. She spent many years in the public school system teaching kindergarten and has been a leader to local Girl Scout troops. She has also fostered interest in public service in many individuals, including her daughter who serves the towns of Erving, Gill, Greenfield, Orange, Warwick, and Athol as a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. For the last 50 years, Pat has been a constant voice for

community improvement projects, education, park and recreation space, and historical preservation. She has served on various local boards and committees over the years including the school building committee, town revitalization committee, and other local restoration and improvement initiatives. Her work is unheralded yet she is an inspiring, strong voice in her community.

Kelli Barry, Hatfield

Kelli is more than an employee of the American Cancer Society; she is truly dedicated to the mission of the organization. Kelli works countless hours as Vice President for income development in the State of Massachusetts. She is responsible for numerous fundraising events directly or indirectly, including such programs as: Relay for Life, Daffodil Days, and Making Strides. Kelli manages staff as well as volunteers. Her work with ACS goes beyond her efforts for fund raising; for several years, she traveled across the country every month to bring the other aspects of the organization's mission together with the fundraising goals. As the Mission Integration Specialist, Kelli ensures that prevention, detection and patient support are integrated into fundraising events nationally. Having been touched by cancer in her own life, Kelli has taken on all her work with dedication and effort that goes far above what would be expected as an employee. She can often be found responding to questions and solving problems late into the night.

**Jean Z. Batty, Winchester**

A mother of three, Jean has been a tireless champion on behalf of individuals with disabilities, and recently achieved a major success in her two year effort to make the Wedgemere Commuter Rail Station accessible to all. Before Jean took on the leadership of the Winchester Disability Access Commission it was relatively inactive. Under Jean's energetic leadership, the Commission has actively engaged with a wide variety of citizens and community groups to educate town residents and create awareness of the need to provide equal access for members of the community with disabilities. Additionally, they are working with the Winchester police and fire departments to implement more effective emergency procedures for those with disabilities. In February 2010, the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization with support from the Patrick administration authorized \$2 million in federal stimulus funding to install mini-high ramps and make other necessary improvements so the station will finally be made accessible for those with disabilities.



Elizabeth Bibaud, Worcester

Elizabeth is an educator at Clark Street Developmental Learning School of Worcester Public Schools. During the summer, she runs the school vacation camp program. During the school year, she runs a weekly after-school program, called Biddy Basketball. It is her personal project and also one of the school's most respected programs. Over the last five years, she has gone to school every Saturday morning to run this program. She gives children the chance to play on an organized sport team and an opportunity to develop powerful intrinsic values.

She even brings jackets and other school supplies to her students simply because she wants to, not because she expects praise in return. In addition to being a wonderful educator, Ms. Bibaud has been a committed volunteer at the Dismas House, which welcomes former prisoners into a stable housing environment after their incarceration.

Estele Borges, Taunton

Estele's energy and passion for community service recently led her to make her first run for municipal office. She is now the only woman to hold a seat on the Taunton Zoning Board of Appeals. At the same time that she was running for office, Estele worked tirelessly on a new mayor's campaign – another first-time experience for her and another victory. She has since been selected by Mayor Tom Hoyer to serve on his Transition Team as Chair of the Human Services Task Force. Estele's focuses are combating homelessness and substance abuse in her city. As challenging as these issues are, Estele's unwavering commitment to helping those in need is going to greatly benefit countless men, women, and children in her community. Her integrity, confidence and strong leadership make her a remarkable role model for all women.

Meredith Boumil-Flynn, Dracut

Meredith is an exceptionally well respected member of the Greater Lowell community. As Vice President of Enterprise Bank, she is responsible for the \$66,000,000 Dracut branch operation. She is committed to promoting business opportunities for women and minorities in Dracut and the surrounding area. To that end, she has provided outreach initiatives that offer guidance to those considering starting a business and a model for women entrepreneurs in her community. When it comes to volunteering, she is a champion. She is currently a member of the Dracut Capital Planning Committee, the Dracut Affordable Housing Partnership, and the Dracut Old Home Day Committee. She was on the Board of Directors and was Treasurer of the Dracut Skateboard Association, is the former Chairperson and Treasurer of the Dracut Arts Council and a former member of the Dracut Finance Committee. Meredith was a driving force in the town's preparation for the gala Dracut Tercentennial Celebration. She is a volunteer for the Annual Dracut Charity Golf Tournament, an active member of the Dracut Lions Club and a strong supporter of the Dracut Scholarship Foundation.

**Peggy Bryon, Rockland**

Peggy first started on the Rockland Council on Aging as a culinary aid in the kitchen and has worked up the ranks to the position of Director over her past 9 years of service. Her tireless work assisting the seniors in Rockland, organizing the Meals on Wheels program in the town and making sure resources are available to those who need

them most is truly admirable. Peggy is a dedicated worker who is passionate about what she does and truly cares for the people she helps. Her kind manner, willingness to do whatever it takes to get the job done, and ability to get people involved with all the events that she organizes in the COA add to her wonderful character that is most deserving of recognition.

Patricia A. Casola, Cambridge

Patricia has spent the last twenty years as a fierce advocate of the rights of public housing tenants at her home in Fresh Pond Apartments. As president of the Fresh Pond Tenants Association, she has worked with a number of organizations to improve conditions. Most meetings of the Tenants Association have a speaker who informs the group about issues, with translators always available. Pat is extremely committed to making sure that every tenant is treated fairly. When she found that several disabled tenants felt discriminated against by the management, she filed a complaint with the Human Rights Commission which resulted in the hiring of a Residential Services Coordinator in all the buildings statewide that are owned by the management company. She feels this is her greatest accomplishment.

**Caroline Cook, Malden**

Caroline is passionate about helping people in need. For the past 10 years, she has run the Handicap Olympics on the North Shore, where she is responsible for recruiting volunteers, conducting outreach, and coordinating event logistics such as food services and entertainment. In addition, she volunteers every month to help clients served by Triangle, a nonprofit that helps people with disabilities in

Malden, MA. Since 2011, Caroline has also helped various veterans programs, spending time each month at the Bedford VA Hospital helping with bingo nights, and serving dinner to homeless veterans at the New England Center for Homeless Veterans. Caroline is the type of person who cares deeply about others, and is always willing to roll up her sleeves to help those in need. She never seeks attention for her efforts, but works tirelessly to improve the lives of others.



Patricia Elen Costello, Lexington

Pat is the type of woman every community should have. A long time community advocate and volunteer, Pat currently dedicates most of her time to helping others in her hometown. She is currently the Co-Chair of the Selectman's Tax Exemption and Deferral Advisory Committee, a group that works on issues regarding local property tax relief for seniors and other qualifying groups. Pat also keeps abreast of the most current State legislation regarding income limits and benefit amounts, undertaking the tedious task of updating

the town's tax deferral literature throughout the year for her fellow residents. Pat is also a volunteer with the AARP's tax preparation program. Each year she takes a multi-day exam to be certified and then volunteers many hours of her time at the Lexington Senior Center helping seniors prepare their tax returns. While Pat's time may seem to be consumed with tax law, she is also an active member of the League of Women Voters, and can be seen around town in the summer in a mop cap and period dress in her role as a guide in Lexington's Historic Houses.



Sally D'Arcangelo, Auburn

In 2001 Sally was a tireless advocate in pursuing a \$500,000 grant through Department of Housing and Community Development to construct a building where Shrewsbury Youth and Family Service is currently housed. This agency serves approximately 3000 families annually, offering after school program, summer program, and counseling to seniors, teens, adults, and families. Additionally, Sally operates a food pantry, clothes closet, and community fuel assistance program within the agency. All of this incredible work doesn't happen under their budget allotment. Sally, with the support of an active Board

of Directors, has several unique fund raising events throughout the year. Auburn Youth and Family Service holds an annual wine tasting event as well as "Dancing with Auburn Stars" which has become a much anticipated fun evening. Sally's creative spirit is reflected in her work. While working to raise additional funds for families in need she uses these opportunities to strengthen a sense of community for the residents of Auburn.

**Dana Dermody, Pittsfield**

Dana is the Owner and Operator of A Fresh Start Cleaning & Contracting Services, a business she founded after leaving an abusive relationship. When clients offered her unwanted goods, Dana donated the items where they were most needed. Out of this small effort grew a larger one: Project H.O.P.E.F.U.L. The Project's 25 volunteers work with community organizations and

public and private donations to provide food, clothing and household items to those in need to show that "there is always HOPE somewhere in the darkness." Project H.O.P.E.F.U.L. completed its first mission in September 2011 when it provided furniture, bedding, dishes, decorations, a television and a stereo to an abused woman and her son as they left a shelter. The Project organizes events for children of families in crisis, helps women obtain services to overcome abuse and addiction, and encourages women to better their circumstances through education and training.

**Elaine DeRosa, Cambridge**

Elaine has been the Executive Director of the Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee (CEOC), an anti-poverty agency, for 35 years, starting as a college intern. She has been an unsung heroine in leading this agency to provide support for low-income families through tough times and good times. A state and national leader in family

planning, she has led CEOC to focus on affordable housing, running a food pantry, health care and early childhood programs – all to benefit low-income families. Elaine works quietly, tenaciously, and, when appropriate, vocally, to assure that, particularly low-income women and children can avail themselves of services to meet basic needs.



Julie DeSilva, Beverly

With a tireless energy Julie distinguished herself as an outstanding volunteer who is extremely committed to both Beverly schools and the city of Beverly.

Currently, she is the President of the City Wide PTO and is known for her collaborative cooperation with the Beverly School Committee. As a member of the Beverly Public Schools Strategic Planning Committee, she is active at many meetings and forums aimed at bringing new ideas and opportunities home. Julie has been very active with the Beverly schools since her

son, a current middle school student, began kindergarten. Another passionate interest of Julie's is recycling. Julie rolls up her sleeves and puts her interest and passion regarding the importance of recycling into committee work on Beverly Solid Waste, where she is the immediate Past President, as well as a hands-on person advocating and demonstrating the "Carry In, Carry Out" program at Beverly's largest recreational area, Lynch Park. She even turned recycling into an art form by organizing a city-wide Can Sculptures competition and donating the fees to Beverly Bootstraps, a non-profit to aid people in need.



Ellen M. DiGeronimo, Fitchburg

As a young woman, Ellen got involved in her community and local government. She was elected to the Fitchburg City Council in 1971 and served through 1977. In 1977 Governor Michael S. Dukakis appointed her associate commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Works from 1977-1979. She returned to the MDPW to work under Governor Dukakis from 1983-1991. In 1991, Ellen relocated to Salem, MA where she was appointed Executive Director of the Salem Chamber of

Commerce. She worked to bring new business into the city, and helped create the Salem Women's Heritage Trail. Ellen returned to Fitchburg in 2005 and was appointed Downtown Coordinator for the City. One of her accomplishments was organizing the Downtown Community Forum. She would meet with those who were interested in brainstorming ways to invigorate and optimize the Main Street Corridor. Ellen is currently the President of the Crocker Field Restoration Committee, is an active member of the Fitchburg Cultural Alliance Board of Directors, and has served on many boards. Ellen is an extraordinary woman who has dedicated her time and talent to the betterment of her community. She has been a mentor, volunteer, and innovator. Without question, for more than four decades Ellen has truly been a tireless champion of the city and the people of Fitchburg.



Sandra Duffy, Braintree

In 2000, Sandra's son Chris died suddenly of an aneurysm. Chris's organs and tissues were donated to over 20 people. Since his death, Sandy has been extremely active in spreading organ and tissue donation awareness. She has worked tirelessly with the Registry of Motor Vehicles to ensure that employees are educated on the topic of organ and tissue donation so that they may encourage drivers to sign up to be organ donors. Recently, Sandy served as

Chairwoman of the Braintree Chapter of the AARP's Committee to organize Braintree's 9/11 10th anniversary remembrance ceremony. This event was a moving and fitting tribute to those who died that day and to those who serve our country, and it was made possible by Sandy's hard work.



Kendra Dumont, Shirley

During a very difficult episode in the town's recent past, Kendra made a quick and difficult decision that uncovered a series of very serious crimes. Knowing the potential consequences, Kendra decided to report her suspicion of wrongdoing to law enforcement, which led to the arrest and conviction of a predatory and dangerous town employee. Her swift and courageous action caught a criminal who had been preying

on the women who worked in town, and put the town on the long road to recovery. Kendra is a faithful public servant who takes her role seriously. It is through this attention to detail and perseverance that she was able to uncover this illegal activity and prevent further harm to her coworkers.

**Patricia Flaherty, Boston**

Pat has worked for Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services for a number of years and has touched countless residents in the neighborhood. Most recently Pat has been working tirelessly to secure funding for the Roxbury Crossing Senior Facility. Because of her work, this project was granted \$6.2million from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) within

the first round of applications. With the money from HUD Pat has been able to secure more funding for this project from the City of Boston's Department of Neighborhood Development. Mission Hill has a great need for affordable rental housing for the elderly and it is Pat's vision that is making this happen. Along with performing her duties as the Senior Project Manager at Mission Hill NHS, Pat is also an active community resident. During the 1970s and 1980s Pat volunteered at the annual Mission Hill Road Race. Patricia Flaherty is a fixture within the Mission Hill Neighborhood. She is a passionate individual who has accomplished a multitude of projects that have bettered the community. She is tireless, compassionate, and diligent.

**June Fleischmann, North Attleboro**

June translates her passion for social services daily by responding to, assessing, and advocating for the needs of Attleboro's under sixty population. She is involved with the Attleboro-Taunton GATCH, Self Sufficiency Coalition, Department for Transitional Assistance Transportation Subcommittee, and was a Board Member, and now President of the Attleboro Community Council. She uses her experience and

connections to secure scarce resources in the community, to help families in need of fuel assistance, when they have exhausted all other resources. The citizens of Attleboro are blessed to have such a dedicated and passionate individual as June, because she views her work not as a job, but a moral responsibility.

**Anne Marie Fleming, North Attleboro**

Since becoming a Town Health Nurse 15 years ago, Anne has worked tirelessly, passionately, and with the highest levels of expertise with state, local, and area-wide agencies, organizations, and individuals. Anne Marie truly displays her passion to serve others through public health day to day. Additionally, she also

manages the Town Emergency Fund and directs the operation of Lenore's Food Pantry in which she has been very instrumental in upgrading. She is a kind, caring, and considerate individual who has touched the lives of countless others in the community over the years.



Kimberly Flynn, Peabody

On January 10, 2011, Kimberly's daughter Stephanie was tragically murdered by a client while working as a mental health counselor at North Suffolk Mental Health Association. In the face of such a profound personal loss, Kimberly has had the compassion, vision, and leadership to turn Stephanie's untimely death into an

opportunity, which has lead to potential statewide safety regulations for direct care workers in mental health fields. Kimberly never intended to become an advocate, but in just one year's time, she has managed to attract the media, public policy, and mental health community to call for change.



Nicole Flynt-Thomas, Roxbury

Nicole is a community organizer who has done instrumental work in Boston. She reaches out to youth and has found ways to provide services that others have attempted but failed. As a Community Organizer for Project R.I.G.H.T., Nicole started the first Gay Straight Alliance in Grove Hall, creating a safe space and reaching youth who are most at risk. She has organized around tenant rights, youth services, quality of life for the elderly and disabled, and has brought focus to challenges that girls and women of color face living in Grove Hall. Nicole has been organizing programs around key

community issues for over seventeen years and the impact she has had is immeasurable. She has overcome many personal obstacles and has gone from being a young single mother to an accomplished homeowner. Nicole is the glue that keeps communities together.



Debora A. Forgione, Lowell

As Chairwoman of the Pawtucketville Citizens Council, Deb has dedicated a significant amount of time and effort to preserving the neighborhood. She works tirelessly for the betterment of the residents and the community, keeping them apprised of the local issues that affect the community as a whole in the City of Lowell. She communicates and works with the city officials and law enforcement, handling difficult situations and conflicts with remarkable

patience and admirable tact. Under Deb's leadership the Pawtucketville Citizens Council has joined in the National Night Out, a neighborhood social, also known as America's night out against crime.



Judy S. Gangle, Randolph

Since 1972, Judy has been a community activist, taking on pivotal roles in many official and volunteer capacities, including nearly three decades as a Town Meeting member. Judy has pursued creative solutions and has never stopped in her quest for more information. She helped establish Randolph's Recycling Committee and, until its dissolution, served as chair. To honor her contributions, MassRecycle nominated Judy for their "Recycler of the Year" award at the organization's Anniversary Celebration. Recently,

Randolph's Town Council named her Randolph's first Environmental Activist. In this capacity, Judy plans to heighten understanding of environmental issues and to improve Randolph's recycling rate. Already, Judy has succeeded. She applied for and received a \$1,500 grant from the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP). Judy's tireless activism has positively impacted Randolph's community, making the town a better place to call home.

Chapel Guarnieri, Pepperell

Chapel is an outstanding young woman from Pepperell, MA . She is a Junior at North Middlesex Regional High School and works on the "we stand up for the troops who stand for us" project. She has been involved in many projects that support our troops, and her dream is to attend the Air Force Academy and become a pilot.



Jeanne A. Gould, Northbridge

Jeanne is a former teacher, organist, and choir director who has been active in fundraising for community causes and charities. She was involved with starting the first kindergarten program in the town of Blackstone and served as its first teacher. Her love of the arts has lead her to many terms as the President of the Blackstone Valley Art Association, as well as her membership in the Northbridge Arts Council. She has spent 4 years as the President of the Whitinsville Woman's Club, and has been involved for over 35 years in leadership and

fundraising activities that benefit the community, particularly its scholarship fund. Currently, she serves as Nominating Chairwoman and Trustee of the Endowment Fund. She is a long-term member of the Milford Regional Medical Center Board of Cooperators, and Whitinsville Social Library Corporation, where she has served as president for the past 8 years.



Mary Harpin, North Adams

Marie has been a well known advocate for many low income and underserved individuals and families throughout Northern Berkshire. For 17 years, she was the director of the Northern Berkshire Community Action and has aided many people over the years in obtaining fuel assistance, food pantry items, emergency funds, and emergency housing. Marie has since retired from the NBCA but was a tireless champion of helping those in need. With individuals, families, and children as the focus, Marie's goal was to do all that she could to

help people in hard times, understand their challenges, and get them assistance. She has successfully held numerous large fundraisers and food drives over the years and would get into a truck at holiday time to go and pick up hundreds of dollars of food and turkeys to deliver to families.



Susan Heyman, Newton

For decades, Susie has been volunteering her time with organizations that promote public service and quality public education. Joining the Newton League of Women Voters in the early 1980s, she chaired the U.S. League study on Meeting Basic Human Needs and received the LWV Volunteer of the Year Award in 2001. She served as PTO President at the Angier Elementary School and Newton South High School before becoming President of the city wide PTO Council in 1990 and 1991, Susie was elected to the Newton School Committee in 1993, where she

served a total of 14 years, including two years as Vice Chair. She chaired Newton School Committee's Long-Range Facilities Planning subcommittee and the committee to find a new school superintendent. Susie also served as a Board member of the Newton Schools Foundation and Board Chair of an education collaborative (EDCO) covering 22 communities. She is currently on the Board of Directors of both the Newton Community Service Center and the Newton Historical Society. Susie's kindness, integrity and her energetic, determined manner are well known throughout the Newton community.



Kathy Hodge, Wayland

Kathy is an integral member of her community. Her active participation in countless organizations, and her dedication to seniors, veterans and youth are worthy of applause. Each Memorial Day, Kathy organizes the placing and removal of American flags to honor our nation's veterans. Active within her Church, Kathy has been a choir member for

over 20 years, and currently serves as a cantor at Good Sheppard Parish in Wayland. There, she has also been involved with the youth ministry for the past 10 years, coordinating service projects for middle and high school students. Kathy works with the Wayland Council on Aging as well, helping out with women's crafts group, and organizing the annual children's holiday fair.



Linda Hubley, Southborough

Linda has dedicated her life to her community, and in particular, conservation. In 1981, Linda was the first state park supervisor, overseeing many state parks over the years. She has also taught environmental education at local afterschool programs. Linda has served on the Recreation Facilities committee, Conservation Commission, Road Safety Committee, and

started and co-chaired Sudbury River Watershed Organization. In addition, she has been involved with addressing the destructive Asian long horned beetle infestation in greater Worcester. As an active member of her community, Linda was also co-chair of the Southborough Animal Disaster Preparedness committee and helped write the animal disaster plan for the town as well as serving as an assistant H-4 horse club leader. Linda is also the proprietor of the first internet news source for the town, providing local reporting and local town issues.

Brenda Hyland, Swansea

Baseball is a strong passion for Brenda and her husband; six years ago they established the Challenger Division of the Swansea Little League in order to provide an opportunity for children with disabilities between the ages of 5-18, to play baseball. In this way, she has made it possible for many youths with disabilities to be able to play on a field at the Swansea Little League Complex for the past several years. For her efforts in establishing the Challenger Division of the Swansea Little League, Brenda was presented with the Hometown Hero Award that is given by BankFive and WSAR Radio.



Deborah Hunter Jacob, Needham

Needham is fortunate to have this individual who is smart, talented and in possession of the many life experiences that allow her to fully engage with individuals of all ages, families and organizations in order to truly make a difference. In the spotlight, Deb serves on active, widely respected organizations like the Needham Community Council and the Needham Historical Society. But Deb brings her light to issues that deal with the

darkness in life. Deb is a founding member of the Needham Coalition for Suicide Prevention and has served since 2006. She serves faithfully on Needham's Domestic Violence Action Committee (DVAC) and is the adult mentor of DVAC's commitment to young adults and our High School's "Take Back the Night" event that continually grows in student commitment and support each year. Deb's work extends beyond our community's borders as she works in tangible ways to make a difference for families dealing with cancer at the Dana Faber Institute. Needham's sunbeam, Deb Jacob, has made life lighter and brighter for individuals and families dealing with the darkest days of their lives.



Sarah Jigerian, Middleboro

Sarah has been a wonderful volunteer for many years and is truly an unsung heroine in her community. She has served on numerous boards in town including the Town of Middleboro-Business and Industrial Commission - Chairperson, Middleboro Friends, Middleboro Republican Town Committee, Middleboro Lions Club, Middleboro Council on Aging - Chairperson, Soule Homestead Committee (currently raising money for a Pavilion), Middleboro On The Move (currently helping to organize "Krazy Days"), and she has also collected food for the needy and

elderly and distributed it for a number of years. Sarah works tirelessly for others and is an example of someone who has devoted her life to helping those in need and making her community a better place.

**Debra Jones Bachrach, Petersham**

Debra is the ultimate volunteer. She is the treasurer of the Petersham Lion's Club, and coordinates all major activities in the town, including Old Home Day, Halloween Party, Christmas Gifts to Families in Need, senior parties, and Easter celebrations, even dressing as the Easter Bunny herself. She is known for doing historical reenactments for children.

She and her husband founded and built the Petersham Animal Control Center, where she organizes the rabies clinic every year, and supplies the vaccines. Additionally, she is a founding member of PAWS, the Petersham Animal Welfare System, which helps to locate lost pets, and provide medical care for strays. Deb has also been a strong supporter of the American Cancer Society, volunteering as a counselor, and always helping a family in need; she even gave her horse to a young woman suffering from leukemia to aid her during her treatments.

Nancy A. Judge, Lowell

A lifelong Lowellian, Nancy has given her time and energy to a litany of Lowell's most active and successful organizations, such as the Lowell Folk Festival and the City's Winterfest celebration. As a resident of the Lowell Highlands neighborhood, Nancy has dedicated herself to local groups, such as her past involvement with the local Girl Scouts of America chapter and her capacity on the Board of Directors of the Highlands Little League as well as Lowell Pop Warner. Today, you will find Nancy leading the Highlands Neighborhood Association, galvanizing support for local projects or striving to ensure that business plans as well as capital and planning projects are conceived while taking the voice of the community into account. She is also a member of the Friends of Tyler Park, which continues to ensure the preservation of the park designed by John Law Olmstead in 1892 to serve as a centerpiece for the neighborhood.

Rhoda Kanet, Hull

Rhoda has been a tireless volunteer, activist and advocate for her town and its residents. Always dressed in her signature orange attire, she has been involved in countless community service and awareness projects. Rhoda has served on the School Committee, DCR Citizen Advisory Council and Sustainable Transportation Committee. She was a founding member of the No Place for Hate Committee and the Hull Beach Management Committee. Each year, Rhoda has led the Beach Management Committee and a group of volunteers to plant beach grass to decrease erosion and protect the community. Rhoda is a constant presence at most town government meetings. While everyone may not agree with her, Rhoda has never been shy about asking questions about issues that affect everyone. She is a consummate and devoted community volunteer, and there is rarely a community event that she has not been a part of. The Town of Hull is a better place, thanks to the dedicated commitment of Rhoda.



Karen King, Monson

Karen had been an active community member prior to the June 1st, 2011 tornado. She had a home, a family and a career as a realtor. After the dust settled from the tornado she had something else - a mission to help her fellow Monson residents recover from the worst disaster most people in this area have ever seen.

Karen formed "Street Angels", a group of volunteers dedicated to helping victims of the tornado, whenever and wherever possible. Karen put her own career on hold to help those whose lives had been turned upside

down. On June 1st, Mother Nature showed us her worst side but shortly after, Karen King and her Street Angels showed us the very best in human nature.



Elizabeth Lehan, Norfolk

Deeply concerned with helping those struggling, Betty founded Norfolk Together. For many years she donated her own money, sought donations, and reviewed applications for assistance for residents in need. Sixteen years later, Norfolk Together is still run by Betty, who now has the help of friends and neighbors. In the first few years word quietly spread throughout the community of the work that Betty was doing, including helping seniors on fixed income pay

their property taxes, pay for heating oil and overdue electric bills. Norfolk Together now supports the Santa Foundation and Food Bank, as well as continuing to help families in need by providing necessities or less critical but important items such as Easter Baskets. Norfolk Together has assisted hundreds of families through difficult times, all without fanfare or individual recognition. There is no office, no staff, no sign on a door, just Betty and her friends meeting at the local coffee shop and doing what they can to help their fellow citizens.



Joyce Linehan, Dorchester

Joyce has been a strong leader in the Dorchester community for more than a decade. What makes her special and uniquely qualified for the unsung heroine award is her intimate understanding of what it means to build community, and how she uses her particular skills in the field of media to strengthen our neighborhood into one unified Dorchester. Every day she uses her talents to draw us together by even the simplest means such as social media updates on activities taking place at the local T station or the park. Whether she is volunteering

for a local event or the Massachusetts Democratic Party, she is able to work with diverse groups and is considered a doer by all who come in contact with her. Joyce is truly an example of a woman who does it all with her commitment to her family as strong as her dedication to Dorchester.



Gina Lynch, Brimfield

Gina wears many hats in the Town of Brimfield, whether it is her permanent job as Director of the Brimfield Senior Center or her more visible role in 2011 as the coordinator of Tornado Relief. Gina established the tornado relief center at the First Congregational Church of Brimfield, providing relief, organizing volunteers, and collecting donations the morning after the June 1st tornado. She dedicated hundreds of hours coordinating volunteer efforts by compiling lists of needed products and services, and

setting up bulletin boards where people could post their services; never allowing operations to become chaotic. Gina and other volunteers organized and distributed truckloads of water, food, clothes and toys to tornado survivors. During the early days and clean-up weekends Gina and her crew put out lunches for volunteers and delivered lunches to those out in the field. Gina stepped up to the plate this year and truly distinguished herself not only as a wonderfully giving individual, but an undeniable asset to her community.



Cathy MacMullin, Malden

Cathy is an extraordinary woman whose work has impacted her community tremendously, often without recognition. She currently runs a YMCA afterschool program for low income children and has established programs for young people, including a successful afterschool mentor program that pairs high school students with kids at risk, and a Teen Night program to keep children off the streets. This work was recently recognized by the Mayor of Malden when he appointed her to head a task force to create a permanent teen

center in Malden. Cathy is a dedicated public servant whose work often goes unnoticed.

Susan Martucci, Winthrop

It has been over 20 years that Sue has played a key role in her Public School system, not only as a volunteer, but as a mother, aunt and friend to anyone who had the pleasure of being in her company. A devoted mother of two daughters, Suzanne and Andrea, Sue began her volunteer career when her oldest daughter Suzanne, now 23, was in kindergarten. Without hesitation, she committed herself to numerous committees such as: room mother, fundraising chair, PTA President in both elementary and middle school, absentee hotline volunteer, library volunteer, and class advisor for both daughters throughout their years at Winthrop High School. Sue's attention to detail and ability to join the parent community solely for the good of the students was second to none.



Sarah Mattes, Lincoln

Sarah has spent 32 years protecting the people and the spaces of Lincoln with heart and craft. Before she became selectman for 12 years, she served Lincoln for 20 additional years in both volunteer and elected positions, first on ad hoc committees, then on school building committees, as a Bemis Trustee, and on the Housing Commission. Through these experiences Sarah learned about the town from the town. During her time in office she has helped to guide Lincoln through

challenges involving the potential closure of Hanscom Air Force base, traffic management of Route 128, and has been an opponent of large-scale residential development within the town. She has been an effective volunteer in the tradition of caring for community and land.

Loretta May, Oak Bluffs

In December, Martha's Vineyard state representative Tim Madden sent a letter to Vineyard Transportation Authority (VTA) driver Loretta May, who each week transports Island residents to Boston area hospitals. To her, it was business as usual. Ms. May has worked for the VTA since she arrived on the Island 12 years ago. She has a regular morning route between the three down-Island towns five days a week. On Tuesdays, she drives the Medivan to Boston, leaving on the 7 am boat out and returning on the 5 pm after shuttling her charges to various hospitals and medical facilities around the city. She transports anywhere from one passenger to 12 and tries to make the trip as pleasurable as possible. On the way back, Ms. May makes a point of stopping for fast food, as many riders do not get a chance to eat.



Joan McGrath, Newton

Having raised her family of five, now enjoying six grandchildren and continuing to work, Joan finds the time to participate in many community activities. Joan, a Eucharistic Minister, works with homebound parishioners and oversees a group of people who do the same. As the chair of the Social Justice Commission at her church, Joan

recruits participants for various activities that impact the community, such as: collecting school supplies, books and backpacks, gathering toiletries for prisoners; donating food baskets at Thanksgiving, and collecting warm clothing for those in need. Joan, an active member of Ward 4 Newton Democratic City Committee and the NDCC Executive Committee, helps to ensure that the best and proper candidates are in office to assist constituents with their needs. Joan is a tremendous role model for her family and the greater community. She is always available to others, dependable, caring, intelligent, thoughtful, and demonstrates tremendous integrity.



Stephanie Mercandetti, Framingham

As current Economic Development & Grants Officer for the Town of Walpole, Stephanie has helped two towns reach new heights in economic development initiatives. For Walpole, Stephanie works with both existing and prospective businesses assisting them with zoning and permitting processes so they can grow and succeed within the greater community. In

Framingham, her projects include downtown revitalization, industrial park development, and redeveloping contaminated Brownfield sites into productive and higher tax paying uses and conserving open space. She also assisted both communities with their planning initiatives by helping them access necessary tools and funding resources to aid projects and programs.



Lynn Murray, Salem

Lynn is a well known volunteer within her city. For many years, she has been directly involved with numerous volunteer organizations for which she had dedicated both her valuable time and skills to improving the lives of others. In addition, her efforts have played a vital role in helping improve the quality of life in Salem. Lynn charts SalemRecycles; the City's recycling committee dedicated to increasing the overall rate of recycling in Salem through education and increased ease and availability. In addition, she developed www.GreenSalem.org, a

collaborative effort of Mayor Driscoll and the City of Salem, SalemRecycles, the task Force on Energy Conservation and the Green Salem Business Challenge. The purpose of www.GreenSalem.org is to provide a broad spectrum of information that will help the community recycle, reuse, and repurpose, and overall reduce what goes into the water stream. The City of Salem is a greater community thanks to Lynn's efforts.



Deanna Nealey, Plymouth

Since moving into her hometown, Deana has become a central figure in many of its educational and charitable groups. She's an active member of the Plymouth League of Women Voters, and feels strongly about the need for women to get involved in politics, as well as recognize the work of past generations for women's rights. Deana is also largely involved in the Hats off to Arts Event, a fundraiser to support the Plymouth Center for the Arts. In addition, she has also been involved with

the Plymouth area Coalition for the Homeless' Children's Holiday Fund and the Friends of the 4th of July. She prefers to silently work behind the scenes, giving extraordinary effort to the causes she's passionate about.



Suzanne Newman, Wellesley

Suzi has contributed much to her community over the past several years. Most recently, she served as a member of the Wellesley School Committee for three terms, stepping down from her post in 2011. She continues to serve as a Town Meeting Member and volunteers on a variety of committees; she enjoys working on behalf of the community in order to give back to others. More often than not, her accomplishments take place behind the scenes and without recognition for her very significant contributions, especially in the area of public education.

Sue Ellen Panitch, Holyoke

Not only does Sue's volunteerism and civic engagement showcase her dedication to community, it additionally highlights the diversity of her dynamic nature. The Holyoke Conservation Commission, Girl Scouts of America, Connecticut River watershed Council, the Holyoke Community College Foundation, Therapeutic Equestrian Center Inc. (TEC), the Council of Human Understanding, the Future Begins Here charity event, and the Holyoke Taxpayers Association, among others, have all benefitted from her passionate volunteer work. She was also central to getting Holyoke's recycling system launched at a time when it was far from standard practice in surrounding municipalities. Sue Ellen's enthusiasm towards civic engagement and volunteerism has established her as an irreplaceable member of her community.



Julie Pike, Montgomery

Julie is the Secretary/Event Coordinator for the Glasgow Scottish Lands Festival. The festival is designed to encourage and cultivate the Celtic heritage through events such as games, athletics, and musical entertainment. Drawing between 5,000 and 8,000 people per day, it is the second largest such event in all of New England. The Glasgow Scottish Lands Festival is a fundraiser for Human Resources Unlimited, a local organization dedicated to assisting persons with disabilities to become part of the workforce. Julie has

been working with the festival since 1997, and her tireless efforts in the areas of planning, funding, and execution of the festival, help make this event a great success each year.



Marlene Pollock, New Bedford

As a founding member and volunteer for the Coalition for Social Justice (1995-present), Marlene has advocated for public policies to improve the lives of ordinary people in Southeastern Massachusetts. She has been a tireless organizer to increase state assistance for working people struggling to survive, and to support those transitioning from receiving welfare to working. She is also a long-time

volunteer for the Coalition Against Poverty (1994-present), and a volunteer with the Coalition Against Poverty Educational Collaborative (2004). As an educator, Marlene has participated in two school councils, has worked as a substitute teacher, is currently a professor of history at Bristol Community College and is an elected member of the New Bedford School Committee.



Judith E. Ramirez, Westford

Judy is a Council of Aging social worker, and has been known to take any request for assistance whether while doing her food shopping or attending church services. In addition to her regular duties, she has initiated new services and programs such as the Alzheimer's & Related Dementia Caregiver Support Group and the very

popular Men's Breakfast. A member of the Alzheimer's Clinical forum, she participated in a group to conduct a Community Health Needs assessment to look at unmet health care and public health needs area. In addition, she has offered her time as a volunteer at local schools, and to the town as first female Chair of the Recreation Committee responsible for the hiring of its first Recreation Director. Most recently, she has spent time working behind the scenes with a local organization to provide assistance and advocacy for residents in need of support for financial and health care needs, due to the present economic condition.



Ann Richard, Fairhaven

Ann has been an active participant, volunteer and indispensable role model in her community since her first involvement with local politics at the very young age of six years old, when she would accompany her parents to deliver leaflets in residents' doors of the candidate for selectman that the family was supporting. Ann's dedication to the education of students in her position as Librarian at the Hastings Middle School, and equal amount of passion and professionalism to numerous

causes and special projects in the community deems her an asset to the Town. A member of town committees and a regular participant in Fairhaven monthly meetings beginning when she was a teenager, Ann has devoted countless hours and effort in recent years to the cause of sustainability. During the past six years she has assisted in developing the town Sustainability Committee into a strong force in the community, sponsoring education and advocacy programs. The most prominent of these is the Fairhaven Farmers Market, opening in 2008 and entering its fifth year of offering local produce and vegetables to the Southcoast residents. Ann, together with the Student Council of the Hastings Middle School, was instrumental in organizing a fundraising event to aid the families of local fisherman that have been affected by the slowing economy. The event was a huge success and over \$3000 was raised.



Ellin Reisner, Somerville

Ellin is an activist, particularly around transportation issues. She has worked in the transportation field for over 20 years, eight at the MBTA, four at Massport, and nine as an independent consultant conducting research for the Transportation Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. Today she is a member of the Somerville Transportation Equity

Partnership. Through her work at STEP, Ellin has tirelessly promoted public transportation and access to transportation for all people. She has been involved with every public meeting about the Green Line Extension and has simultaneously advocated for the project while insisting that its design meet the needs of the community. She has advocated for the Community Path in Somerville to encourage greater opportunities for walking and biking. She has worked closely with groups in Charlestown on a redesign of Rutherford Avenue. Beyond strictly transportation issues, she has also been involved in many local problems including maintaining the Mystic River and many others.



Dawn Saba, Mansfield

When Dawn isn't volunteering for the Mansfield Elementary School Association, on major events such as coordinating the biannual teacher appreciation dinners, she is volunteering for different causes throughout the community. She is a loyal and trusted advocate for the Hockomock Area YMCA's Reach Out for Youth & Families Campaign, where she consistently helps raise money for youth each year. She also puts her heart and soul into spearheading the West Side Benevolent Society's annual winter clothing drive. Dawn is known around town as someone who is willing to give of herself

to help other families no matter what the cause may be. Whether volunteering for our local YMCA, enriching Mansfield schools, or helping the neediest in her community, Dawn Saba is making a difference. Through a combination of selfless determination and creative fundraising efforts, Dawn has positively impacted organizations of which she is a member, and inspired her friends, family and neighbors to do the same.



Shirley H. Schofield, Sharon

When someone thinks "Sharon Historical Society", they think of Shirley. For years she's been referred to as a walking Rolodex, a phrase recently changed to Sharon's hard drive with 6 gigabytes of memory. For information on Sharon history, be it recent or in the distant past, Shirley is the person to speak to. She has served as the

constant member of the Sharon Historical Society since the 1980's. Without Shirley's perseverance there would be no Sharon Historical Society today: no building, no archives, and no programs. She has worked tirelessly and selflessly to make the Society thrive. Shirley led the movement for building the Sharon Historical Society's museum and has been a force in organizing the archives, developing displays, and guiding tours. Shirley is the heart and soul of the Sharon Historical Society.

Jennifer Shenk, Westminster

People who meet Jen are immediately struck by her energy and love of life. Jen empowers people to pay attention and get involved. Jen has spent the last several years raising six children with her husband Jay, and being very involved in her children's schools and in events and organizations in the town. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Ashburnham-Westminster Foundation for Academic Excellence. A few years ago, she and Jay started the Community Vine – an online news magazine which allowed her to combine her love of writing, her love of the community, and being involved, all while connecting with people – something Jen excels at. Jen is an inspiration to many within her community.



Carol Shrand, Marshfield

Carol, currently in her third term on the School Committee, has tirelessly been a champion for the children. Her energy, team and consensus building, and motivational leadership were critical in obtaining a referendum vote to pass a debt exclusion override to build a new high school, thereby impacting the lives of students for decades to come. She has helped advance the understanding of students with special needs, and had an enormous influence on adopting a no-bullying policy in Marshfield schools. No task is too small for Carol to lead.

For the last two years she has been the driver for the High School Courtroom and the Law team, taking students all over the Commonwealth in this active competition. Every one of these contributions has been as an unpaid volunteer. Carol chose to give back to Marshfield, and has done so without expectation of acknowledgement or reward.



Rebecca Silva, Falmouth

Becky served the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MANG) for 23 years before retiring in 2009. Her service included a year long deployment to Iraq with the 126th Aviation Battalion in 2004. In 2008, while caring for her ill father, Becky assumed guardianship of two children whose mother was deployed in Iraq. Becky volunteers with Cape Cod Cares for the Troops, The Falmouth Military Family

Support Group and with the VFW in support of several adopted active duty MANG units at Otis ANG Base. In 2010 Becky was elected Senior Vice Commander of VFW Post 5489 and in 2011 was elected District Commander of VFW Cape and Islands VFW District 17. She is the first female District Commander in Massachusetts VFW history and has been appointed Aide de Camp to the VFW National Commander for 2012-2013.



Susan Silva, East Bridgewater

Susan works as the Office Manager and Controller of a very busy construction agency in Middleboro and is very active in her community. She has spent countless hours advocating for drug awareness, drug counseling, and funding for various rehabilitation programs around the state. Her work includes: *Don't be Blindsided*, a drug awareness program; Drug Recovery Coalition, which brings together kids, parents, police officers and members of the

Fire Department in weekly meetings at the YMCA; and *A Mother's Heart*, a blog she maintains to educate and support others. While others might turn another cheek or despair due to a loved one's illness, Susan meets it as a challenge and pursues help, treatment, and resources for others.



**Jumaada Abdal-Khallaq Henry Smith,
Roxbury**

As a proud product of the "back in the day" Boston Public schools, Jumaada attended the Ellis Elementary, Higginson Middle, Lewis Jr. High and Burke High school for girls, all in her neighborhood. Jumaada has a background in business, personnel management, law,

education and health care. A volunteer throughout communities in Texas, Tennessee, North Carolina and Massachusetts, Jumaada has been or is actively engaged in many local and national organizations, including Juneteenth Committee, Dudley Main Streets board, Dudley Vision Task Force, Ward 12 Democratic Committee, and the Patriots day committee. A wife, mother of two, and grandmother of two, she loves her family; but more importantly she loves the people she serves.



Laura Spathanas, Swampscot and Lynn

Laura is the type of person who seems to have boundless energy for everyone around her and especially those most in need. She is the mother of three beautiful daughters, an extraordinary special education teacher in Lynn Public Schools, and has an infectious positive attitude. Laura is the Vice Chair of the Swampscott Democratic Town

committee and organizes a weekend food drive for local pantries. She also organizes an annual coat drive for children in need. She is humble, generous, and never looks for the spotlight; a shining example that a little initiative, compassion and positive spirit in one person can make a tremendous difference in the lives of so many.

Amy Spollet, Melrose

Amy, a 76 year member of the First Congregational Church, has a virtually unparalleled history of commitment to the young people in her community. She advocated for, and became a founding member of, the Melrose Day Care Center and Preschool, located at the church. The Center is in its 42nd year of operation, and Amy still serves on the Board of Directors. She was active in the Melrose High School Beautification Campaign, is a founding member of the Melrose Human Rights Coalition, and served as Chair of the Kappa Swap shop. In 2002 the Melrose Chamber of Commerce named Amy the Volunteer of the Year. Her contributions to the Melrose community, and particularly its students, deserve further recognition as she is truly an extraordinary woman.

Ivey St. John, Charlestown/Boston

For well over a decade, this “retiree” has tirelessly devoted countless hours to improving the quality of life of her community and surrounding municipalities. As the longtime head of the Charlestown Waterfront Coalition, Ivey regularly disseminates newsletters, spends a significant amount of time reviewing development proposals, building regulations and specifications, access to the waterfront/Harborwalk guidelines and construction process. Ivey is also actively involved in the cleanup and revitalization of the Mystic River Watershed areas, the re-development of the assembly Square Mall into residential housing, shopping and commuter living, and the structural redesign of the Sullivan Square rotary. She is a regular participant at the Neighborhood Council meetings and hearings at City Hall and the State House. Ivey also devotes her time to assisting the immigrant community, particularly in her advocacy for domestic violence services. Ivey somehow manages to do all of this while also being a devoted mother, grandmother, aunt and neighbor. Her energy is unparalleled as is her empathy.



Joyce Stanley, Roxbury

For over 30 years, Joyce has served as a beacon of community organizing for the greater Roxbury area. As the Executive Director of Dudley Main Streets, Joyce has expanded her advocacy to include the needs of local merchants and consumers alike. Additionally, as a Dudley Vision Task Force member, Joyce works tirelessly to improve and expand the strengths of Dudley Square for today and years to come. This past year, Joyce has engaged residents and businesses by hosting several successful meetings and events, including the Main Streets Business Networking Breakfast, the Streets

Stakeholder Meeting, and the Navigating Social Media Series. She also helped Roxbury celebrate the holidays by spearheading the Deck the Windows 2011 in Dudley as part of a city-wide Main streets competition.



Lara H. Stone, Dartmouth

In addition to her volunteer work at the Congregational Church of South Dartmouth, Lara was a central player in the efforts to establish the Dartmouth Community Park this past year, acting as the Chair of the Community Park Committee. She helped to pool resources from a variety of government and non-profit sources and leveraged relationships with other organizations in the community to pitch in to the effort, resulting in the building of a wonderful Community Park right next to the main branch of the town's library. Laura also wears the hat of Select Board Member in

Dartmouth, a position that can sometimes carry a heavy burden. While she never shirks from tough decisions, she does so with grace, humility and patience. She has done more to alter the tenor of town politics for the better than anyone in recent memory. Where some see division, Lara Stone sees an opportunity to bring people together.



Thelma Sullivan, Westport

Thelma is very active women in the Westport community where she serves and volunteers on several organizations, all while staying very involved with her six grandchildren, and four great grandsons. Her reputation, integrity, dedication and service to the community are greatly respected throughout the South Coast. Her banking career first started as a part time teller of a newly formed Credit Union, where she became Treasure. After retiring 1998, she has continued to serve on the Credit Union's Board of Directors and remains an

asset to the Credit Union. She is an active member of the Board of Directors for the Westport Business to Business, the Westport Lions Club, and the Friends of Westport Council of Aging, where she also served as Treasure. She is a volunteer at the Westport Council of Aging and a Town meeting and poll worker. Anytime Thelma is put on a board, or volunteers, she becomes an instrumental part of the organization.



Alice Swift, Amherst

Alice has volunteered for decades for a variety of causes. She is a long-time member of the League of Woman voters, and has been involved with the avocation of Single Player health Care for many years. She has worked with Around the World Women, a group of local women who reach out to international women who are living in Amherst, often the wives of scientists studying at the

University of Massachusetts, who feel isolated being so far from home. Alice has also been involved with many political campaigns, and was a volunteer treasurer for Representative Ellen Story for 13 years, until her husband's illness required her full attention. She is enormously respected for her dedication and perseverance.

Jineyda Tapia, Lawrence

Jineyda Tapia is a woman of the highest integrity and a tireless worker who has devoted her career as an educator to the development and enrichment of her students. She is not only a literature teacher, but also a community leader and activists, youth representative, tutor, organizer and ambassador of the values held by the Lawrence Community. As a tutor for the Salem State upward Bound Program, she promotes learning outside of the classroom in a way that allows her students to grow both as educated individuals and productive members of society. In her spare time, Jineyda participates in an array of activities that promote community engagement and sustainable growth. Jineyda is pursuing her Masters Degree in Literature from the Bread Loaf School of English. She is a member of the Greater Lawrence Young Professional's Network, and youth organizer for the "We Are Lawrence" movement.

Sandy Thompson, Winchester

Sandy has served her community since she moved there in the 1960's. Sandy was among the founding volunteers who established the A Better Chance (ABC) program in the 1970s. She was involved in ABC both personally and organizationally, hosting a student while also serving on the board, including a time-consuming two-year term as chair. Around 1980, she helped found what would become the Winchester Community Music School. By 1990, Sandy was turning her efforts to multiculturalism with the Winchester Multicultural Network (WMCN), an organization with growing influence in the town's schools, police department, town governance and business community, including banking and real estate. However, it is not just her community accomplishments that demonstrate her incredible selflessness. She is compassionate, dedicated, and generous. Sandy frequently drives those without cars to appointments in Boston, offers funding to people to attend conferences; generously gives money to families in need, and provides home-cooked meals to volunteers helping with projects.



Marian Thornton, Concord

Marian has been contributing to her community for fifty years. She has been an advocate for clean rivers, open space, and recycling. In the 1960's she collected samples of sludge in local rivers to draw attention to pollution. In the 1970's she cofounded a recycling program in Concord long before recycling became a statewide trend. In more recent years she has been a tireless advocate for preserving open space in

Concord and surrounding towns in spite of strong pressure from developers and high property values.



Molyka Tieng, Lowell

Molyka works at the Lowell Community Health Center as an Advocate. Molyka is a member of the Board of Directors for the local Rape Crisis Center. She is a Co-Chair for Lowell Take Back the Night, an international movement intended as a call to action against rape and other forms of violence, for men and women of our community to join together to voice our rights to feel safe in our neighborhoods. She is also the President/Chair of the Lowell Southeast Asian Water Festival, dedicated to the preservation, protection and sharing of cultural

heritages of the Southeast Asian Americans of the Greater Lowell area. Molyka is a remarkable person and an incredible asset to our community.



Violetta Tutuny, Natick

One of the most beloved residents of her town, Violetta has spent most of her life working to improve the lives of those around her. A lifelong resident, she has always been active in the Natick community. She is perhaps best known as "Miss. Tutuny" to her many former students. A committed educator, Vi worked in the Natick public schools for forty years. Former students will tell you fondly the life lessons they learned in her class: kindness, respect, and helping others. Vi was one of the original founders of the Natick Food pantry in 1981, and

continues to be one of the most dedicated volunteers. When the Natick Service Council opened a new food pantry in 2009, it was fittingly named "Vi Tutuny Food Pantry" and located in the gymnasium of the old Coolidge Junior High School, where she taught for 28 years. Natick is truly a better community because of the actions of Vi Tutuny.



RoseLee Vincent, Revere

Over the past 40 years, RoseLee has selflessly served to improve her city and has treated its residents with a genuine compassion one only expects from family. The longevity and value of her activism has left an indelible impact on the city and its residents as she has become a true unsung heroine in the community. She served on the PTA, first as a member then eventually president, where she pioneered women's athletics, creating opportunities that never previously existed in Revere.

She continues as a driving force and leader of both the Revere Beach Partnership and Revere Beautification Committee, where she re-invigorated pride in residents by making significant enhancements to our historical beach.



Jennifer Walsh, Milford

Jen began the Milford Special Olympic Programs in 1994 in collaboration with Avery Dennison Corporation. Since then the programs have grown from ten athletes and one track team to over 120 athletes participating year round in ten different sports. In 1996 Jen, along with the Special Education Director at Milford High school, began Circle of Friends, an after school program for students with and without intellectual disabilities. Additionally, in 2001 she began the Milford High School Best Buddies Program, to create opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated

employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Jen helped to create a vocational program at Milford High school for 18-22 year old students with intellectual disabilities in 2006, and a similar more intensive program at Milford Hospital in 2011. With the help of the Athletic Director, Jen brought Unified Sports, an initiative that creates teams with Special Olympic athletes and athletes without intellectual disabilities, to Milford High School in 2012.

Holly Walton, Wilmington

After undergoing surgery, chemotherapy and radiation treatments for Breast Cancer, Holly Walton decided she should do something. During chemotherapy, Holly thought about how she could help others. Realizing not everyone has a support system, Holly wanted to let other women know that they are not alone and that there is always hope. She founded Heaps of Hope and in just over 3 years has raised over \$92,000 and helped over 400 women with cancer. Heaps of Hope provides grocery cards, assistance with the cost of prescriptions and medical bills, taxi service for those without a ride, help with the cost of integrative therapies that address the side effects of cancer treatments and a wonderful inspirational book. Holly has helped many patients at Winchester Hospital and clearly deserves to be recognized for her compassion and efforts in easing the financial strain on women by providing heaps of hope at a very stressful time.

Karyn Warila, Hudson

Karyn is determined to make sure no mother has to watch her child fight sarcoma, a rare cancer. Her son was diagnosed with sarcoma at age 14 and faced a relapse when he was 15. Since that time, seven years ago, Karyn has been an integral member of the Jennifer Hunter Yates Sarcoma Foundation whose mission is to provide funding for research, education, and support to sarcoma patients and their families. Karyn has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars that have had a direct impact on sarcoma research at Massachusetts General Hospital. For the past seven years, Karyn has organized large teams to participate in the Steps to Cure Sarcoma Walk. She works tirelessly behind the scene from creating promotional items to organizing a print resource for patients and families. Karyn also reached out to other families whose children are fighting sarcoma. She is a true heroine.



Maureen Webster, Woburn

Since her son's untimely death Maureen has formed a group called MexicoVacationAwareness.com. This organization's goal is to bring awareness to those who vacation in Mexico about the dangers, lack of health care, and lack of proper medical staffing at hotels and resorts in Mexico's hot spots. Her efforts have shed light on numerous cases of "accidental deaths" of U.S. travelers in Mexico, documented on her organization's website. Due to her efforts and advocacy the International Travelers' Bill of Rights have been filed. This legislation would require all

entities offering travel packages or trips to offer disclaimers to consumers on their websites based on travel warnings and advisories from the U.S. State Department. Maureen's advocacy has also led to the filing of a version of this legislation at the state level here in Massachusetts.



Beth Wilkinson, Newton Center

Beth devotes her time, energy and many talents to the life of our community as a volunteer. As a Newton Library Trustee, she recognized the central meaning of the library to our city and devoted herself to its success. She loves the natural environment, and is committed to its protection. She helped to organize the Crystal Lake Conservancy for the purpose of protecting that natural jewel that Newton is so fortunate to possess. Additionally, she participates in state-wide efforts to identify and protect plant life. Devoted to the public schools and recognizing their value to the community, she participated in numerous

campaigns to protect and enhance them. As someone who recognizes the important role of government in our lives, she throws herself into the campaigns of those candidates in whom she believes. She does all this without ever looking for personal recognition and despite significant medical challenges.

**Sandra Wonders, Wellfleet**

Sandra is the type of person that every organization needs to be successful. In the last seven years Sandy has been associated with the Wellfleet Council on aging. During that time Sandy has served as Chair of the Friends of Wellfleet Council on Aging, Wellfleet's representative to the Elder Services Board of Directors and as a volunteer ombudsman in a number of long term care facilities on the Lower and Outer Cape. Sandra's unending willingness to share her experiences and strengths with the

members of the Wellfleet community makes her a heroine.

Donna Woodcock, Greenfield

Donna is an outstanding leader that invests in her students to insure that they are best prepared for and fully engaged in realizing their potential, responsibility and best future. She has taught, coached and led her students at her alma mater, Greenfield High School, for more than 30 years. Donna holds herself, her staff and her students to the highest standards of respect, achievement, application, teamwork and responsibility. Daily, Donna gives to her students "tough love" that entails consistent leadership that is inspirational, fair and impactful. Her leadership is rare and a precious gift in today's challenging world for young people. She exemplifies the best of leadership, teaching, coaching and preparation of our young people: our next generation.

**Patricia Zilembo, Marlborough**

The Boys and Girls Club of MetroWest opened The countryside Village Satellite Clubhouse in 1992. The Youth Center, located in a low-income apartment complex in Marlborough, provides a sage, supervised place for dozens of at-risk youth. In 2009 the center was closed due to lack of funding. Director Patty Zilembo kept the clubhouse open – without a salary – for nine months while she searched for funding. Young people who spent time at the center say it changed their lives. Patty has a huge heart, a steady hand and undying dedication.



Catherine Zusy , Cambridge

As a board member for the Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association, Catherine has focused her energies on several things, including Cambridgeport History Day, an annual event in October. Cathie has also focused her energies on Magazine Beach Park, a state-owned park along the banks of the Charles River in Cambridgeport. She organizes semi-annual park clean ups, and she is devoting considerable time to the restoration of

the Powder House in the park. She is raising money for the building's restoration and working with the Department of Conservation and Recreation to advocate in favor of them maintaining the building while she raises funds for its restoration. A mere description of Cathie's activities misses an important part of what makes her so effective. Cathie works collaboratively and makes the work enjoyable for everyone. Rather than seek the limelight, she works in the trenches to get the job done. Cambridgeport is a better place to live because of Cathie Zusy.



Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women
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