

## Community honors hard work, dedication of town's volunteers

Darien's volunteers were honored in style at the Community Fund's 30th annual Darien Volunteer Recognition Day last Friday.

"We are here to celebrate our town's most esteemed volunteers," said Kiki Karpen, executive director of the Community Fund of Darien. "We want to recognize the best in our town. You inspire and empower others to follow your lead."

Karpen said that Darien volunteers come in all shapes and sizes -- young and old, male and female, as well as those who participate in one event or volunteer all year long. "It is clear how very dependent our town is on the extraordinary spirit of our volunteers," Karpen said. "Lives are greatly enriched in the process. You are our champions and we salute you."

State Representative Terrie Wood and First Vice President of the Darien Community Fund Martha Rhein were emcees for the event.

Enid Oresman was the recipient of the fifth annual Obie Harrington-Howes Community Spirit Award. "This award should be called the Enid Award," said Obie Harrington-Howes, who presented her with the award. "This award is more than deserved." Oresman originally served on the Board of the PTA (Parent Teacher Association) and Council of School Parents. She then was elected to the Board of Education and served as both secretary and chairman. Her other elected positions included the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen. She was a member of the Darien Library's Board of Trustees, vice chairman of the Tokeneke School Building Committee and committee member and former president of the League of Women Voters of Connecticut.

"Every organization I have belonged to has enriched my life," Oresman said. "I have been very fortunate to live in Darien for 40 years and raise my family in a safe and intellectually charged environment." Oresman, who has volunteered in the town for more than 35 years, is currently the president of the Darien Historical Society. "I congratulate you all today and applaud your efforts," Oresman said to the other honorees. "Darien is a better place because you have all made it so."

Specific projects highlighted for their contributions to the town included Daffodil Days sponsored by Darien High School students and the American Cancer Society, Aqua-Aerobics at the YMCA sponsored by ARI of Connecticut, the Darien Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (DAHAC), Darien High School Volunteer Fair Day, Waterbury Field Forever at the Darien Nature Center, the Darien Library, crafts and the Christmas fair at the Darien Senior Center, the Depot Community Spelling Bee sponsored by the Depot Teen Center, and the Career Day and Mothers and Others Day Celebration at the George Washington Carver Center in Norwalk.

Individuals recognized included Sandra Filmer, A Better Chance in Darien; Pat Podkowsky, AmeriCares Free Clinics; Caroline Orsi, Boys & Girls Club of Stamford; Bexaida Channer, Calvary Baptist Church; Carlyne McEnery, Center for Hope; Allison Molkenthin, Darien Advocates for Education of the Gifted; Dana Fead, Darien Arts Center; Barbara Gardner, Darien Book Aid Plan; Nicole Lyons, Darien Chamber of Commerce; Eve Mauger, Darien Community Association; Tony Imbimbo, Darien Democratic Town Committee; Florence Anglade, Darien Friendly Visitors; Laurie Maglathlin and Lynn Biggart, Darien High School Parents Association; Charlotte Armstrong, Darien Historical Society; Joyce Critelli, Darien League of Women Voters; Elaine Pizzarelli and Nicole Eades, Darien Nature Center; Donald Brown, Darien Senior Men's Association; Alexandra Franceshi Ross, Darien/Stamford Red Cross; Jim Steinthal, Darien Technology & Community Foundation; Holly Kelly, Darien Youth Commission; Karen Brennan, First Congregational Church; Brenda Williams, Holmes School PTO; Sarah Newmann and Melissa Davidson, Junior League of Stamford-Norwalk; Linda Tavlarios, Middlesex Parents Association; Tracy McEvoy, Norwalk Grassroots Tennis; Dulcy Brainard, Obie Harrington-Howes Foundation; Jennifer Fallon, Ox Ridge School PTO; Faith Gray, Person-to-Person; Carolyn Schoonmaker, Republican Club of Darien; Lisa Grant, Royle Elementary School PTO; Ward Cleary, Silver Hill Hospital; Charles England, St. Luke's Episcopal Parish; Greg Palmer, The Community Fund of Darien; Kathy Karlik and Kim Crosby, Tokeneke School PTO; Leila Howland Wetmore, The Volunteer Center; Megan Ardery, The Youth Community Fund; and Maria das Neves, YWCA of Darien/Norwalk.

For more information on the Community Fund, visit [www.communityfunddarien.org](http://www.communityfunddarien.org).