

Darien volunteers awarded for community service

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Darien volunteers contribute significantly to the health and welfare **of** the greater **community**. Recognizing these efforts, the **Community Fund of Darien** awarded 59 Darienites for their service during its 32nd annual **Darien** Volunteer Recognition Day on Friday, May 13. Kiki Karpen, the **fund's** executive director, greeted a packed house at the **Darien Community Association** for a luncheon to honor some **of** the town's finest. "These volunteers represent the best in town," Karpen said. "We hope that others will follow your lead."

First Selectman Dave Campbell read a proclamation declaring May 13 volunteer recognition day, and commented on the high level **of** intelligence **of** the **Darien** populace. "If you have smart people working together to solve problems," Campbell began, "you can get things done."

Obie Harrington-Howes then honored his mother-in-law, Marge Harrington, with the **Community Spirit Award** named after him and the foundation he helped create. "When I first moved to town, I was known as the father **of** Marge Harrington's grandchildren," Harrington-Howes joked. "She has quite an impressive résumé I couldn't think **of** a more appropriate person to receive the award, and I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to honor her."

Amongst Harrington's numerous achievements include starting the **Darien Senior Center** in 1978, saving the **Darien Playhouse** from demolition, serving on the Representative Town Meeting, and volunteering tirelessly with the DCA.

"Marge's leadership, energy and enthusiasm are a shining example **of community** involvement at its best," Karpen said. "She has raised the bar very high for all **of** us."

Darien High School's Youth Asset Team was also recognized for its efforts in the **community**. **Darien's** Thriving Youth Task Force coordinator Martha Rhein and students Alex Bruno, Evan Rogers, Amy Sanborn, Sarah Smith and Ian Sullivan were honored for funding the **Darien Arts Center** with money for a mural and helping with numerous other projects around town.

The **Community Fund** also awarded Nicole Feingold, Jennifer Shea, Allegra Erikson and Jennifer Montanero - members **of** the Council **of Darien School Parents** - for implementing recycling programs at Royle and Hindley schools.

"**Darien** is more volunteer-minded than most **of** the towns," Rick Littlefield, president **of Darien Book Aid Plan**, said in an interview with The **Darien Times**.

"You have a camaraderie with fellow citizens who are engaged in the same missions. I think we feel quite philanthropically minded, not only with our money but with our time."

Halstead Property sponsored the event, and Palmer's Market provided the catering. Carrie Emery and Whitney Lancaster emceed and gave out the individual awards. The recipients were nominated by the nonprofits they volunteer for.

Last year, The **Community Fund of Darien** invested nearly \$700,000 in local nonprofit projects. This year, the **fund** has already reviewed 25 grant applications. For more information on the TCF, visit its Web site at www.communityfunddarien.org

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