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LeadingAge New York Announces 2016 Award Recipients

Latham, NY – James W. Clyne Jr., President and CEO of LeadingAge New York, today announced the winners of several prestigious 2016 LeadingAge New York awards. The awards and recipients are described below.

Lawrence E. Larson Memorial Award of Honor

LeadingAge New York's highest award honors the late Larry Larson, the association's first chairman, and pays tribute to his distinguished service, dedication and foresight in aging services. The award is given to a member who has made outstanding contributions to the field and is a recognized leader at the state and national level with a reputation for humanitarian achievement and professional vision.

[AILEEN M. BALITZ, The Centers at St. Camillus, Syracuse](#)

Carl S. Young Advocacy Award

This award honors Carl Young, past president of LeadingAge New York, for his enduring, passionate advocacy for the aging. It is given to an active LeadingAge New York member who has demonstrated exceptional advocacy and leadership on behalf of aging services, commitment to advancing the association's legislative goals and actively encourages others to advocate for the elderly.

[STEPHEN KNIGHT, United Helpers Management Company, Inc., Ogdensburg](#)

James W. Sanderson Memorial Award for Leadership

This award, named for the late Jim Sanderson, LeadingAge New York's longtime counsel and friend, honors personal leadership and commitment by a New York State resident devoted to the field of long term care, housing and services who is employed by a not-for-profit long term care organization.

[CHARLIE RUNYON, St. John's, Rochester](#)

Thomas Clarke Memorial Award

Also known as the Senior Leadership Award, this honor memorializes the work of the late Tom Clarke in long term care, housing and services administration. It recognizes personal integrity and professional dedication in the next generation of leaders; nominees must be less than 40 years old as of December 31, 2015.

[REBECCA PRIEST, St. John's, Rochester](#)

Professional of the Year Award

This award honors a long term care, housing and services professional's contributions to the well-being of the elderly or chronically ill in his or her community. It is open to any long term care, housing and services professional from across the spectrum of care who demonstrates civic involvement as well as professional dedication, accomplishment and field expertise.

[RHONDA FREDERICK, People Inc., Williamsville](#)

[THOMAS McDONALD, ArchCare at Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center, New York City](#)

[YAHAIRA MYERS, Wilkinson RHCF of St. Mary's Healthcare, Amsterdam](#)

Trustee of the Year Award

Recognizes those who have served unselfishly and with distinction devoting significant contributions of time and effort toward the betterment of his or her organization or service to the elderly and infirm.

TED AXELROD, Jewish Senior Life, Rochester

ANNE COTE TAYLOR, The Silvercrest Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, Jamaica

KAREN GALLINA, Rochester Regional Health, Rochester

BARRY MORRIS, Kendal on Hudson, Sleepy Hollow

DANIEL STERLING, Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation, New Hyde Park

Innovation of the Year

Innovative approaches to care and services for the elderly are a hallmark of mission-driven organizations and the Innovation of the Year Award recognizes programs that stand out because of their creativity, vision, success and ability to replicate. Programs that improve the quality of service and utilize creative problem-solving are the types of initiatives this award celebrates.

MUSIC BY THE BEDSIDE, Peconic Landing at Southold, Greenport

TOOL THRIFT SHOP, Fairport Baptist Homes, Fairport

Employee of Distinction Awards

Recognizes the extraordinary dedication of direct service and indirect service staff.

Rebecca Baker, Inter-Lakes Health (Heritage Commons Residential Healthcare), Ticonderoga

Odessa Mitchell, St. Margaret's Center, Albany

Laurie Wetsel, The Wesley Community, Saratoga Springs

Diane Garcia, St. Luke Health Services, Oswego

Bertha Nugent, Presbyterian Home for Central New York, Inc., New Hartford

Kathy Welch, Presbyterian Home for Central New York, Inc., New Hartford

Todd Healy, Kendal on Hudson, Sleepy Hollow

Austin Hines, Long Island State Veterans Home, Stony Brook

Althea Burton, Schulman and Schachne Institute for Nursing & Rehabilitation, Brooklyn

Virginia Kilty, Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center, Yonkers

Roberta Kosiorowski, Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation, New Hyde Park

Penny Newman, St. Mary's Hospital for Children, Bayside

Veronica Lay, Hill Haven Transitional Care, Webster

Marizela Mehanovic, Edna Tina Wilson Living Center, Rochester

Melanie Hackett, Chase Rehabilitation and Residential Care, New Berlin

LeadingAge New York Board Chairwoman Emma Devito of Village Care in New York City congratulated the winners. "LeadingAge New York is extremely fortunate to have such wonderful members who do amazing things every day all across this state to help make lives better for others, particularly those New Yorkers who are growing older and are in more need of services and care and compassion."

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LeadingAge New York is the only statewide organization representing the entire continuum of not-for-profit, mission-driven, and public continuing care, including senior housing, nursing home, adult care facility, continuing care retirement community, assisted living, home care, and adult day care and community services providers. LeadingAge New York represents over 600 organizations dedicated to expanding the world of possibilities for aging. We advance policies, promote practices and conduct research that supports, enables and empowers people to live fully as they age.