



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**LeadingAge WNY Honors 51 Senior Care Employees
and Volunteers in Western New York**
Organization Also Marks 50th Anniversary

LeadingAge Western New York honored 51 employees and volunteers who have shown exemplary work in the senior care and geriatrics profession at Samuel's Grande Manor on May 11.

The organization also marked its 50th year as a network of senior care providers. Founded in 1966 by a group nursing home administrators, LeadingAge WNY is now the oldest and largest regional network of not-for-profit senior care providers in the U.S. It encompasses the entire spectrum of senior care and residential living, from independent housing to skilled nursing.

The Meritorious Service Award, LeadingAge WNY's highest honor, was presented to **Michael Helbringer**, president/CEO of The Bristol Home and Bristol Village. A former president of LeadingAge WNY, he has served on the board of directors for more than 15 years. He also has served on LeadingAge New York's Assisted Living Cabinet and its Board of Directors in Albany, and was a member of the New York State Department of Health Assisted Living Residence Workgroup. Locally, he served on the Long Term Care Council for Erie County Connects and the board of directors for the Western New York Alliance for Person-Centered Care. He resides in Clarence Center.

Three scholarship awards were presented to employees of LeadingAge WNY member organizations. The \$2,500 stipends, co-sponsored by the following organizations, are given to help employees continue education in the field of long-

term health care and geriatrics:

- **Freed Maxick CPAs, P.C. awarded a scholarship to Brittany Donovan**, a personal care aide at Bristol Village, Clarence Center. A resident of Cheektowaga, she is pursuing her nursing degree at Nazareth College.
- **Buffalo Ultrasound awarded a scholarship to Morgan Johnson**, a certified nursing assistant at Beechwood Homes. She is a resident of Buffalo, and is working on a nursing degree at Trocaire College.
- **Parkview Health Services presented a scholarship to Karlynn Zielen**, an admission nurse liaison at Schofield Residence. A resident of Tonawanda, she is enrolled at Daemen College for a master's degree in executive nurse leadership.

The **Special Program Award** was given to the **Brothers of Mercy Nursing and Rehabilitation Center**, Clarence, for its "Veterans Project." Residents who are veterans are honored during the month of November with a photo display and a luncheon where each veteran – mostly from World War II – is individually recognized for their service.

LeadingAge WNY represents more than 60 not-for-profit facilities and service organizations for seniors and adults throughout Western New York. These facilities provide nursing home care, assisted living, rehabilitation care, home health care, independent living and associated community services for nearly 10,000 seniors and adults annually.



Michael Helbringer

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