



Harvard Pilgrim
HealthCare Foundation

newsrelease

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HARVARD PILGRIM HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION HOSTS ANNUAL COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARDS HONORING 5 RECIPIENTS FOR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Local Journalists Join Panel Discussion on Community Engagement

(Wellesley, MA) **April 2, 2014**– Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation honored five individuals and organizations in the region today for their significant and sustained volunteer contributions to charitable organizations in their communities as part of its 6th annual Community Spirit Awards held this afternoon at its offices in Wellesley, Mass.

“Each year, as a reflection of Harvard Pilgrim Foundation’s commitment to community engagement, we recognize our colleagues and community partners who personify giving and volunteer service,” said Karen Voci, president, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation. “These recipients are nominated by their co-workers and are an inspiration to us all.”

The five Community Spirit Award recipients are:

Volunteer of the Year: Oscar Cabrera, Sales Support Associate, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Wellesley

Because of Oscar's dedication to service, the Community Connections advisory committee was able to host its first Learn and Serve event in conjunction with Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program. More than 1,000 toiletry kits were donated to local homeless families in need. In honor of Oscar’s award, the Greater Boston YMCA will receive a \$250 grant. Oscar is a resident of Dorchester.

Manager of the Year: Carleen Tucker, Supervisor of Customer Service, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Quincy

Carleen is very active in many company-wide initiatives including the MLK Planning Committee, the Black Leadership Forum, and the Black History Month Planning Committee. She is also a board member of the Franklin Park Coalition, and is a participant in the Boston Marathon raising over \$20,000 over the last 3 years. In honor of Carleen’s award, Franklin Park Coalition will receive a \$250 grant. A busy mother of four, Carleen lives in Dorchester.

Team of the Year: Care Management, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Project Leader: Susan Crowley

Care Management has participated in numerous physical service projects at local organizations such as Rosie's Place, the Greater Boston Food Bank, and Veterans Inc. The department has also held annual drives to collect clothing to support Cradles to Crayons. In 2013, Care Management donated over 130 hours of service to local non-profit organizations. In honor of Care Management's award, Rosie's Place will receive a \$250 grant.

Community Hero: 2020 Vision Quest, Nashua, NH

2020 Vision Quest inspires people to reach beyond adversity and achieve their highest goals -- personal, professional, and philanthropic. It began with Randy Pierce, who is blind, and his Guide Dog, Quinn, climbing all 48 of the rugged 4000+ foot peaks in the New Hampshire White Mountains. Using these and other adventures to raise awareness, Randy works to inspire others to set their own visions and help them achieve their goals through outreach, education and support. To date 2020 Vision Quest has reached over 30,000 students with its impactful and inspirational message. In addition, the organization presented funding in excess of \$30,000 to each of the NH Association for the Blind and Guiding Eyes for the Blind. 2020 Vision Quest will receive a \$250 grant from Harvard Pilgrim Foundation.

Community Hero: The Center for Grieving Children, Portland, Maine

The Center for Grieving Children, based in Portland, Maine, serves more than 4,000 grieving children, teens, families, and young adults annually through peer support, outreach, and education. The Center's mission is to provide loving support that encourages the safe expression of grief and loss and fosters each individual's resilience and emotional well-being. Since its founding in 1987, the Center for Grieving Children has served more than 66,000 children, teens, and their families. Today the program serves over forty children each year from an array of countries including Honduras, El Salvador, Kenya, Somalia, Nigeria, Congo, Vietnam, Sudan, Iraq, Uganda and Haiti. The program is offered in collaboration with Portland Public Schools. The Center for Grieving Children will receive a \$250 grant from Harvard Pilgrim Foundation.

The Community Spirit Awards also included a panel discussion of local women of color journalists who have a strong impact within their local community. Eric Schulz, President and CEO of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, facilitated the discussion among Josefina Bonilla, President and CEO, Color Media Group, LLC; Karen Holmes Ward, Director of Public Affairs and Community Service, host/executive producer of CityLine, WCVB-TV; Kim McLarin, Novelist and Host of Basic Black, WGBH-TV; and Shirley Leung, Columnist and Associate Editor, Boston Globe.

"It is always an honor to host this Community Spirit Awards presentation and recognize those who are so dedicated to the communities and organizations where they live and work," said Janelle Woods-McNish, Community Involvement Manager, Harvard Pilgrim Foundation. "We want to thank our women journalists who both educated and inspired us with their passionate commitment to strengthening our communities."

About The Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation

Created in 1980, The Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation supports Harvard Pilgrim's mission to improve the quality and value of health care for the people and communities we serve. The Harvard Pilgrim Foundation provides the tools, training and leadership to help build healthy communities throughout New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Maine. In 2013, the Harvard Pilgrim Foundation awarded more than \$2.8 million in grants to nearly 650 nonprofit organizations in the region. Since its inception in 1980, the Foundation has granted more than \$130 million in funds throughout the three states. For more information, please visit www.harvardpilgrim.org/foundation.

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