

*30<sup>th</sup>  
Annual*

**Awards Luncheon**

**2011 Governor's  
Conference on  
Aging**

Sponsored By: Philips Lifeline

## Illinois Department on Aging Leader of Excellence Award

**PRESENTER:** John Holton, Director, Illinois Department on Aging, and Mary Killough, Deputy Director, Illinois Department on Aging

**WINNER:** Charles Johnson,



Charles Johnson, the first African American and longest serving director of the Illinois Department on Aging, served the Aging Network as a leader of excellence for more than 30 years. He served as Executive Director of the Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging from 1974 until 2003, when he was appointed Director of the Illinois

Department on Aging. Under his leadership at both the Area Agency and Department, community-based services promote independent living were strengthened, including transportation assistance, home delivered meals, support for caregivers, and community care programs. Throughout this time Charles was a steadfast advocate for elder abuse prevention and response services and senior pharmaceutical assistance programs. His major achievements during his eight-year tenure as Director of the Department on Aging included significantly bolstering the agency's budget, rebalancing the state's long term care system, and improving wages for direct care staff serving older adults. He also increased the asset level to allow more older adults access to services. Further, Charles championed enhancements such as emergency home response service and a more comprehensive approach to care coordination. Further, Charles worked hard to accommodate agency growth, which resulted in much needed

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new physical space for the Department. His knowledge, passion, integrity and dedication to serving the Aging Network and older adults throughout Illinois have resulted in improved quality of life for older Illinoisans and their caregivers. The Department on Aging is proud to award Charles the Leader of Excellence Award, which will honor his legacy and hereafter be named the Charles D. Johnson Leader of Excellence Award.

## AARP Legislator of the Year Award

**PRESENTER:** Nancy Nelson, AARP Manager of Outreach and Advocacy, Springfield

**WINNER:** The Honorable State Senator Heather Steans, Chicago

State Senator Heather Steans has been a tireless advocate for seniors over the past several years. Not only was she the chief sponsor behind sweeping nursing home reforms in 2010, but she has also been instrumental in preserving critical funds to keep



people in their homes. She is an appropriation committee chairperson and a co-chair of the Medicaid Reform Commission. In both of these roles, she has made rebalancing Illinois' long term care system a priority. Her support to older adults has also extended outside of long term care, as she is currently

sponsoring legislation to remove the social security offset for unemployment, which discriminates against older adults. She was a part of the special committee designed to implement the healthcare exchanges in Illinois. Senator Steans also stood with consumers of all ages by voting against rate hikes for Com Ed and Ameren.

## Illinois Department on Aging Direct Care Worker Award

**PRESENTER:** John Holton, Director, Illinois Department on Aging

**WINNER:** Dorothy McKinley, Certified Nursing Assistant, St. Joseph Village of Chicago

The Illinois Department on Aging is pleased to recognize an outstanding direct care worker over the age of 55 in awarding its first Direct Care Work Award. This first year, the award is presented to the individual who has provided the greatest number of years of service to older adults residing in a nursing facility. The awardee is Dorothy McKinley, Certified Nursing Assistant, who has been a direct caregiver at St. Joseph Village of Chicago since November 5, 1978. With thirty-three years of service, Dorothy has been with St. Joseph's longer than any other associate. Susan Tirpak, Human Resource Manager at St. Joseph Village said of Dorothy, "We are lucky to have her. She is committed to this community and to the residents. She provides exceptional care and is always willing to help wherever she is needed." Despite a long work commute on public transportation, Dorothy's supervisor says, "She always has a smile on her face and takes time to care for each individual in need. She also has a great sense of humor and cares for her fellow staff members. Her positive attitude, dedication, commitment and teamwork shows how passionate and devoted she is to the residents and the community. She sets a great example to everyone and is truly an exceptional person." Dorothy said, "These 32 years have been glorious but sometimes stressful at the same time but I enjoyed all of them, for they gave me the opportunity to meet some wonderful people."



## Sid Granet Aging Network Achievement Award for Individual Excellence

**PRESENTER:** Julie Hubbard, Executive Director, Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland, Inc. and President, Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging

**WINNER:** Janice M. Stille, Retired Director, Western Illinois Area Agency on Agency



Jan Stille worked in the field of aging for 21 years, retiring in November. She began her career at Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging as the program coordinator for the Senior Community Services Employment Program. Jan also served as a program coordinator for community based services, program

manager and assistant director. She was named Executive Director of the agency in 2005. Under Jan's leadership, the Area Agency developed new programs, including a series of Living and Learning workshops offered to the public on a wide range of topics. She was instrumental in bringing together diverse transportation providers in Rock island and Mercer counties to provide county-wide and inter-county public transportation. Through her collaboration with the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois, the evidence-based fall prevention program, "A Matter of Balance," is being provided to older adults in five counties in locations including senior centers, churches, community centers, independent apartments and assisted living facilities. Jan forged a partnership with Generations Area Agency on Aging in Iowa, to provide a bi-state caregiver conference. She had a special interest in civic engagement of adults and participated with the NCOA SMART

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tool which evaluated the return on investment of leadership volunteers. She also served as treasurer for the Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging. Jan's calm demeanor, ability to collaborate, and openness to new ideas endeared her to staff and providers in western Illinois's ten-county planning and service area, as well as to her colleagues throughout the state. The Aging Network has benefitted from Jan's many contributions and appreciates her thoughtful participation and leadership.

## Illinois Department on Aging Outstanding Caregiver Award

**PRESENTERS:** John Holton, Director, Illinois Department on Aging, and Mary Killough, Deputy Director, Illinois Department on Aging, Andrea Keene

**WINNER:** Mary Bice, Grand Prairie Assisted Living, Macomb



Mary Bice, 72, works in both the dietary department and the customer service division of Grand Prairie Assisted Living. According to her nomination, Mary exemplifies what it means to be significant in seniors' lives. She greets residents in the morning and has turned Grand Prairie's dining room into a homey kitchen. She has an approach to helping residents that helps to ease their dispositions, sometimes with her famous hot chocolate and a hug. Her attention to detail is described as "immaculate." He teaches servers to do their best and acts as their mentor. She is very particular about creating a family atmosphere and chooses to spend her time giving back to her peers, teaching the next generation skills, and making people happy every day. Andrea Keene says, "Thank you, Mary Bice. You are a gift to our community."

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## Illinois Adult Day Service Association Outstanding Advocate for Illinois Seniors

**PRESENTER:** Kathy Van Velsor, President, Illinois Adult Day Service Association

**WINNER:** Dave Vinkler, AARP



Thomas Carlyle said, “The work an unknown good man has done is like a vein of water flowing hidden underground, secretly making the ground green.” In that manner, Dave Vinkler does his work. He tenaciously watches legislative bills and reads them thoroughly for their impact on older adults. He isn’t someone who seeks the spotlight, but instead fights battles for older adults with facts and figures and thoughtful analysis. IADSA is grateful for Dave’s work, guidance and leadership in the service of Illinois seniors’ and therefore is presenting him with the first award the association has ever presented to anyone outside the field of the adult day service. The association recognizes his quiet perseverance in maintaining and improving access to home and community based services for older adults.

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## Illinois Adult Day Service Association Everything Under the Sun Award

**WINNER:** Ecumenical Support Services for the Elderly,  
Wheaton, Glen Ellyn and Naperville



The mission of the Ecumenical Support Services for the Elderly is to provide adult care options that promote the physical, emotional, and spiritual well being of older adults and their families. The acronym “ESSE” means “to become” in Latin, is fitting. ESSE’s goal is to provide an active daily schedule of stimulating, life-enriching experiences, a loving and caring atmosphere, in a safe and social environment. ESSE provides a solution to the critical needs of families and friends with impaired loved ones and delays their placement in long term care facilities. For its outstanding service to 138 families in the community over the last year, IADSA honors Ecumenical Support Services with its Everything Under the Sun Award.

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## Sunlight Award

**WINNER:** Tex Halfacre, Volunteer, Addus Evergreen Club, Mt. Vernon

Tex Halfacre grew up on a farm in luka. He is a 61-year-old veteran who has been a primary caregiver for five years to an individual with traumatic brain injury. He is also a personal assistant for several other individuals. He cares for one individual by cooking healthy meals, taking him to exercise at the YMCA, and to clinical psychologist appointments. He has worked for the Department of Rehabilitative Services as a personal assistant and has served many participants. When arriving at Addus Evergreen Club, Tex greets and socializes all the participants. He also donates items and also assists with two yard sales that the day service hosts every year to raise funds. Tex volunteers as Santa for the participants during the holidays, bringing each a present. It takes him weeks to individually wrap all the gifts he and his mother purchase. He volunteers at the center once a month to host Fun with Tex. His activities include hosting trivia, games and contests. According to Jeanne Haege, Director of the Addus Evergreen Club, "Every client looks forward to the days that Tex comes to the center. He truly lives his life for people in need."



## Coalition of Limited English Speaking Elderly Pillar of Service Award

**PRESENTER:** Marta Pereyra, Executive Director, CLESE, Chicago

**WINNER:** Angel Kindo, Assyrian National Council of Illinois



Angel Kindo, an Assyrian, emigrated from Iraq in 1992, escaping war and the regime of the Ba'ath party. She earned bachelor's degrees in math and business management and worked for foreign companies in Iraq. Shortly after her arrival in the United States, Angel worked for the Assyrian National Council of

Illinois, becoming its executive director in 1994. In 1997, she started the Homemaker Program for the Assyrian community and expanded it to 450 clients. In 2001, she founded the Urhai Community Service Center offering 13 social service programs and ensuring that Iraqi refugees have a place to call home. In 2010 Urhai became a provider for the in-home service program. Angel is an active member of the North Task Force Committee of the Commission on Human Relations and President of the Assyrian American Welfare Council of Chicago. She was also named a board member for the CEDA of Cook County. For her extensive accomplishments, advocacy and outreach, CLESE chose Angel as exemplary of a "pillar of service."

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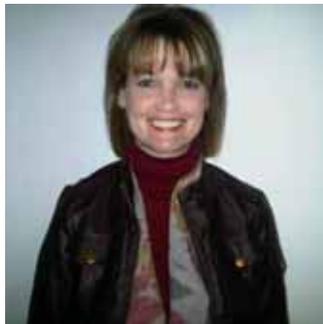
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## Illinois Council of Case Coordination Units 2011 Case Manager of the Year

**PRESENTER:** Carol Aronson, Director, Shawnee Alliance, Carterville

**WINNER:** Dana Crews, Case Manager, Senior Services of Central Illinois



Dana Crews is a strong team member and works well not only with case managers in her own department, but also has a great relationship with other Case Coordination Unit programs such as Elder Abuse, Choices for Care and Information and Assistance. She regularly volunteers for special agency events such as health fairs. Dana never hesitates to rearrange her own schedule to accommodate other programs when needed. She is an ardent advocate for participants. In less than two years, she has mastered process for determining program eligibility and all the paperwork that comes with it. She works very hard to make sure her participants receive all the services they need to stay independent. She has worked hard to try to understand the most complex programs, such as Medicaid. She is persistent and doesn't give up when they are reluctant to accept services. She always respects their right to self-determination. Her supportive demeanor establishes rapport with participants. Dana is described as remarkably creative; her care plan development skills are astonishing, making her supervisor's jobs much easier. She strives to be the best case manager she can be and truly understands the concept of being a "comprehensive" care coordinator. She carries a large caseload while ensuring every participant receives the same level of service

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needed. According to Dana’s supervisors, Dana “sets the standard for the entire department” and encourages her coworkers to have a positive outlook.

## Joyce Still Memorial Award

**PRESENTER:** Amy White, Director of Daily Bread, Senior Services of Central Illinois

**WINNER:** Rance Carpenter, Illinois Department on Aging retiree, and, Director, Office of Graduate Intern Programs, University of Illinois Springfield



Rance Carpenter worked for the Illinois Department on Aging for 26 years. Prior to that, he worked at the local Area Agency on Aging for five years. While at the Area Agency on Aging, he was involved in developing two senior centers that also became nutrition sites. While at the Department, Rance was responsible for the administration of all Older American Act Title III-C nutrition funds for the past 21 years. He was involved in establishing the Department’s Nutrition Advisory Council and regularly attended those meetings. Rance was responsible for the annual submission and justification of the home delivered meal General Revenue Fund requests. He also helped create a new home delivered meal fund that allowed for contracting with a registered dietitian. After serving the Aging Network for more than 30 years, Rance was recently selected to become the Director of the Graduate Public Service Internship program in the Center for State Policy and Leadership at the University of Illinois Springfield, where he previously earned a master’s degree in public administration.

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## Illinois Council of Case Coordination Units Supervisor of the Year

**PRESENTERS:** Diane Drew, Director, Community Home Environmental Learning Project (CHELP), Decatur, and President, Illinois Association of Community Care Program Homecare Providers  
Robert Thieman, Jr., CAE, Executive Director of the Illinois Association of Community Care Homecare Providers, Springfield

**WINNER:** Leslee Ferguson, Supervisor, Community Home Environmental Learning Project (CHELP), Decatur



Leslie Ferguson first worked for CHELP in 2000. After a hiatus, she returned in 2007 as a supervisor. She has built a marvelous relationship with her home care aides as well as participants, the CCU and case workers. She delivers Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to participants in need and helps in securing equipment that participants need to make their lives more comfortable. She is strongly committed to homecare aides. When any homecare aide has difficulties, Leslee is there to help. IACCPHP is happy to name Leslee Supervisor of the Year for 2011.

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## 2011 D. Jeanne Tippett Scholarship

**PRESENTER:** Marsha Johnson, Community Care Systems

**WINNER:** Melody Shuck, Help at Home, Moline



Melody has worked at Help at Home for 11 years as both a homecare aide and in 2002 promoted to supervisor. As supervisor, Melody recognized the need for additional education to help her in that role and enrolled in Business Management at Brown Mackie College in Iowa. Melody, a mother of four and grandmother of two, is now enrolled in night school to further her goals to work for the aging population. She remains an active supervisor with Help At Home and continues to give of herself and talents. Her area manager, Deb Jordan, sings Melody's praises as a very dedicated employee. She describes her as one who is always willing to roll up her sleeves and participate with her homecare aides in team cleanings. She performs her duties with the utmost professionalism and has the respect and loyalty of her homecare aides and works in cooperation with the care coordinators.

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## Illinois HomeCare and Hospice Council Helen Heyrman Award

**PRESENTER:** Jan Costello, Executive Director, Illinois HomeCare and Hospice Council, Springfield

**WINNER:** Shari Stoudt, Administrator, Ottawa Community Health Services, Ottawa Regional Health



Shari Stoudt has served as administrator of Ottawa Community Health Services at Ottawa Regional Health since 1985. Since that time she has been an active member of the Illinois HomeCare and Hospice Council. Her latest board position has been Secretary of the Board of Directors, an office she helped to develop and expand to better meet the needs of the membership. She expanded the duties of the Secretary to include parliamentarian of the board. She studied the by-laws and policy manual until she became an expert in order to make herself effective. The board of directors looks to her as the authority in this area. In her role as the Chairperson of the Leadership Committee, she has effectively led the committee and the Council in identifying and developing the leaders of the state association for the future. She has a gift that allows her to recognize leaders before they even see it in themselves. She knows how to develop and foster them into effective association leaders. She leads by action and encouragement. Shari is a strategic thinker and has served on the Strategic Planning Committee for the Council. She brings new ideas and is able to help determine the direction the association should take in order to lead its members into the next generation of home care. She has seen many transitions in homecare and the association over the last 25 years and has always been a trusted voice.

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