



JUNE 18TH, 2019

1:00-4:00 PM

MASSACHUSETTS STATE
HOUSE

BOSTON, MA

*"THEY DON'T ALWAYS MAKE THE
NEWS, BUT THEY TRULY MAKE A
DIFFERENCE."*

Please join us in celebrating the 2019
Unsung Heroines of Massachusetts!

@MassCSW

#UnsungHeroines2019

THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION ON
THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Sixteenth
Annual
Unsung
Heroines of
Massachusetts

Thank You to Our Sponsors

This 2019 Unsung Heroines event would not be possible without our wonderful sponsors. We thank these exceptional businesses and individuals for their generosity and kind contributions.

Financial Donations



WilmerHale

Nina Kimball

"Boston Arts Academy Foundation salutes the 2019 Unsung Heroines and our President, and MCSW Vice Chair Denella J. Clark"

In-kind Donations



Kerry Goodwin Photography



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Whole Foods Market

Panera Bread

Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women
Charles F. Hurley Building, 19 Staniford Street, 6th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02114
(617) 626-6520 www.mass.gov/women

The MCSW is an independent state agency that was legislatively created in 1998 to advance women of the Commonwealth to full equality in all areas of life and to promote their rights and opportunities. The Commission provides a voice for Massachusetts women and is comprised of 19 members who are appointed by the Governor, Senate President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Caucus of Women Legislators.

Commissioners

Tahirah Amatul-Wadud, Springfield

Rebecca Bact, Auburndale

Penny Blaisdell, Marblehead

Ruth Bramson, Boston

Denella Clark, Hyde Park

Jean Cotter Fox, Assonet

Marianne Fleckner, Westford

Liz Friedman, Northhampton

Becca Glenn, Waltham

Allison Goldberg, Marblehead

Audrey Hall, Framingham

Nina Kimball, Plymouth

Sara La Cour, Amherst

Melissa Pride-Fahs, Shrewsbury

Maria Puppolo, Springfield

Sara Schnorr, Holliston

Wendy Silver, Needham

Phyllis Smith, Franklin

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Megan Hurley

Grace Jimenez

Hartell Johnson

Marcie Mai

Paulina Martin

Catherine May

June Ofstedal

Millie Sanchez

Maddie Terlap

Anna Vande Velde

Greetings!

Welcome to the Sixteenth Annual Unsung Heroines celebration. It is an honor for us to identify extraordinary women from across the Commonwealth and we are proud to thank them publicly at the Massachusetts State House.

We would like to thank our many legislative partners who are with us today as we honor the 2019 Unsung Heroines from communities across the Commonwealth.

Every day, thousands of women from across our Commonwealth perform unheralded acts of public leadership and volunteerism that make our neighborhoods, cities, and towns better places to live. They help advance the status of women and girls in Massachusetts in ways big and small, and the collective effort is meaningful.

The Unsung Heroines of 2019 are truly positive change makers. They may not always make the news, but they most assuredly make a difference. A grateful Commonwealth sings their praises today to show each of these special women how much we value their efforts and contributions.

As you read about and listen to their stories today, we know that you will be moved by all that is happening in our Commonwealth every day because not-so-ordinary women are doing extraordinary things. We thank the legislators who recognize the impact these women make every day. We are also deeply grateful to our corporate and individual sponsors, those who donated goods and services, and the volunteers who helped make this day so special for our honorees.

Sincerely,

The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women

2019 Unsung Heroines of Massachusetts Celebration

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

1:00-4:00 pm

Great Hall of Flags

Massachusetts State House, Boston, MA

Proceedings

1:00 pm: State House Greeting and Remarks

MCSW Leadership

MCSW Appointing Authorities

1:35 pm: We Sing Your Praises

MCSW Commissioners share brief bio of each 2019 Heroine

3:00 pm: 2019 Heroines Photo Assemblage

2019 Heroines gather for a group photo

3:10 pm: “Just Desserts” Refreshments & Reception

After the group photo, Heroines and their guests are invited to the

Just Desserts reception

THE HEROINES

2019



Gwen Agna, Northampton

Recommended by Rep. Sabadoa

Gwen Agna is the long-time, much loved principal of Jackson Street School in Northampton MA. She brings social justice into her work on a daily basis, providing an excellent education for her students while ensuring that equity is at the heart of all teachings at her school. Her all-school assemblies are beautiful moments that celebrate creativity, diversity, and expression as she encourages students to develop their growth mindsets. Even students who have long since graduated from her elementary school love to return to visit as Ms. Agna works hard to make sure school is a true home-away-from-home for students. Ms. Agna is one of the key reasons Jackson Street School is the special place that it is and she will be deeply missed when she retires this year.

A native of Morocco, Souad has been a member of the Malden Community for over 18 years. She is the mother of two daughters. She wanted to make new arrivals feel welcome, safe and accepted, especially as she was deeply touched by all the stories she heard every day, even at her workplace. There were many stories and lots of questions from new arrivals of Arab families. Often the problems were with the difficulties of adapting and living in this new society, which requires first, learning and understanding the language. In 2010, Souad formed the American Association for Arab woman (AAAW) with the help of a group of intellectuals, actors and individuals who were also interested in the issues of immigrant Arab families. The AAAW is a non-profit with the mission of "Empowering Arab woman to be leaders in their families and communities in an American Society, through becoming knowledgeable on their rights, making informed decisions on issues, foster networks and opportunities, sustaining an organized community, learning the necessary communication skills and overcoming cultural and language barriers. Arab woman at the core of families strengthen our community."



Souad Akib, Malden

Recommended by Rep. Ultrino



Nazda Alam, Weston

Recommended by Rep. Peisch

Nazda has continually worked to serve and contribute to the community of Weston and the Commonwealth. A Muslim-American community organizer who was born in Bangladesh and immigrated to the United States in 1982, she serves as the Chair of the Muslim Voter Registration Project and works to increase civic and electoral participation among Muslim and immigrant communities. She founded the Nazda Alam Foundation for Muslim Women Civic Engagement & Leadership in Weston, MA; an initiative to support Muslim women's participation locally and globally in social and political processes. Nazda is a founding member of the Daughters of Abraham, an interfaith book group devoted to fostering mutual respect and understanding among Muslim, Jewish, and Christian women. Nazda is a social worker with the Department of Children and Families, and holds master's degrees in political science and education. She is inspired by her desire to keep children and communities safe. In addition to her activism in Weston and throughout the Commonwealth, Nazda continues to work to improve quality of life through housing and education for women and girls in Bangladesh.



Jennifer Altomonte has been a leader in the town of Bellingham for well over 20 years. She is currently the Vice Chairwoman of the School Committee and the Chairwoman for Bellingham's Tri-Centennial celebration this year. This celebration involves daylong festivities and opportunities for the town to celebrate. Jen is also actively involved with the St. Blaise church community where she facilitates the children's Journey in Faith program, sits on the Parish Council, and is involved with the annual fundraising events. She is involved in her son James' Boy Scout Troop and is an advisor to the Bellingham Education Foundation Board of Directors. Jen is happily married for 22 years to, her husband Joe and is a wonderful mother to wonderful son James.

Jennifer Altomonte, Bellingham

Recommended by Rep. Soter

Marie Anderson, born in 1925 from a combination of an Italian immigrant and a Mayflower descendant family, she has always had a deep commitment to the community and a love of the Norwell she grew up in. Marie worked in her family business since the 1930s and eventually took it over at an age most people usually retire. Marie, in collaboration with others, started an organization to protect the North River, which is now the present-day North South River Watershed Association. Her care about preserving the history of the community led her to join the Norwell Historical Society and donate many artifacts of historical community significance.



Marie Anderson, Norwell

Recommended by Rep. DeCoste



Ana was an employee for the Massachusetts Department of transitional assistance for 23 years, a union leader and co-led a statewide effort on behalf of bi-lingual workers to receive pay for the use of their dual language skills. She is a co-founder of Women of the Vanguard, a group that has empowered Latina women to succeed in education, politics and community engagement. Ana is a mom, grandma and great grandma, and an inspiration for the youth whom she shares her struggles and successes as a way to give them hope and inspiration.

Ana Andino, Springfield

Recommended by Rep. Gonzalez

As the Executive Director of the local Girls Inc., Deb manages our local Girls Inc. Girls Inc. of Lynn provides essential resources and challenging programs to disadvantaged, low-income girls. Girls Inc. of Lynn inspires all girls to be strong, smart and bold through life-changing programs and experiences that help girls navigate gender, economic and social barriers. Deb is a strong role-model and mentor for every girl to come through the front doors. The City of Lynn is more than lucky to have her as a community leader and partner, and she is more than deserving to be recognized for her efforts.



Deb Ansourlian, Lynn

Recommended by Rep. Cahill



Cheryl has been a staunch advocate for the community of Roxbury and Boston as a whole. Her work as a METCO volunteer and advocate has made a tremendous impact on the lives and educational outcomes of Boston youth. In her role at Reclaim Roxbury, a resident-run housing justice group, she has been a part of building unity across neighborhoods in Roxbury. Cheryl has tremendous energy, compassion, and deserves to be recognized for her efforts.

Cheryl Antoine, Boston

Recommended by Sen. Chang-Diaz

Alice has volunteered countless hours of her time to stand up against the proposed project to locate a compressor station in Weymouth. Identifying that a compressor station poses a serious threat to her community, Alice helped organize the Fore River Residents Against the Compressor Station (FRRACS). The group is made up of local residents, non-profit organizations, environmental advocates, and elected officials with a shared opposition for the compressor station. Her dedication to this issue, organizing rallies and bringing in industry experts, has educated the public on the severe health and safety risks directly associated with daily operations of compressor stations. She has given the people in her community and surrounding areas a collective voice in this fight. Weymouth is fortunate to have such an impactful member of the town; it is truly an honor to nominate Alice for her tireless work.



Alice Arena, Weymouth
Recommended by Rep. Murphy



Georgina Arrieta-Ruetenik,
Needham Heights
Recommended by Sen. Rausch

Whether it's a Needham Town Meeting, a School Board discussion of diversity, or a Public Safety Hearing regarding crosswalks, Georgina is likely to be attendance. She stays behind the scenes and uses her photography to ensure stories that might not otherwise be seen are told and promoted. An example of her activism began last summer when Georgina organized a weekly vigil on the Needham Town Common to draw attention to the children who had been forcibly separated from their parents who were seeking asylum. She reminded the town to take responsibility and welcome these families with open arms rather than criminalize the behavior which most would take to secure the safety of their families. Georgina continues to hold these vigils until every child is reunited, demonstrating her enormous heart and endless dedication.

Kate has been Issues Director for Congressman Michael Capuano for over 20 years, responsible for a wide range of policy matters in a district notable for its universities, hospitals, and diversity. With her colleague, the late Jose Vaccaro, she has also devoted herself to immigration casework, working with local lawyers, physicians, employers, non-profits and the Departments of State and Homeland Security to secure interventions all around the world in difficult cases involving health emergencies, family unification, visa issues, political asylum, adoptions, and employment of foreign nationals. She continues this work pro bono for governmental and for non-profit agencies. She was appointed Election Commissioner by Mayor Eugene C. Brune; during her tenure as full-time Chair, the Election Commission redistricted the City into equitably apportioned precincts and introduced machine-read paper ballots that permitted hand recounts and write-ins. Brune's successor, Mayor Michael Capuano, appointed her as personnel director with a mandate to support and diversify the City's work force. She holds undergraduate and doctoral degrees from Harvard, where she served as Head Tutor of the interdisciplinary Social Studies program.



Kate Auspitz, Somerville
Recommended by
Rep. Barber and Rep. Provost



Today Elaine Baker, Dorchester
Recommended by Rep. Dan Hunt

Among many other things, Today is a wife, mother, yoga instructor, leader, motivator, and super volunteer. Whether she is volunteering with the homeless at the Pine Street Inn, cooking meals for victims of domestic violence through the Community Cooks Program or teaching life skills training to middle and high school students, she does it with a smile on her face. As a yoga instructor, Today offers free yoga classes for children, influencing a physically and mentally healthy lifestyle. She also leads a Troop of inner city girls scouts and facilitates health and wellness centered education at the Tierney Learning Center, Labouré Center and in various Boston Public Schools. Today's commitment to helping others and her ability to pull people together has no bounds. I truly cannot think of an individual more deserving of this honor.



Norma Jean Barbour, Taunton
Recommended by Rep. O'Connell

Norma Jean Barbour proudly and lovingly serves her community of Taunton through many diverse charities and nonprofit organizations out of pure love for her hometown. She has served Girls Inc. for over 32 years in different capacities ranging from volunteer, to Board member, to President. Norma is a volunteer and current President of the Taunton Literacy Council; President of Weir Seniors; member of the Taunton Garden Club; served on the Taunton Historic District Commission for many years; proud Board member of Cancer Care CABbies; an advocate for children through her Board position with Head Start Triumph; and former volunteer and Board member of the Taunton Animal Care Facility and Morton Hospital Auxiliary. She retired from Taunton Public Schools as a paraprofessional for twenty years. Her most treasured and loving role is being a proud Mother to her children Julieann and Daniel Barbour.

Maria Barry has been a quiet longtime advocate for the Framingham Public Library. As an elected member of the Board of Trustees, a board member of the Friends of the Framingham Library, and a volunteer for Literacy Unlimited, Maria has put in countless volunteer hours for these organizations that provide vital leadership and services for the library. With Maria's leadership and willingness to put others' needs first, the Framingham Public Library is fortunate to be able to provide essential programs that benefit the entire community.



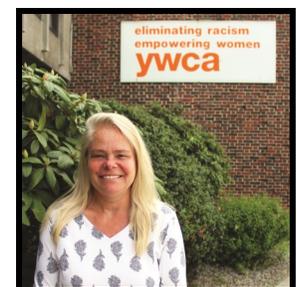
Maria Barry, Framingham
Recommended by Rep. Robinson



Debra Bearse, South Yarmouth
Recommended by Rep. Whelan

Debby Bearse has built a strong record of volunteerism in the Cape Cod community through her steady organizational efforts and her generous donation of her time and talents supporting local charities. Organizations such as Cape Cod Veterans, Inc., The Mighty Meehan 5K to fight pediatric cancer, The Wounded War Fighters, and Terry Brennan's Jimmy Fund Drive have benefitted significantly from Debby's selflessness, and her efforts have resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars being raised. In addition, Debby has her students in the Barnstable Public Schools write letters and notes of support for our Troops who have been wounded in battle and are recovering at Walter Reed Military Hospital. These letters are then hand delivered to those wounded warriors by veterans from the organizations Debby works so hard to support.

Darlene Belliveau has been a part of the YWCA Central Massachusetts' Early Education and Care Program for the past 35 years, beginning her career in the Worcester based After-School program. After serving as a preschool teacher for many years, she was promoted to the YWCA Director of Children's Services. She has extensive experience and expertise in operating high quality early education programs. Darlene is committed to the mission of the YWCA to eliminate racism and empower women and lives out that commitment through volunteerism in her community. For many years she was a Girl Scout Leader, CCD teacher and supporter of the Millbury Lions Club. Darlene received her degree in Early Childhood and Psychology from Becker College. She currently lives with her husband Mark of 29 years. Darlene is a lifelong advocate early childhood education and the power it has to make a difference in the lives of children and families.



Darlene Belliveau, Milbury
Recommended by Sen. Chandler

Marybeth Bergeron is the originator of Food For The Souls which provides 2 meals per person every weekend for low income seniors. When Marybeth realized the Meals on Wheels Program does not provide food over the weekend, she saw a need to help those who may otherwise go without a nutritious meal. She asked for volunteers to assist her in making meals, salads and desserts for over 30 seniors every weekend. Marybeth has organized the cooking, distribution and delivery of the meals as well as cooked and delivered the meals herself. She has also been a strong advocate for the seniors in the town of Longmeadow, spearheading the charge for a new senior center and coordinating many events through her church. Marybeth has displayed the definition of a true unsung heroine through her unselfish giving and caring for others and I am proud to have her as my constituent.



Marybeth Bergeron, Longmeadow

Recommended by Rep. Ashe



Sue Beyle, North Eastham

Recommended by Rep. Peake

Sue Beyle has been an Outreach Coordinator at the Orleans Senior Center for almost 19 years. She has a loving and nurturing presence and makes sure that she does everything possible to help Orleans' seniors with vital support services. From working with the Health Connector, to linking her clients with the Lower Cape Outreach Council, the Homeless Prevention Council and other organizations for assistance, Sue ensures that her seniors receive outstanding wrap-around support. Sue frequently coordinates with members of State Representative Sarah K. Peake's staff and colleagues in other non-profit agencies to come to a positive outcome on complicated cases. She make sure that everyone has a voice, is covered by the necessary services and has an opportunity to live at home. Her quiet and competent approach with clients and persistent follow through on their behalf demonstrate her strong advocacy for Orleans' senior citizens.

Laura Brereton has been instrumental in energizing the burgeoning Medford music scene. Over a decade ago, her first community venture was to establish Medford Music Studios which provides voice, songwriting, and guitar lessons to people of all ages and abilities out of which grew the "Kids Open Mic" program giving her own students, and others aged 12-18, opportunities to perform at professional local music venues such as the Lilypad in Cambridge and the Burren in Somerville. In addition, she has been integral to expanding efforts to energize spaces across the city with arts and culture programming along with community engagement through initiatives such as Circle the Square, Mystic River Celebration, Arts Across Medford, the Chevalier Theatre's "On Stage" series of performances, and Medford Community Coalition. Medford residents and their neighbors notice the difference she's made with her passion and devotion to bringing the beauty and unity of music to all.



Laura Brereton, Medford

Recommended by Sen. Jehlen



Janet Brings, Marblehead

Recommended by Sen. Crighton

Janet Brings and her husband are the founders of C.A.P.T.S. (Calling All Patriots Troop Support), a Non-Profit organization that sends care packages to our service men and women who are actively deployed overseas. Her goal is to make packages personal and have that special feeling of "home". The motto is: "If we can't bring them home, we will bring 'home' to them." Janet, alongside her family, started sending care packages to their towns deployed in 2006. They started with about 4 names and sent these packages to say "thank you for your service" and to let them know that they are not forgotten. There are now over 50 recipients on the list. The work done by Janet for C.A.P.T.S is solely volunteer-based.



Lorna Brunelle is a woman who daily affects people's lives by lifting their self esteem. She has empowered many young people around the region to find their voice and their talents by introducing them to the performing arts. Her mission has been to nurture the creative artist within each person as an owner of the Burt Woods School of the Performing Arts in Middleborough. She also volunteers time with seniors in the community to help them see their own beauty and self-worth. I can think of no other woman who has instilled confidence and well being in as many people regardless of background, socio economic status, gender, or age than Lorna Brunelle and I am excited to nominate her as an Unsung Heroine.

Lorna Brunelle, Middleborough

Recommended by Rep. Orrall

Laurie's volunteerism began when she joined the Thomson School PTO, working tirelessly to bring new fundraising efforts and ideas to the school, eventually becoming President. With her skills and ability to make a difference, she was recruited to run for School Committee. An attorney by trade, Laurie combined her professional knowledge with her experience as a parent to be a representative for the community. Laurie later joined the Affordable Housing Trust (AHT), first as a representative of the Town, then as Chair. Her collaborative approach grew A.H.T.'s relationship with Bread and Roses Housing, and in two years, A.H.T. was able to increase housing units from one house to five. Most recently, in the wake of the Columbia Gas disaster that deeply affected our town, Laurie assisted the 1,000s of residents impacted by this crisis. Her commitment and service to the community went above and beyond during this tragedy, ensuring that all of our residents got the assistance they needed to stay safe and warm as winter closed in. In addition, she has regularly fostered children in her home, is currently involved in the Big Sister organization, and sits on the board of the Greater Lawrence Community Action Council.



Laurie Burzlaff, North Andover

Recommended by Rep. Minicucci



Debra is a lifelong resident of Fall River, attending local schools, graduating from B.M.C. Durfee High School in 1994 and graduating with an Associates Degree in Business Administration in 1999. In 1999 she became employed at the Fall River Government Center as a community liaison assisting constituents with immigration services. Debra volunteers her time in Representative Silvia's office every Saturday morning, providing constituents assistance with citizenship applications, renewal of green cards, and petitions. She gives so much to the immigrate population in our community without seeking any recognition.

Debra Cabral, Fall River

Recommended by Rep. Silvia

Margaret Cappabianca has been a fierce advocate for her neighborhood of Grafton Hill for years. During her years of dedicated service as a board member of the Grafton Hill Neighborhood Association, she has worked to better the quality of life for the residents of the neighborhood and the City. She has advocated for more attention and funding for various projects throughout the area. Particularly, her work around Blithewood Park in the neighborhood has led to major renovations, a new playground, parking lot, saved a baseball field and kept this park a gem of the neighborhood. For a decade now, she has led the charge, organized and run the Grafton Hill Christmas Tree lighting in the park. This event, the biggest in the City, is the event of the year, with hundreds gathering as neighbors to share food, merriment and the park. Her work continues to make her neighborhood a better place.



**Margaret Granata-Cappabianca,
Worcester**

Recommended by Rep. Donahue

Elizabeth "Liz" Carey has lived in the town of Tewksbury for nearly her entire life and actively makes Tewksbury a better place to live with her positive presence and friendliness towards all. Liz is a graduate of Tewksbury High School and married her High School sweetheart Warren who served as town treasurer and passed away in 2016. Liz was the Tewksbury Town Clerk for 27 years during which she embodied what it means to be a great public servant. You'd be hard pressed to find someone in Tewksbury who doesn't know Liz Carey. She is a pillar in the community and has devoted much of her retirement volunteering for causes she cares about. Liz is the proud parent of 8, grandparent of 28, and great-grandparent of 3.



Elizabeth Carey, Tewksbury
Recommended by Sen. Finegold



Michelle Carson, Melrose
Recommended by Rep. Brodeur

Michelle Carson is a mother of three and a valued member of the Melrose community. She's a member of the Melrose High School Site Council, serves on the Board of the Melrose Youth Ballet, and an active member of the PTO. She's the driving force behind Grad Night. Students look forward to this event just as much as senior prom. She not only supports the young people in Melrose, but she has been tremendously supportive of educators. Michelle gives up her own time to offer chair massages to teachers during their prep-blocks. Her support doesn't stop with schools, she also volunteers with the Melrose Veterans Memory Project to deliver holiday packages to veterans. During the Federal Government shutdown, she worked to raise awareness about things the Melrose community could do to help local service members. She is the epitome of what it means to be an unsung heroine and is a tremendous asset to Melrose.

In 2007, Deb's husband of 34 years, Brian, passed away in a motorcycle accident. Deb turned tragedy to action. As the President of the Worcester County Motorcyclists Survivors Fund, Deb has led numerous fundraising events to provide financial and emotional assistance to people and their families who have been seriously injured or killed riding a motorcycle. Her efforts have provided countless people with financial help towards medical bills, housing and living costs and funeral costs. In addition to the large network of volunteers that she works with she has also worked with the Massachusetts Motorcyclists' Survivors Fund towards increasing awareness and safety by distributing the "motorcycles are everywhere" signs across the Commonwealth. Deb is the Director of Assessing for the Town of Charlton and serves on various town boards and committees.



Deborah Ceccarini, Charlton
Recommended by Sen. Gobi



Donna Cesan, Lanesborough
Recommended by Sen. Hinds

Donna Cesan has dedicated her career to public service. As the Director of Community Development for the small, northern Berkshire Town of Adams she has spearheaded economic development projects with big impact like the construction of a platform for the Adams terminus of the Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum's Hoosac Valley Service, the renovation of the Visitor Center parking lot and implementing the community's vision for the Greylock Glen. Yet, since 2014 she has twice been asked by the Select Board to also serve as Interim Town Administrator -- literally managing every aspect of municipal government for months, while also promoting community development initiatives in the community. She has selflessly given countless hours of her time to ensure Adams is moving in the right direction. Donna is well-respected in her community and the Town of Adams is well served by her. She is absolutely an Unsung Heroine for her dedication to our region and professionalism.



Karen Y. Chen, Cambridge
Recommended by Rep. Connolly

Karen Chen has served as the Executive Director of Chinese Progressive Association (CPA) since 2013. CPA is a grassroots community-based organization that works for full equality and empowerment of the Chinese community in greater Boston and beyond. Karen immigrated to the US when she was 10 years old, attended Boston Public Schools and became involved in the Chinese community through the CPA's youth program. Her inspiration for social justice work came from her experience as an immigrant and her parents' experience as low-wage workers in the restaurant and garment industry. Upon completing college in 2001, she became a Worker Rights organizer at CPA, helping Chinese workers learn about and organize for rights in the workplace. As a new organizer, she helped organize electronic manufacturing workers to fight for fair severance and job re-training benefits, include a \$1 million in state assistance for the Power One dislocated workers. Karen also led campaigns to fight for tenants facing displacement and rising rents. From 2007 to 2013, Karen worked as a paralegal for the Asian Outreach Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services.

Kerry is the Director of Dinah's House- a sustainable safe space for women in need in downtown Haverhill, where they can begin to break free from anything preventing them from living full and successful lives. Dinah's House empowers women through the fierce and resilient strength of sisterhood. Over 120 women and children were served last year. Kerry has focused on teamwork, collaboration among local Haverhill non-profits, and pursuing diverse funding opportunities: both through local Churches, and through non-profit and civic organizations. Prior to her role at Dinah's House, Kerry has a decade of experience in College Basketball, both playing in Division 2 as an athlete, and coaching for 6 years as an assistant at Gordon College. During this time she oversaw the summer sports camp activities, and guided the program through historic growth, both in terms of attendance and revenue. In both positions, her career is driven by a desire to do everything within her power to flip the current narrative, to advocate when its uncomfortable, to step aside when necessary, and to use what power she does have to create equity.



Kerry Chomic, West Newbury
Recommended by Rep. Vargas



Cheryl Clapprod, Springfield
Recommended by Rep. Puppolo, Jr.

Acting Commissioner Cheryl Clapprod has served the Springfield Police Department for nearly 40 years. She rose up the ranks of the Police Department and became the Department's first female deputy chief in 2017. She has served as commander of the city's C3 policing program. She is a proud native of Springfield, and has done an outstanding job serving and protecting our City; she always has the best interest of the City at heart.

Anmary is the Director of Andover Elder Services where during the September 13, 2018 gas explosion she worked with community members that were impacted by the disaster, ensuring their core needs were met. Anmary does not seek fanfare; she jumps in and gets the job done. Her smile lights up a room and her enthusiasm is contagious. Anmary is passionate about community involvement and is a Board member of the YWCA of Greater Newburyport and Elder Services of the Merrimack. She is the person you can call on anytime for support or advice, and helps you find a solution. Anmary finds her most joy in her family.



Anmary Connor, Andover
Recommended by Rep. Moran

Theresa Cooper-Gordon is a champion for the vulnerable members of our society. She has over two decades of experience in human services and education as well as vast experience volunteering to help youth achieve their full potential. Her current projects are chairing the Holyoke Housing Authority, where she prioritizes access and resources for families in need; and Genuine Culture, an LLC she co-founded with her son that is dedicated to connecting across the generations through Hip-Hop, music, arts, curated events, and workshops.



Theresa Cooper-Gordon, Holyoke

Recommended by Rep. Vega



Kenisha Coy, Fitchburg

Recommended by Rep. Hay

Kenisha Coy is Executive Director and Impresario of My Care Initiative. My Care seeks to connect arts with as many people and communities as possible to effect positive change, growth, progress, and healing. My Care works to utilize the positive properties of the arts as a healing tool from abuse trauma and helps the youth in our community channel their energy in a positive way. Creating places of safety, fun, and learning via the arts is a personal mandate as well as professional passion for My Care. In other words, My Care CARES.

Her political insights, hard work, and calming personality make Marjie Crosby a key part of her community. She serves and volunteers on local boards like Pathways, an organization that works with adults who seek to learn or improve their English or obtain a high school equivalency, while planning out a career pathway leading to a job that pays a living wage. Marjie also volunteers as a math tutor for the E-Team machinist training program in Lynn, is head of the Election Committee of the Boston Teachers Union, and is a member of the Women's and Political Action Committees of the North Shore Labor Council. After stints at the Post Office and factories, she worked for 20 years as an Occupational Therapist in the Boston Public School system, where she was known for her professional and collegial skills and working closely with families, not just her students. One elected official once said Marjie can enter a room where no one agrees on anything and come out with a solution that makes everyone happy. No one knows her secret -- but it might be the chicken soup she drops off at the homes of ill or injured friends.



Marjie Crosby, Lynn

Recommended by Rep. Capano



Cheryl Crowe, Westfield

Recommended by Sen. Humason

Cheryl is one of the most dedicated, well-organized, focused, and friendly people I've ever met and she throws her whole self into everything she gets involved in. A US Air Force veteran, she handles everything with military efficiency. She is the quintessential cheerful volunteer, and a generous, warm, giving person. She is the former President of Westfield's Hampton Ponds Association, an organization she revamped and helped to grow and prosper. She worked tirelessly with the city and other volunteers to restore a neighborhood park and playground complete with new children's playground equipment and restored tennis courts. She is civically-minded and serves as a member of the Westfield Planning Board. Cheryl also volunteers for Artworks of Westfield, Inc., a non-profit group that makes art accessible to people of all ages throughout the community. She and her husband Mark are grandparents. Cheryl's philosophy of giving back to her community is best summed up by her quote "My heart smiles when I see other people smile!"



Mary E. Custard, Amherst
Recommended by Rep. Domb

Mary E. Custard began working at Amherst Regional High School (ARHS) 22 years ago. Students respect and value her ability to listen and support them to act on their concerns. She makes their world a better place and strengthens our community by her inspiring belief in – and support of – our youth. She supports students by attending athletic events, extracurricular activities, organizing service trips, overseeing activities, and mentoring many. She is well known and valued for her tireless work on behalf of students of color to assume leadership. Currently, she’s the Interim Assistant Principal and the MSAN (Minority Student Achievement Network) advisor where she encourages students to participate in the annual MSAN Conference and develop an ARHS action plan and assists in implementation. This year, the ARHS MSAN planned Mental Health Day featuring an all-school assembly with six mental health professionals of color, men and women. She is also the advisor for the student group POCU (People of Color United). POCU meets weekly to plan and conduct educational, cultural trips, community service activities and focus on social justice issues in the school and wider community.

Recently retired, Julianne DeAngelis served as the Reading Coalition Against Substance Abuse (RCASA) Outreach Coordinator in the Town of Reading. This, along with her past work, including an experienced background in treatment and addiction, exhibits her character and dedication to the community. She has demonstrated a continuing desire to enrich the lives of people around her. Julianne is enthusiastic, creative, hardworking, and committed to the continual improvement of the Town of Reading.



Julianne DeAngelis, Woburn
Recommended by Rep. Jones Jr.



Harriet Diamond, Newton
Recommended by Rep. Balsler

As a result of a medical condition with which she has lived, Harriet Diamond worked with her physician and nutritionist to found a non-profit organization called Foodicine Health. This organization is the only non-profit in the United States whose mission is educating the public about the importance of adhering to a special meal program as part of the treatment for certain chronic medical conditions and advocating for individuals who, because of their condition, have to follow a special diet. All done as volunteers, Harriet and her colleagues have developed educational programming to increase awareness in public places such as restaurants, supermarkets, public schools, colleges, hotels, and airports of the importance of accommodating people with chronic conditions. Additionally, she has developed activities to support patients' efforts to make the necessary lifestyle changes related to nutrition that will treat their medical condition. Harriet has worked with her State Representative to draft legislation that will study the public health impacts of added salt and sugars in food. She is truly a public health champion!

Arlene Dias was on the committee that established the WHCA-TV, a local broadcast service for the Whitman/Hanson area and has been on the board ever since. Currently, Arlene serves as the Chairperson/Health Agent for the Hanson Board of Health. Arlene has also organized one of the Relay for Life breast cancer nights (she herself is a survivor and was a nurse at Harvard Vanguard in Braintree). She has participated in Strides walks and other events to raise money for breast cancer. She walked her 25th Making Strides event in September 2018, 15 years as a survivor. She is committed to the cause of curing breast cancer.



Arlene Dias, Hanson
Recommended by Rep. Cutler

Amy has long been an advocate for those struggling with addiction and recovery. She has dedicated her life to ensuring that those who battle addiction receive the help that they need. In 2010, Amy and her family joined with Gosnold to begin hosting an annual road race in memory of her brother titled the David Lewis 5K – A Celebration of Recovery and Community. Since then, Amy has continued her advocacy through exercise at the Emerson House, where she has led weekly walks/runs and by establishing the non-profit organization, Wellstrong. The Wellstrong studio offers a safe, supportive, sober environment that allows people in all stages of recovery to participate in body and mind exercise activities that have been shown to reduce the rates of relapse. Amy is committed to providing clients with a successful and sustainable life in recovery.



Amy Doherty, Centerville
Recommended by Rep. Crocker



Sandi Drover, Peabody

Sandi and Sarah have championed the Health Peabody Collaborative which is an organization that works with students and young people in the community to promote healthy living, raise awareness about the dangers of substance abuse, and overall educate Peabody youth on the value of smart choices. Sarah and Sandi together have led this organization to be a staple in our community and because of their hard work and dedication, hundreds of Peabody students have been kept "above the influence" and have taken the proactive step of educating their peers in our schools. Peabody is lucky to have to Sandi and Sarah working tirelessly to keep Peabody students on a healthy well rounded path.

Recommended by Rep. Walsh



Sara Grinnell, Seabrook (NH)

Sandra has held many roles in the Worcester community over the past 20 years, but her biggest role is as world class organizer. As a labor organizer and registered nurse in her own right, she has organized members of Massachusetts Nurses Association in the struggle to keep community hospitals open, keep mental health services accessible, and for safe staffing and work conditions for nurses across the Commonwealth. As a community organizer she sits at the Worcester Community Labor Coalition table making sure that economic development also means community development, and that in the face of new growth in our city, there are good jobs and strong community benefits for residents, women, and people of color. With family as her foundation she is a natural team builder, loyal friend and mentor to many, and for all that we lovingly call her "Mama Bear".



Sandy Ellis, Worcester
Recommended by Rep. Keefe



Gail Farrell, Plymouth

Recommended by Rep. LaNatra

Gail Farrell is an incredible woman. She sees needs and finds ways to fill them with flair and creativity. In addition to her primary livelihood as a hairdresser and the Proprietor of "Salon Oasis", Gail co-founded and helps operate a shop in Plymouth called "New Again" which upcycles old materials into art and useful items for sale. Gail brings her creative talents to re-imagining objects which brings them new life. But the core reason for the store is to provide jobs, job training and a sustaining and supportive work environment for Gail's son Ben, a young adult with autism, and for other adults with developmental disabilities. New Again is a 501 c(3) non-profit organization. It offers an option to families who receive funding from the Department of Developmental Services or who can afford to pay some tuition. As with the objects they upcycle, Gail's creativity has helped to form an organization which benefits both the participants and society.



Diane Ferrari, long time Fund Coordinator for the Milton Residents Fund retired in November 2018 after 14 years of assisting the residents of Milton. The Milton Residents Fund and its programs provide critical support and assistance to Milton families. The organization is a small Milton based charity that operates through local donations, grants from the Governor Stoughton Trust and some charitable funds left to the First Parish Church in Milton. During her time as Fund Coordinator, she would oversee the granting of gifts around \$500 -\$1000 for low-income residents who were in need of assistance due to some extraordinary circumstance.

Diane Ferrari, Milton

Recommended by Rep. Driscoll, Jr.

Elaine Fiore has been a committed public servant and has served her community for a number of years, always seeking to do what is best for the most people. As Chair of the Sewer Committee, she helped to oversee the early implementation of a sewer treatment project and implemented a sewer by back program to help provide extra capacity to the town. When the Town of Kingston did not have an appropriate Technology Committee, she started one, and served as its interim IT Manager until the spot was filled. In 2013, Elaine ran for select board and won, and since joining the Board has helped to secure over \$3M in economic development grant money to further expand wastewater treatment. Elaine is a committed public servant and a valuable community member who is in it for all the right reasons.



Elaine Fiore, Kingston

Recommended by Sen. deMacedo



As an immigrant from Brava Cape Verde Island, Maria understands the pain and struggle to have to leave your place of birth, and move to an unknown land, to find a better life for your family. In 1977, the law did not allow for her parents to bring their children with them to the United States. Her parents had to leave Maria and her siblings, separating 6 children to go live with friends until they could send for them. Travel to the U.S. was not easy. Maria lost her little sister, and many of her siblings got sick. Despite the struggles in her early childhood, Maria thrived, investing more than 20 years doing work in her community. She gained experience working as a preschool teacher, social worker, counselor, and Lead organizer for social justice issues. Maria is an Organizer who is fluent in Cape Verdean creole, and Portuguese language that goes above and beyond. She maintains a positive attitude, and is a dedicated person who continues to work with others to make a difference, for my community, and Massachusetts.

Maria Fortes, New Bedford

Recommended by Rep. Cabral

In June of 1992, newly elected selectman, Everett L. Hardy, Jr. placed an ad in the newspaper asking for volunteers to serve on a committee to re-establish the Youth Commission in town. His goal was to renovate the vacant Marie S. Howard School to use as a Community Center. Nancy Francis, in addition to a few others, attended Everett's first meeting, and within three months had incorporated the Acushnet Community Services, Inc. In October 1997, their doors opened, and the Community Center continued operating successfully with no funding from the town until 2013. The Center ran successfully for 15 years with Nancy in charge for many of those years. She accomplished this while working as a full time high school math teacher from 1987 - 2014. When the Acushnet Public Library opened in 2015 at the former site of the Community Center, she joined the Friends of the Acushnet Public Library and then in 2016 was elected to the Library Board of Trustees. In the April town election, she will be on the ballot for another three year term on the Board. Nancy Francis has been a selfless volunteer in Acushnet for over two decades. Her determination and grit ensured that the Community Center and the Library well served the residents of her community.



Nancy Francis, Acushnet

Recommended by Rep. Hendricks

Annemarie Galvin is the Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator for The Town of Scituate and co-founder of the Scituate FACTS (Families, Adolescents and Communities Together against Substances) Coalition. She is a tireless advocate and grassroots organizer working to expand programming and awareness for substance use disorder and recovery options. Her efforts have resulted in increased access for individuals and their families to cope and get help with their recovery. Annemarie is a compassionate and driven professional that has connected every available resource within the Town of Scituate and South Shore communities to support those in need of help. Her exemplary attention to detail has resulted in numerous grants and funding opportunities for the community and families she serves. Annemarie is a champion for those in need and has dedicated her career to saving lives and supporting families.



Annemarie Galvin, Scituate
Recommended by Sen. O'Connor



Lyn Giacotti, Townsend
Recommended by Sen. Tran

Lyn Giacotti has been a consistent champion for the people of Townsend. For years, she has dedicated her time and money to helping those in need. As the head of Mommies Mobile Meals for eleven years, her team has arranged a week's worth of meals for community members in times of hardship. Additionally, she hosted numerous fundraisers to aid local causes including the Hawthorne Brook Middle School, a service dog for a child with Rett Syndrome, and the Townsend Ashby Youth Soccer Association. She served as a youth soccer coach and parent coordinator to help local kids develop their athletic abilities. As an advocate for mental health, she raised donations for the North Middlesex Suicide Prevention Program to ensure the community has enough resources to support people in their hour of need. Her work has brightened moods, lives, and made her community a much better place to live.

After the loss of her son, Barbara has worked tirelessly to address the issue of drug addiction in her community, so that no other families have to experience such a profound loss in their lives. Barbara founded "Gilly's House" in Wrentham in honor of her son, a residential program for young men who have struggled with addiction and want to continue their recovery. She offers them a stable, structured, supportive, and safe environment to achieve personal goals while attaining the transitional life skills necessary to reintegrate into community life. Further, Barbara is a member of the SAFE coalition, which seeks to support those with substance use disorder. In tackling this important issue, Barbara also maintains a full-time job traveling around the area to teach visually impaired students. Barbara is a true community leader who has dedicated her life to serving those around her.



Barbara Gillmeister, Wrentham
Recommended by Rep. Dooley



Bertha "Bea" Ginga, Southborough
Recommended by Rep. Dykema

Bertha "Bea" Ginga is a lifelong Southborough resident whose passion for community involvement makes her a deserving candidate for an Unsung Heroine Award. For decades, Bea has run the Southborough Village Society, a nonprofit that maintains and operates the historic Southborough Community House for local events. A breast cancer survivor, Bea works to put on annual Relay for Life events at Algonquin High School to raise money for the American Cancer Society. As an active member of and advocate for Southborough's senior community, she often volunteers her time at the Senior Center and works to support improved and expanded senior programming. Bea frequently delivers meals to families in need for Southborough's "Care Giver" program. Her community involvement also extends to working with local Boy Scouts and honoring veterans at annual events. Bea has become synonymous with the spirit of the Town, often referred to by residents as the unofficial "Mayor of Southborough."



Danielle Goldman, Swampscott
Recommended by Rep. Ehrlich

In 2018, Danielle co-founded Open Avenues Foundation (OAF), a non-profit with a mission to help others see and understand the lives of immigrants. When news broke in June 2018 about the separation of migrant families at the U.S.-Mexico border, Danielle joined a group of concerned citizens and flew to Texas border towns to see and learn first-hand of the plight of these families. She returned to Boston and immediately started an emergency campaign through OAF to reunite separated families at the border and to give financial support to those residing in Massachusetts. OAF partnered with Catholic Charities, Boston Medical Center, Jeff Goldman Immigration, and a volunteer network called Together & Free to support migrant families with legal representation, housing, and mental health care. As Executive Director, Danielle has led Open Avenues Foundation to a very successful launch, and is hard at work on the next phase of the non-profit's growth.

For over 30 years, Judy Gorman has worked alongside her husband coordinating "Kids Road Races" in Brockton, Massachusetts. The road races are held for eight consecutive weeks in both the spring and the fall. Thousands of children aged four to fourteen have participated for the family friendly cost of \$1.00. Judy and her husband also organize the Jingle Bell Run every December. Proceeds of the Jingle Bell Run provide funds to families in need during the Holiday season. In addition to the Jingle Bell Run, Judy has assisted numerous other organizations' charitable road races. Because of Judy's dedication and many years of volunteerism, thousands of children have enjoyed the health and wellness benefits of running programs as well as being part of a well-loved local tradition.



Judy Gorman, Brockton
Recommended by Rep. Cronin



Julie Greene, Billerica
Recommended by Rep. Lombardo

Julie Greene has been a Board member and advocate of the Billerica Boys and Girls Club for more than 30 years, and has served throughout those years in a very positive number of areas. Julie's primary role has been to organize and handle many of the details surrounding the Boys and Girls Club Annual Dinners. For many years the Dinner recognized a Man, Woman and Organization/Business of the Year, and more recently, inductees into the Boys and Girls Club Hall of Fame. Julie leads the committee as it determines nominations, organizes letters to the Honorees, obtains and coordinates guest lists, helps with the catering and finally, the set up and program for the evening itself-the club's largest annual event! Julie does an awesome job on all aspects of this event, making this event a highlight for the entire community every year. Julie has also been a tremendous and very active Board member seldom missing a meeting and participating in all discussions about the club and the club's future. A fantastic supporter of our kids and the club itself, Julie Greene is a great Board member and a devoted friend of the club! The Billerica Boys and Girls Club's success is indeed due in part to Julie Greene's dedication and commitment to the youth of Billerica.

Judy Grelle has been a mentor to youth for decades and in many capacities within the City of Methuen. Judy took her kindness, understanding and talent for mentoring youth to the leadership level first as a PTO Vice President, then President. If this were not enough in addition to her full - time employment, she simultaneously served on the City's Youth Sport's Commission. Next, she addressed a need for more opportunities for girls to play softball. Judy focused on the numerous operations requiring year round commitment: fundraising; facilities management; making sure the Girls fields were in the same condition as the Boys fields!!!; securing volunteers, establishing a scholarship program, leading opening day and the introduction of Fall Ball to the League. She is currently serving as Acting President of an incredible program that she helped to build from the ground up. Attending Opening day for girls softball sums up everything. It is a day where high school athletes take hundreds of girls by the hand and help to get them ready for their team to be introduced, families and coaches are everywhere, and community spirit is at its best. In the center of this great day is Judy getting everyone ready for that first pitch.



Judy Grelle, Methuen
Recommended by Rep. Dean Campbell

Reverend Victoria Guest has served the First Congregational Church in Natick since 1999. In addition to her role as pastor, Reverend Guest is the clergy coordinator of the annual Community MLK Service and has been a vocal advocate for sustainability and mitigating the effects of climate change through her work with the Climate Reality Project, Renewable Natick, and Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light. She is a part of the leadership team for Natick Is United, a wide-reaching town collaborative that stands up against hate and discrimination. Reverend Guest has been a long-time supporter of the anti-bullying program SPARK Kindness and Natick METCO. Reverend Guest organizes vigils and services at FCC to bring greater attention to the opioid crisis and serves as the clergy representative on Natick Together for Youth, a coalition addressing the issue of substance misuse. Her commitment to creating an open and affirming society has made Reverend Guest an integral part of the Natick community.



Victoria Guest, Natick
Recommended by Rep. Linsky



Theresa Harmon, Plymouth
Recommended by Rep. Muratore

Childhood cancer led Theresa Harmon to dedicate her life to serving people in need. In 2013, Theresa and her husband adopted a baby born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome. In 2017, Theresa began a support group for caregivers of children born substance exposed. These group meetings confirmed that caregivers were struggling to find services for their children. In 2018 while battling breast cancer, Theresa developed To The Moon And Back, a 501(C)(3) dedicated to children born with in utero substance exposure and their caregivers. Theresa also serves on the board of Together Through NAS, a nonprofit that develops caregiver packages for caregivers of children born with NAS to take home from the hospital. She was the former Secretary of the Kiwanis Club of Plymouth and currently works at Brigham and Women's Hospital as a high-risk case manager. Theresa deserves this award as a survivor who fights for others first, even when she's fighting for herself.

Robin Harris has been the principal of Fletcher Maynard Academy since 2000. While there, she has demonstrated her tireless dedication to serving the children of Cambridge. She created the International Traveling program, which was inspired by her childhood of traveling the world due to her being part of an Air Force family. Ms. Harris ensures that every child, regardless of income, is able to go on these trips, often contributing her own money so that low income students are able to join their peers. Ms. Harris believes that the key to the success of every student is developing a relationship with the students' family. She makes it her personal goal to get to know every family, and by doing so, she gets to know the student and how she can best help them to succeed. Ms. Harris has touched the lives of so many children across Cambridge.



Robin Harris, Cambridge
Recommended by Sen. DiDomenico



Cathy Horn, Hyde Park
Recommended by Rep. Scaccia

Cathy Horn is a resident of Hyde Park and the tireless founder of Keep Hyde Park Beautiful. Originally established as an informal group of neighbors to address littering, Keep Hyde Park Beautiful has become an impressive organization of hands-on volunteers who regularly work to beautify the residential and commercial areas of Hyde Park. From multiple clean-ups throughout the year to the maintenance of donated plants and greenery, her efforts inspire community spirit and action. Cathy also serves as Secretary on the Hyde Park Main Streets Executive Board, where she helps to support and promote new and established small businesses. She is a true believer in the phrase "Find something that needs to be done and be the one to do it," and our neighborhood is simply better because of her commitment to this principle.



Chobee Hoy, Brookline

Recommended by Sen. Creem

Chobee Hoy, a longtime resident of Brookline and prominent real estate agent, is known for her commitment to philanthropy and her contributions to the Brookline community. After moving to Brookline in 1960, Chobee immediately began volunteering with the Girl Scouts and at the Boston State Hospital serving the mentally ill. Today, Chobee serves on the board of many local nonprofit organizations in Brookline. Chobee was honored by the Brookline High School 21st Century Fund in 2010 for her time spent supporting education, the environment, and the arts. She also received the Distinguished Public Service Award from the Rotary Club of Brookline in 2006 for her tireless work within the community. She volunteers at various organizations, The Brookline Education Foundation, The Coolidge Corner Theatre Foundation, The Brookline Music School, Women and Girls Thriving in Brookline, Brookline Adult and Community Education, Brookline Council for the Arts and Humanities, Brookline Rotary, Brookline Community Mental Health Center, Brookline Chamber of Commerce, The Brookline Teen Center, and Brookline Youth Awards.

Patricia Jacotin is a recent addition to our Lexington community who is already making a tremendous impact. Moving to town with an MPH from NYU in Community Health and an MBA from John's Hopkins in Healthcare and Hospitality Management, she immediately dove in to civic life. Last year, she served as co-president of the Bridge Elementary School PTA and continues that work in a new role, this year as co-chair of the Special Education Parent Advisory Council and the Special Education Parent Teacher Association. When she's not volunteering for the Community Endowment of Lexington, the Association for Black Citizens of Lexington, or the Lexington Education Foundation, she can be found chairing the LexFun Fundraising Committee, which last year raised \$76,000, half of which goes to families who need financial assistance for sending their children to preschool. Her contributions to the community are numerous, and she is undoubtedly only just getting started!



Patricia Jacotin, Lexington

Recommended by Rep. Ciccolo



Ana M. Javier, Lawrence

Recommended by Rep. Devers

Ana Javier has been a long-standing community leader in the city of Lawrence. Through her work with the Lawrence-Methuen Community Coalition, Ana has worked tirelessly to advocate for individuals and families struggling with addiction. Through her church, Ana leads a weekly support group for those impacted by drug and alcohol abuse. This past year, Ana was named as the Merrimack Valley's representative to the governor's task force on hate crimes and she put together a public education event in Lawrence to raise awareness of the issue. Ana has become a powerful voice for her community through her work with MVP. She was an active participant in both the housing and Trust Act campaigns and continues to be a strong ally in MVP's ongoing immigration work here in the Valley. Most recently, Ana helped MVP ally with local environmental partners after the gas explosions to distribute over 300 electric cooktops and dozens of blankets to families in need.

Dr. Nandana Kansra exemplifies the qualities of an unsung heroine. An Internal Medicine Physician with Saint Vincent Medical Group, Dr. Kansra emphasizes overall health and wellness goals for her patients. A true partner in her patient's healthcare, she hosts weekly sessions of Walk With a Doc, a healthcare provider led exercise session encouraging physical activity to mitigate the consequences of a sedentary lifestyle. Dr. Kansra volunteers weekly at St. Anne's Free Medical Clinic and has twice traveled with her colleagues on service trips through Partners in Development, traveling to Haiti and Guatemala. During these trips, she and her team see as many as 100 patients a day, many of whom have never seen a doctor. She and her family sponsor children in Haiti and Uganda and have inspired others to do the same. Dr. Kansra's commitment to wellness in her own community and abroad makes her a true unsung heroine.



Nandana Kansra, Shrewsbury

Recommended by Rep. Kane

Emily displays the utmost character with honesty and integrity each and every day. She is kind and compassionate to all that she comes into contact with. She has recently created a children's book on Women Empowerment with her own writings and illustrations. She has recreated the weight room floor platform with the artwork displaying images of East Bridgewater Vikings. She has begun designing murals on the bathroom walls to depict school spirit and enhance school culture.



Emily Keane, East Bridgewater
Recommended by Rep. Sullivan



Lisa Kelley is dedicated to the betterment of the Central Massachusetts region, and is passionate about assisting senior citizens and those who face challenges in their lives. No task is too large or small for Lisa, who always goes above and beyond to help seniors lead healthy and active lives. Though Lisa serves as outreach coordinator at the Grafton Senior Center, her commitment extends far beyond the operating hours of the center. Whether it's dropping off warm meals, or organizing events, Lisa continues to devote her own time toward advocating for seniors and persons with disabilities. Lisa also volunteers her time serving as an elected member of the Grafton Housing Authority. She has consistently demonstrated her commitment to the betterment of the town of Grafton and the improvement of the quality of life for all residents.

Lisa Kelley, North Grafton
Recommended by Sen. Moore

Dee's volunteer work in Waltham focuses on environment, agriculture, and affordable housing. In 1988 she was a co-founder and Board President of the Waltham Alliance to Create Housing, Community Development Corporation, where she advocated for inclusionary zoning ordinances. WATCH recently celebrated its 30th anniversary and continues to benefit low and moderate income families. As a gardener, Dee helped form the Green Rows of Waltham Community Gardens at the Waltham Field Station. She volunteered her organizing skills to stabilize Community Farms Outreach and served as Board President during its transition into Waltham Fields Community Farm. She continues to organize protection efforts for the Field Station. Dee served six years with the Waltham Land Trust Board and currently works with its Land Committee in developing the Western Greenway. A retired public school teacher, Dee enjoys art-making and cycling. Her inspiration comes from friends who improve our communities through volunteering and local advocacy.



Dee Kricker, Waltham
Recommended by Sen. Barrett



Sandra A. Lane, Danvers
Recommended by Rep. Speliotis

Sandy Lane's faith and concern for others have made her church, community, and country stronger and better for all. She is active at church, inside and out, including through the Saint Vincent DePaul Society. Sandy was Regent of her Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court and Chairperson for the State Catholic Daughters National Charities Project. She was a founding member of the Essex County Medical Technologist Association and on DPH's Advisory Committee for Revision of Blood Bank/Transfusion Regulations. A Kiwanian and elected Town Meeting member for many years she has also served on the town's Preservation Commission, Preservation Fund, Friends of the Council on Aging, and on the Board of Danvers Access Television. Sandy's unwavering patriotism is evident in her volunteer leadership with Operation Troop Support where she helps lead the collection of toiletries and other items for the troops. Countless individuals' lives have been enriched through Sandy's hard work.



Vicky is a foster mom who has experienced receiving foster children that show up at her door with nothing. She created an organization for foster parents to be able to share clothing and supplies, formula, and baby furniture. It has grown to helping low income families in the area, such as; parents that have emergencies, schools that notice children may be in need, or a family that is struggling. Everything is donated, there is no money exchanged for anything. She has been able to help so many families. Vicky is a single mom to four foster children and she works full time. She has two adult children that help her and care for these children as well. Vicky has been a great source in helping to get the Bill of Foster Parent Rights to the forefront of legislation that was filed this year. She is an amazing person with the biggest heart.

Vicky LeBlanc, Spencer

Recommended by Rep. Berthiaume, Jr

Jennifer Leonard lives in Boston, where she blends her consulting business with active community and volunteer involvement. She is an active volunteer with the Southwest Corridor Park and is co-chair of the Park Management Advisory Committee (PMAC). Jennifer started a mini-grant program to provide youth and family programming in the park. She has also started a children’s garden in the Southwest Corridor Park in Jackson Square, with children from the Mildred Hailey Apartments and surrounding neighborhood. Through these projects, over 200 children and family members participate in active programming each summer. Through The Skills Library, Jennifer works with the statewide School-to-Career Connecting Activities program, to support internship and summer employment projects for communities. Over 10,000 students and 4,000 employers participate in internships and summer jobs each year, enriched by a focus on career skills such as leadership, creativity, active learning, STEM skills and more.



Jennifer Leonard, Boston

Recommended by Rep. Santiago



In 2014, Jennifer had recently returned to Franklin, and was astonished to hear the heartbreaking stories of those struggling with heroin addiction in the community. She urged the creation of a warm, kind, and sustainable education platform for this matter. She envisioned a support system for people to come together to grieve and heal. From that, Jennifer went on to become one of the founders of the SAFE Coalition, a regional coalition of community partners who provide a pathway for support, education, treatment options and coping mechanisms for those affected by substance use disorder. The Coalition has grown in the past 5 years, becoming one of the strongest in Massachusetts. The Coalition provides “Community Conversations” about substance use and prevention, Support Groups, a Support Telephone Line, Narcan training, a High School Peer-to-Peer Advisory Group, and a comprehensive Resource Manual for those suffering from the disease of addiction. Jennifer now serves as the SAFE President and through her efforts many lives have been saved and many people are on the pathway to recovery.

Jennifer Levine, Franklin

Recommended by Rep. Roy

Lorraine has dedicated her life to improving the quality of life for South Boston residents through her volunteer efforts with countless organizations. She volunteers and sits on the Board of Directors for South Boston Special Kids and Young Adults, an organization which helps children and families with developmental disabilities. She helped establish the Stephanie Uftring Memorial Scholarship which provides financial assistance to local youth. Lorraine also volunteers with the South Boston Neighborhood House, the South Boston Citizens' Association, and the South Boston Irish American Society. Outside of her community, Lorraine has done, and continues to do, a tremendous amount of work to support families and individuals affected by breast cancer. For years, she organized a charity golf tournament to benefit the Avon Breast Cancer Walk to help fund research and treatment of breast cancer. Lorraine also participates in the Runway for Recovery, a non-profit organization that provides assistance to families who have loved ones being treated for breast cancer.



Lorraine Linehan, South Boston

Recommended by Rep. Biele

Cynthia Loesch-Johnson has been a community advocate since early in her life, fighting back against big tobacco and predatory business tactics, and championing neighborhood improvements in greenspace and streetscape cleanliness. She currently serves as the President of the Codman Square Neighborhood Council, a neighborhood association that is committed to community improvement through health, opportunity, and collaboration. Cynthia and others on the Council empower their neighbors through communication with local stakeholders, including elected officials, businesses, and nonprofit organizations. Most recently, the Council has been working with a diverse group of organizations to improve Codman Park. Cynthia's dedication to public health, environmental justice, and sustainable communities is second to none, and I can think of no one more deserving of the 2019 Unsung Heroine Award.



Cynthia Loesch-Johnson, Dorchester
Recommended by Sen. Collins



Dorothy "Dottie" MacKeen, Maynard

Recommended by Rep. Hogan

Dorothy "Dottie" MacKeen believes that being a member of a vibrant community means being involved in creating it. Every corner of the Maynard community has benefited from this mission. Dottie's behind-the-scenes leadership at the Maynard Public Library (MPL) has expanded the library's breadth of programming and opportunity. There are few roles at the library she has not taken on – and in championing community engagement and high-level programming, she has been instrumental in bringing people together around books. As a volunteer at Open Table for more than a decade, she is passionate about connecting residents of all ages to healthy food. Alongside shopping and serving, she helped the organization develop its client shopping experience – now a part of Open Table's fabric of getting food to families in a culture of respect. Dottie also serves on the board of the Maynard Farmer's Market and is actively involved in its outreach.

Maryanne MacLeod has been an active and cherished resident of the town of Sterling for over fifty years. From the 1980's to the early 2000's, Maryanne was involved in various town boards and committees where she was able to advocate for numerous grants ranging from funding for the preservation of public and natural spaces to promoting Sterling's historical and artistic heritage. Beyond Sterling, she has been involved in several projects in Berlin, Clinton, and Lancaster where she played an active role recording archaeological prehistoric sites (Sterling and Lancaster), Chaired the Berlin Pipeline Study Committee, and writing historical portions for several grants, including the Rauscher Farm in Clinton. Maryanne has devoted her life to serve and volunteer for the betterment of her community. The spirit, environment, and heritage of our communities are undoubtedly improved because of her years of passion and engagement.



Maryanne MacLeod, Sterling
Recommended by Rep. Naughton



Nancy Malone, North Grafton

Recommended by Rep. Muradian, Jr.

Nancy Malone is a tremendous asset to the Town of Grafton as the Office Manager of the Grafton Senior Center. This is none more apparent than by her work with the elder community on a daily basis. She is compassionate, caring, kind and patient all while being a consummate professional. Her knowledge of the administrative functions as well as her ability to work effectively with the members of the Council on Aging Board are a vital part of the town's nature. Nancy maintains a welcoming and nurturing atmosphere in the Grafton Senior Center, where seniors have not only come to expect her warming smile, but rely on it to help them through many days.



Jody Marchand, Westford
Recommended by Rep. Arciero

Jody Marchand founded the Live for Liv Foundation after her precious daughter, Olivia (“Liv”), died at age 17, in an act of domestic violence. In the same attack, Jody was shot twice in the head, miraculously surviving. The annual Ride for Liv/Run for Liv benefits shelters and programs designed to help domestic violence victims. Jody is the oldest of four siblings. She grew up in Chelmsford, where she was active in the Girl Scouts, church groups and athletics. Her sister Jill Toney described her as “fearless,” “athletic,” “smart” and “bold.” “What I remember most is her working all the time and they were jobs helping people,” said Toney. “Yet, Liv was the love of her life,” added Toney. “She put endless energy into being the most incredible mother and provided every opportunity for (Olivia). For her to get up every day and face life without her (daughter)... she is just so brave.”

For the past 21 years Terri Marciello has been the guiding force behind the success of the Wilmington Department of Elderly Services. As the energetic and innovative Director of Elderly Services, she has led the town’s efforts to provide a wide range of programming and services to Wilmington’s senior population. She presides over a vibrant and welcoming senior center that provides a myriad of social, recreational and cultural opportunities to hundreds of people who avail themselves of the daily offerings at the center. More importantly she has greatly expanded the town’s outreach and social services programming to provide care and guidance to both homebound elders and their caregivers. She personally involves herself in the town’s vast network of social services working in close collaboration with the public health nurse, the police department and the Veterans’ Services director. Working in conjunction with the school department, Terri established intergenerational programming that brings seniors and school age children together. Thanks to her professionalism, dedication and boundless energy, she has become an influential presence in the Town of Wilmington.



Theresa Marciello, Wilmington
Recommended by Sen. Tarr



Jackie Marte, Haverhill
Recommended by Sen. DiZoglio

Jackie is richly deserving of this recognition, having positively impacted communities across the Merrimack Valley through her non-profit work. She is co-founder of Suenos Basketball, a non-profit organization that offers young, at-risk children both academic and athletic support. Through this program, Jackie has helped countless children develop the skills needed to succeed both in and out of the classroom. As a member of the executive council of the Merrimack Valley Project, a group of regional faith, labor and community leaders, Jacqueline has done extraordinary work taking action on economic and social justice issues and been dedicated to helping those battling addiction in this opioid epidemic.

Karen Martin is an active member of her community through the North Parish Unitarian Universalist Church. Mrs. Martin works tirelessly for climate justice through this organization, continually meeting with her state representative’s office to lobby for climate justice and encourage passage of legislation to protect our environment. Mrs. Martin has been a huge influence in keeping climate change policies at the forefront of our legislative priorities, and her hard work and dedication deserve to be honored and celebrated.



Karen Martin, Boxford
Recommended by Rep. Mirra

Freelance writer and progressive activist Mary McClintock joined Community Action Pioneer Valley as Community Collaboration Coordinator in 2017. Mary has always been a community builder. She helped start Greenfield's Free Harvest Supper of Locally Grown Food and Greenfield's Weekly Peace Vigil, wrote a Greenfield Recorder local food column for 10 years, was interim director of the Franklin County Community Meals Program, and organizes events for local lesbians. She chairs Conway's Planning Board and helped start Conway's Pre-Town Meeting Dessert Potluck and Discussion. Mary's work has affected thousands in our region. Recently, she advocated for individuals experiencing homelessness in Greenfield, helping them find services and shelter, while working with homeless individuals, service providers, and civic leaders to identify steps to solve the challenge of homelessness. Mary believes deeply that we are all in this together and works daily to bring people together for the greater good of our communities.



Mary McClintock, Conway
Recommended by Rep. Blais



Mary Ann McDonald, Somerset
Recommended by Rep. Haddad

Mary Ann McDonald is a retired educator, having taught in the Somerset, Massachusetts public schools for all of her professional career. Mary Ann has been studying, writing, and talking about Somerset's history for most of her adult life. She is the author / editor of two publications documenting Somerset history, and there is a third publication in the works. She has supplied several articles for publication in the local press and has given many presentations on local history in a variety of venues, including Somerset Public Schools. Mary Ann served on the Somerset Historical Commission for over thirty years and is the co-founder of an all-volunteer, non-profit organization called "Friends of Somerset Historic Preservation." Their goal is to identify, commemorate, and preserve Somerset's historic and cultural assets. In 2017, the Somerset Board of Selectmen appointed Mary Ann as Town Historian.

Jennessa McQuade started working as the part-time Substance Abuse Outreach Clinician for the Leominster Police Department in 2017. Initially, her position focused on support services to any person or family member of a person who has a substance abuse problem and would like assistance in beginning the recovery process. However, Jennessa saw the need to have someone specifically tasked with regularly engaging with the homeless population in Leominster, and took on that work herself. With her help, the LPD now coordinates the Combating Homelessness Committee, which gathers representatives of area social services agencies regularly to strategize how best to tackle the homelessness problem. They've also raised money for a new fund to pay for trips to detox facilities and homeless shelters throughout the state, replacing the rides officers had been regularly providing those needing help with their addictions.



Jennessa McQuade, Littleton
Recommended by Rep. Higgins



Jessica Michaud, Dracut
Recommended by Rep. Nangle

Born in Lowell and currently residing in Dracut, Massachusetts, Jessica Michaud has been remarkable in her perseverance and determination to beat cancer, continue her education, and help others. She has succeeded on all three fronts. After graduating from Fitchburg State College in 2003, she went on to earn a Master's degree in Special Education. Since 2010, she has been an instructor for students with social and emotional disabilities at the Leblanc Therapeutic Day School in Lowell. At the Leblanc School, she started a running club for the students, and has assisted them in running charity races throughout the Merrimack Valley. Jessica also ran the Boston Marathon in 2016, and with a team of friends and co-workers raised over \$20,000 for the Boston-based Ally Foundation. Since being diagnosed with cancer last year, Jessica was determined to use her time and energy to help others; one of her passions has been coordinating a card writing group that sends personalized notes to young children who are undergoing cancer treatment. Jessica is an inspiration to so many. Rather than run away from a problem or challenge, she sprints toward a solution.



Barbara Miranda, Belmont

Recommended by

Sen. Brownsberger and Rep. Rogers

Barbara Miranda is a pillar of the Belmont community who has contributed decades of community and public service, including as a Town Meeting Member for 31 years, a President of POMS (Parents of Music Students), a candidate for the Board of Selectmen, a founding board member of the Foundation for Belmont Education, a Chair of the Council on Aging, and as a legislative staffer for Belmont's elected state legislators in the House and Senate, including most recently as Chief of Staff to Senator Brownsberger prior to her retirement in January 2017. Barbara worked tirelessly and successfully to bring a state-of-the-art senior center to Belmont. Barbara has been the best kind of friend — one who will actually help you in a time of need — to thousands of people. She doesn't let up when there is a way to make a difference for a person.

Liz serves as a Safe Plan and Court Advocate at The Elizabeth Freeman Center in Berkshire County and has for the last 22 years. The Elizabeth Freeman center provides lifesaving, life renewing help to survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their families. Liz provides assistance with restraining orders and talks with victims to get them the services they need, including income support, medical care, education and training, legal assistance, help with bills, and finding safe and affordable housing. Liz also provides an energy that reflects the level of compassion and warmth, which is indispensable in helping victims, as she often stands between the person applying for the restraining order and their abuser. She provides the safety and guidance needed in assisting victims in gaining their lives back. Through Liz's commitment and energy she has been a strong leader building bridges of cohesiveness and awareness through stand outs, education, and community forums on this significant issue facing our community.



**Elizabeth "Liz" Mitchell,
North Adams**

Recommended by Rep. Barrett



Nancy Munson, Dartmouth

Recommended by Sen. Rodrigues

Nancy Munson has distinguished herself as a strong advocate for elders and disabled individuals in 15 Bristol County communities. She has dedicated more than 35 years of her career to Bristol Elder Services, Inc. (BES), a nonprofit organization. As Bristol's Elder Services CEO, Nancy is passionate about promoting community-based living and quality of life for consumers. She demonstrates her commitment through local, regional, and state-wide organizations where she brings elder issues to the forefront. Nancy is a member of the Department of Transitional Assistance Advisory Board; Mass Home Care; and serves as the Chair Elect of the Providers' Council. Since 2016, Nancy has tirelessly championed to make Fall River a Dementia Friendly Community. To date, 54 sessions have been conducted for 1,200 people, which has led to Fall River's designation as a Dementia Friendly Community.

Jennifer is an advocate and dedicated member of the Needham community. She is involved with the League of Women Voters, the Temple Beth Shalom of Needham, and the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence. Through the League of Women voters, she is a legislative specialist focusing on immigration and gun control policy; additionally she is a board member for the Needham chapter of the League of Women Voters. She serves on the social justice committee at Temple Beth Shalom, where she aids in the implementation of social action to support the community. With the MA Coalition, Jennifer is the legislative action co-chair and is a strong advocate in the community for protecting children from gun violence. Jennifer was a key voice while the House and Senate debated the red flag gun safety law last session. Through her involvement and community organizing, she brought a key voice — that of a mother — to the debate, which helped the bill cross the finish line and be signed into law. Jennifer's commitment to serving the community is outstanding. She logs long hours working for justice, and is truly an unsung heroine in our community and in our Commonwealth.



Jennifer Muroff, Needham

Recommended by Rep. Garlick

Lisa Normandin has worked for the Town of Lunenburg for over 30 years, is an original member of the Lunenburg Turkey Hill Family Lions Club, and currently serves as the Club's president. Last year, when a grain silo collapsed and destroyed Cherry Hill Barn, a beloved landmark and family farm in Lunenburg, Lisa and the Lion's Club sprang into action, raising over \$60,000 to help offset costs for the family and rebuild the barn. Also through the Lions Club, Lisa plans fundraising events to benefit the local food pantry they operate. Every Thanksgiving, Lisa organizes the distribution of more than 120 Thanksgiving baskets to needy families. Lisa's three decades of quiet commitment to bettering her community and helping those in need is why she is deserving of recognition as an Unsung Heroine of Massachusetts.



Lisa Normandin, Lunenburg
Recommended by Rep. Benson



Susan M. Paley, Newton
Recommended by Rep. Khan

Susan Paley is the vice president of community relations at The Village Bank and is the president of the Rotary Club of Newton. Ms. Paley currently serves on the boards of the Newton Cultural Alliance and Historic Newton, as well as various committees of the Newton Needham Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Paley has organized financial literacy courses at Newton's two high schools, and directed the Village Bank's purchase of an online financial literacy program that is available to the high schools free of charge. Ms. Paley's commitment to her community is a part of everything she does and her passion shines through the projects and events she puts together to help Newton families.

A former Brockton schoolteacher, Allyne Pecevich has dedicated her life to helping others. Through her professional career and volunteer work Allyne has consistently given a voice to all residents in the City of Brockton. She has worked with and advocated for: students with disabilities, residents of public housing, and domestic violence victims, to name a few. A fierce advocate for women, Allyne was formerly Chairwoman of the Governor's Commission on Women. She continues to be politically active in our community and is a strong champion for social justice. Allyne's passion for her fellow man and love for Brockton are unparalleled. She is truly deserving of the Unsung Heroine Award.



Allyne Pecevich, Brockton
Recommended by Rep. Cassidy



Danielle Pimenta, Maynard
Recommended by Sen. Eldridge

Danielle Pimenta is a history teacher at Framingham High School and a resident of Maynard. As a mother with a son with dyslexia, she has been a forceful advocate over the past four years to successfully pass the Dyslexia Screening bill, requiring all public schools to screen children for dyslexia. She is part of Decoding Dyslexia Massachusetts, and has lobbied legislators at the State House to pass the bill, which was signed into law by Governor Charlie Baker in 2018. Danielle is also a leader with the Maynard Special Education Parents Advisory Council to advocate for children with special needs in the Maynard public schools. Finally, as a second-generation immigrant from Brazil, Danielle is a co-founder of Maynard Welcomes You, a local organization committed to making sure that all residents and families in Maynard feel welcome, including immigrants.



Jean Bates Pratt has been a distinguished member of the Wayland Codification Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals, Zoning By-Law Study Committee, Charter Commission and the League of Women Voters and has earned the respect and admiration of her family, friends, and members of her community and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She has also served as Clerk of the First Parish Unitarian Church, chair of the rummage sale, and member of the Ministerial Relations Committee. Jean Bates Pratt has served her community through membership and leadership in the Next Steps Program, Manpower, Natick Quartermaster, Campfire Girls.

Jean Bates Pratt, Wayland
Recommended by Rep. Gentile

Edna is a proud Senior Action member and veteran community activist. She holds an RN Diploma from Freedmen’s Hospital, Howard University and B.S and M. Ed degrees from Boston University. She is a veteran having served in the USA F Nurse Corps. When moving from England where she lived for five years, to Boston, she was hired as the first Black nurse at the Massachusetts General Hospital Clinics. While in basic training for the Air Force Nurse Corps in Montgomery, Alabama she witnessed the Bus Boycott as a result of Rosa Parks’ action and remembers listening weekly to Dr Martin Luther King Junior speak to the people, encouraging them to continue. The experience left a profound impression on her and her commitment to social justice. She retired from Northeastern University where she served as Associate Dean of Students for 17 years and subsequently worked as an advisor to Low Income, 1st generation students and adults going to college at the Higher Education Information Center. Edna has also served as Chair of the Boards of the Boston YWCA and Boston Senior Home Care and First Vice-President of the Bunker Hill Community College Board of Trustees. She currently serves on the Ethos Board, an ASAP. Now, at 86 years, she stays busy advocating and taking action as a member of Mass Senior Action Board and the Steering Committee for MSAC’s ‘Bridge the Gap’ Campaign to make Health Care more affordable to Massachusetts residents aged 65 and over.



Edna Pruce, Boston
Recommended by Rep. Cullinane



Sally Quinn has improved the lives of generations of Winchester residents through her decades of service. She has worked behind the scenes serving our schools by volunteering on multiple Parent Teacher Organizations, serving for years as Town Meeting member, working on political campaigns and working tirelessly for many non-profit groups. In addition to her years of volunteer service throughout Winchester, Sally was the vice-president and president of Wright-Lock Farm Conservancy. She is currently the president of Wright-Lock Land Trust and is working to make Wright Locke Farm usable all year round by fundraising for a new all-seasons barn. This all-seasons barn will be an education center that is key to the long-term sustainability of Wright-Locke Farm

Sally Quinn, Winchester
Recommended by Rep. Day

Eileen Recore is a proud ICU registered nurse at Worcester’s UMass-Memorial University Campus and member of the Massachusetts Nurses Association. She spends each of her days healing and saving lives. In her personal and professional life, she works to fight injustice everywhere in her community. Her strong moral compass drives her. Her beautiful family, her nursing career, her faith and her passion to help people drive her to motivate, educate and agitate her community. She is a voice for those in the 17th Worcester District who have no voice. With kindness and grace, she fights her heart out for those who need a helping hand... our neighbors facing homelessness, food insecurity, the un/and-under-employed and those who need awareness and education navigating our impossible healthcare system. She is kind and patient in everything she does. Her husband Tim, daughter Kayla and son Liam must be incredibly proud.



Eileen Recore, Worcester
Recommended by Rep. LeBoeuf

Donna Segreti Reilly has been a community volunteer in Winthrop for more than 40 years. She has served with distinction on numerous committees and as a valued member of many local organizations. As a wife and mother, Donna personifies the values of family, community and public service. In 1988 she organized a group of citizens to honor the town's Vietnam veterans with the dedication of a plaque at the high school. She helped recruit people to participate in a community health assessment with Massachusetts General Hospital. As a member and Chair of the Winthrop School Committee she also organized a health education review committee. She volunteered as the public relations contact for the Sons of Italy for twenty years. In her retirement Donna has remained active as a communicator of events of local interest, with her extensive email contact list. The Town of Winthrop is a better place to live and raise a family because of Donna.



Donna Segreti Reilly, Winthrop
Recommended by Rep. DeLeo



Beth L. Reynolds, Ashland
Recommended by Sen. Spilka

When she became the Town of Ashland's first economic development director in early 2016, Beth Reynolds brought a remarkable sense of caring for the quality of people's experiences, which she had honed during an outstanding career in hospitality and member services. Since then, Beth's zeal to connect her fellow Ashland residents to great experiences, to resources, and to each other has resulted in a sense of community and an energy for shared goals that is known throughout town. She has stimulated Ashland's economy by attracting new businesses, revived the Ashland Business Association, formulated plans for a transformative renovation of downtown, and created inspiring, multigenerational events. Within six months, Beth mobilized the community to convert a vacant lot into "The Corner Spot," which offers pop-up locations for entrepreneurs, food and cultural events, and a landscaped play area. Beth's exciting vision for The Corner Spot attracted many volunteer hours and a wide range of monetary donations from citizens galvanized by her contagious love of community.

Marie Richardson is a Caseworker at Taconic High School, she is a strong advocate, mentor and passionate supporter of students during and beyond the end of the school day. Ms. Richardson is committed to helping students be their best selves; she encourages academic excellence, helps find employment, complete college applications, take them on college tours and is often one of their biggest cheerleaders. Her office has been regarded as a safe space for students particularly those feeling alienated and disconnected. The students affectionately call her Ms. Rich. As a volunteer, she is an advisor to Taconic book clubs, Social Justice Club and Co-Cultural Competency trainer for Pittsfield Public Schools. In the community she serves on the City of Pittsfield homeless committee.



Marie Richardson, Pittsfield
Recommended by
Rep. Farley-Bouvier



Skyla Rimple, Mashpee
Recommended by Sen. Cyr

Skyla is a high school freshman at Mashpee Middle-High School, and an incredible young leader in the Mashpee community. Skyla is the student representative to the Mashpee School Committee, a past Project 351 Ambassador, and now alumni leader. As a Project 351 Ambassador in 2018 she led local clothing collection drives for Cradles to Crayons, coordinated a project to write cards to U.S. Troops serving overseas in partnership with the Massachusetts Military Heroes Fund, and organized a food collection drive in coordination with food pantries on Cape Cod. Now as an alumni leader in 2019, she's coaching other Ambassadors across Cape Cod to organize service projects in their towns. Mashpee Schools Superintendent Patricia DeBoer said, "Skyla has always been one of the kindest young people I know, striving to understand and honor the perspective of others, and reaching out to include everyone, especially those who are often left out." Skyla is also active in the National Honor Society, the Girl Scouts, Boys & Girls Club of Cape Cod, and has a history of community service for the MSPCA and the Boston Children's Hospital.



Denise M. Rochon, Springfield
Recommended by Sen. Welch

Denise has spent countless hours of her own time using her professional experience in accounting to protect and advocate for all residents of Massachusetts who are senior, disabled, lower wage, and receive federal and state-funded health insurance programs. Through her incredible knowledge and expertise in the field, tireless research, and selfless advocacy she has been instrumental in writing carefully crafted legislation. She has also brought to light issues of great importance to her state and federal delegations and beyond. To my knowledge, Denise has never received any recognition for stellar work in the private sector nor has she ever received the platitudes she deserves for her passion, dedication, and self-willed service to people with disabilities, lower wage residents, and seniors in Springfield and all of the Commonwealth. Without this opportunity from the MCSW, Denise's solo mission would be absolutely unsung as she does it without an affiliation to a non-profit, of her volition, and because of her sense of fairness and duty to others.

Dr. Gloria Rudisch is currently the Director of Child Health Services for the Brookline Dept. of Health and Human Services for Brookline, Massachusetts. From 1971 to 2007, she was the Director of Child Health Services for the Public Schools of Brookline. In addition to her professional work, she is an active and valued member of a number of community boards including the Brookline Community Mental Health Center, Rotary of Brookline, the Brookline Medical Reserve Corps, the Brookline Commission for Women, and the Domestic Violence Roundtable, which she co-founded. Not only does she provide her time, experience, and knowledge towards helping those in need, but she danced to provide critical funding for the Jennifer A. Lynch Committee Against Domestic Violence in the Brookline Rotary "Dancing with the Stars" fundraising competition!



Gloria Rudisch, Brookline
Recommended by Rep. Vitolo



Marcia Sanford, Westfield
Recommended by Rep. Velis

For more than 30 years, Marcia has worked to foster community and improve the lives of all the residents of Westfield, whether they know it or not. The time, energy, and support she has given to local events and organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club and the Kiwanis Club in Westfield cannot be overstated, yet rarely go recognized by her own choice. Most recently, her involvement in the celebration of Westfield's 350th Birthday Celebration has really showcased her love for her hometown. She quite literally put the candles on Westfield's "birthday cake" in the city center and has gifted countless history books and commemorative memorabilia to those around her so that everyone can share in her enthusiasm for Westfield. In short, Marcia is by far one of the most generous and spirited residents of our city and the whole of Westfield has benefited from her many contributions to its well-being.

Katia Santiago-Taylor is the advocacy and legislative affairs manager for the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC). She advocates for systems-wide policy changes to support survivors and manages BARCC's work on legislation that affects survivors. Katia has worked in the field of domestic and sexual violence response and prevention since 1999. Before joining BARCC, she worked in various positions at the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA) and also as a victim witness advocate for both the Suffolk and Middlesex district attorneys' offices. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Katia has a master's degree from Northeastern University in criminal justice. She resides in the town of Walpole, with her husband, son and daughter, and is an active member within the community.



Katia Santiago-Taylor, Walpole
Recommended by Sen. Feeney

Betty Slade is a resident of Westport and has been working in her community for many years. Currently, she is the chair of the Westport Preservation Committee which prioritizes preservation projects of importance to the Westport community. Such works include affordable housing, preserving historic sites and open space, and developing outdoor recreational facilities, among others. Betty has also committed time to volunteering with local cemeteries and preservation projects of historical significance. She is the embodiment of community outreach and service.



Betty Slade, Westport
Recommended by Rep. Schmid



Danielle Sommer, Roxbury
Recommended by Rep. Malia

Danielle is a persuasive advocate for equity and justice, one whose articulated visions of community have come to life in her daily work around our neighborhood. As the Program Director at the nonprofit Hawthorne Youth and Community Center (HYCC) in Roxbury's Highland Park Neighborhood for 8 years, Danielle has provided quality educational, cultural and recreational programming for youth and adults. She is one of a team of volunteers who have sustained and grown HYCC, preserving the center's role as a place for neighbors to connect and discuss. Most notably, she runs the Grow It! Cook It! Share It! Program, which encourages local families in Roxbury to grow and eat healthy food by engaging local young people in the year-round development of a community garden, teaching them fun and affordable ways to cook the produce they grow, and providing regular opportunities at community gatherings for youth to share what they have learned about fresh food and nutrition with their neighbors. Born and raised in Boston, Danielle is a proud Posse Foundation alumna who gives back to her community in many ways. She serves on the boards of the Boston Food Coalition and the Shattuck Childcare Center. In her spare time, she enjoys making films and spending time with her family.

A Boston resident since 1968, Adeline Stallings has been working to develop Mission Hill into the heritage filled vibrant community that it is today. She has been a leader on the Mission Main Task Force since 1983 and continues to be an advocate on behalf of her community. The Mission Hill Task Force, a majority women led group, works with tenants in the community, serves as a liaison between the management company and community members, offers resources, and coordinates several events throughout the year including their Annual Family Fun Day every July. Adeline played a key role in securing the 50 million dollar funding for the 20 year development plan in Mission Hill in 1993. She had to step down officially from the Task Force 4 years ago due to health reasons, but continues to attend the meetings as an honorary member and important voice of the community.



Adeline Stallings, Roxbury
Recommended by Rep. Eluardo



Sharon Striglio, Hull
Recommended by Rep. Meschino

In so many ways, school nurses define unsung heroism. They are on the frontlines caring for some of the community's most precious population, our youth. They are caretakers, educators, and sometimes friends, in students' happiest moments and most vulnerable moments. With a kind heart, nurturing and steady demeanor, Sharon Striglio selflessly gives to her community and her students. Sharon is not only generous of her time and expertise, but she is thoughtful and impactful in all that she contributes to her community. Sharon's participation and involvement include the National Junior Honor Society, Hull High School Parent Council, St. Ann's youth group, HAPSA Hull Alliance for Prevention of Substance Abuse, Hull Public Schools Wellness Committee, and Hull Boosters. She is always willing to help students, families and staff.



Audrey Sturgis, Cambridge
Recommended by Sen. Boncore

Audrey started her teaching experience with the Kaleidoscope Day Care Center in Cambridge eventually landing at Cambridgeport Elementary School where she has been the last 12 years. Here she has worked to develop a culture of high academic standards and excellence in teaching and learning while providing educational leadership with a focus on access, equity, and closing achievement gaps. She supports and engages teachers, staff and students in the teaching and learning process in and around the building community. She demonstrates and supports commitment to racial, cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and socio-economic diversity, as well as diversity in learning styles. Audrey serves as mentor to staff and students through support and supervision. Audrey has worked on many special projects including a Community Service Organizer, Adult Literacy Program and the Cambridge Affirmative Action Committee. She is a Sunday School Teacher, Youth Fellowship Leader and sits on the Parent Advisory Council for the Roxbury Center for the Performing Arts.

Denise is an accomplished, intelligent, and generous woman. Denise is both a member of the Town of Milton Planning Board and an elected Milton Town Meeting Member. Through her work as the Secretary and Past President of the Friends of the Blue Hills, she is known as a staunch advocate for preserving and protecting conservation land not only in Milton, but across the Commonwealth. Denise is also the founder of the Milton Neighborhood Association. The Milton Neighborhood Association is made up of members of Milton's numerous other neighborhood associations with a goal of generating collaboration, communication and support of issues of mutual interests impacting the various neighborhoods. Denise worked for WGBH for 14 years before launching her own television and film company, Light on Productions. It was through this company that Denise executive produced "In Search of the Good Corporate Citizen", which won numerous awards including the 2010 Council on International Nontheatrical Events Golden Eagle Award. The program was broadcast on over a hundred public television stations nationwide and was licensed to Harvard, Yale and Wharton to utilize as a business ethics teaching tool.



Denise Swenson, Milton
Recommended by Sen. Timilty



Louise Thomas, Boston
Recommended by Rep. Livingstone

Louise Thomas is a community leader in the West End of Boston. She is an active member of the West End Civic Association, has twice served as its President, and was one of its original founding members. She co-founded the West End Community Center. The West End Community Center fosters a strong sense of urban community and improves the quality of life for residents of all ages. She has served on countless Boston Planning and Development Agency's impact advisory groups, helping to shape the significant development that has occurred and is occurring in the West End, minimize its impacts on the neighborhood, and make sure each development improves the neighborhood in some way. She served on the Supermarket Committee that has resulted in an affordable grocery store agreeing to come to the West End as well as the Science Park Committee.

Tina Toran has been a school teacher in New Hampshire, a Creative Consultant for McGraw-Hill, and a Shrimper in Louisiana, but for the last 15 years, she's been in Early Childhood Education. She is the coordinator of The Coalition for Children, Falmouth's Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant, offering parent support and education to all families with children birth to school age. She and her staff offer free Play & Learn Groups, ASQ screenings, workshops, parenting classes, and community events According to her former boss and friend, "Tina is a talented, caring and compassionate individual who cares deeply about children, families and the educators who work with them."



Tina Toran, East Falmouth
Recommended by Rep. Vieira

An Ashland High School and Chandler School for Women graduate, Eleanor Torelli has worked and lived in the MetroWest community her entire life. In addition to managing a company and working as a bus driver for the Joseph P. Keefe Technical School for over 30 years, Ellie is a 40 year Lions Club member, serving as the Greater Ashland Lions president, and 47 communities as Environmental Chairperson for 33-k District Lions Clubs. Through them, she has organized scholarships, the donation of a park bench to the Ashland Veterans Memorial, and the revival of Seedlings for Arbor Day at the Ashland Mindess School. Ellie has volunteered for the Ashland Council on Aging, the Ashland Emergency Fund, the Ashland American Legion, the Ashland Senior Center, the Columbus Club, the Sons of Italy, the Framingham Eagles, Project Just Because, Rise up for Hunger, and Relay for Life, and has received two awards from the Lions Club International Foundation.



Eleanor Torelli, Framingham
Recommended by Rep. Lewis



Jean Travis is recognized for her tireless dedication to the Residents of Webster. Far beyond her work keeping Webster's Seniors active, entertained, and healthy as Senior Center Director, Jean is a fixture in the community volunteering in a multitude of capacities. Serving on the Library Building Committee and as Chair of the Library Trustees, she helped lead the drive for a new Town Library. Though she may not admit it, Jean advocated for public and private funding and provided input on the plan and design of the new library, all in addition to her role as the lead-organizer of local public support. The library was opened in September, 2018. Jean is also a strong and active member of the Webster Lake Association, caring for the preservation of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchabunagungamaug. Jean's legacy in Webster is present in the Library and especially in the residents she serves with a smile and a hug every day.

Jean Travis, Webster
Recommended by Rep. McKenna

Through the Lakeview Pavilion Charitable Foundation, these women have been supporting local programs in Foxborough community such as: The Foxborough Discretionary Fund, which helps in conjunction with the Food Pantry, to assist families who have fallen on hard times. The Lakeview Pavilion awards a \$1000 scholarship to three Foxborough High School students every year. Each year they donate family passes for the: Boston Children's Museum, Isabella Stewart Gardener Museum, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Mystic Seaport, New England Aquarium Plimoth Plantation, & Zoo New England. They support Bay Colony Productions at The Orpheum Theatre, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the performing arts in the Foxborough community. And lastly they are the host for the Massachusetts section of Operation Shower. It was originally started to send a "baby shower in a box" to four expectant military moms whose partners were deployed at the time. Operation Shower has now grown nationwide and hosts showers for thousands of military families. These two women have put in countless amounts of time, effort, and money into helping and trying to grow the community of Foxborough.



**Anastasia Tsoumbanos and
Natalia Kapourelakos,
Foxborough**
Recommended by Rep. Barrows



**Gretchen Tucker Underwood, Oak
Bluffs**
Recommended by Rep. Fernandes

Formally a teacher and Dean of Students, Gretchen now spends her retired life as a community advocate and organizer on Martha's Vineyard. Gretchen is a member of the Executive Board of the NAACP of Martha's Vineyard and organizes the annual membership luncheon on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. She is also the Chairwoman of the Dukes County Commissioners, and works with various organizations to assure the well-being of our most vulnerable citizens. She is a member of The Cottagers, a philanthropic organization consisting of 100 women of color who are property owners on Martha's Vineyard, and allied with the Want to Know Discussion Group, a women's reading and discussion group founded in 1893. Gretchen's passion for helping others is evident in her commitment to serving the community through her volunteer work and as an elected official.



**Rosario Ubeira-Minaya,
Salem**

Recommended by Rep. Tucker

Rosario Ubeira-Minaya is an innovator, change agent, and pioneer in the city of Salem and throughout the North Shore. Rosario has played a tremendous role in shaping Salem's economic and cultural development, and civic life through both her professional career and deep involvement in the community. Rosario in her professional capacity previously served our community as the Chief Programs Officer of the North Shore Community Development Coalition, the Executive Director of the Salem Education Foundation, and as the Director of Outreach and Enrollment for North Shore Community Health. Currently, Rosario is now trailblazing a path in the creative economy in her latest endeavor as the Owner and Principal of her own company Cojuelos Productions which supports a more inclusive creative community, in part, by supporting the professional development and platforms of diverse creative artists of color.

Nancy Urbschat is the Principal of TSM Design, a Springfield-based design company, is a community leader and champion of Springfield's revival. For many years, she has dedicated her free time to volunteering for a variety of agencies and local non-profit organizations that are of importance to her including the American Red Cross, where she previously served as "Education Chair," and as a member of the Board of Directors for the Springfield YWCA. Additionally, she has used TSM Design as a vehicle for renewing Springfield, having launched a marketing campaign encouraging people to "Say Something Nice!" about Springfield.



Nancy Urbschat, Springfield

Recommended by Sen. Lesser



Brenda L. Venice, Fall River

Recommended by Rep. Fiola

Brenda Venice has been a tireless advocate for the people of Fall River in her role as President of National Alliance on Mental Illness in Bristol County, Trustee of Taunton State Hospital, and the Department of Mental Health Human Rights Board at Corrigan Mental Health. For 22 years Brenda has been a member of the Board of Directors of the NAMI. She has worked with those suffering from mental illness directly and brings those experiences to ensure that resources are being properly distributed, communicated, and implemented. Brenda is in constant communication to ensure that the citizens of Fall River are being given the best resources when it comes to mental health and gives a voice to an under served community. She advocates for better treatment and services for families that are in crisis and educates the public about mental illness and the challenges we face.

Eleanor is a shining example of a community activist who works tirelessly to make the City of Revere a better place for all to live, work and visit. She has been a member of the Revere Beautification Committee (RBC) for close to 15 years, and has been its chair for many of those years. Eleanor has spearheaded many programs that have helped make our city cleaner and prettier, including, but not limited to: the "Adopt an Island" program, the "Adopt a Barrel" program, and the "Home of the Month Award,". She has worked and continues to work tirelessly to improve the city of Revere. In addition to the RBC, Eleanor has donated much of her time to the local media station, RevereTV. She has also spent time soliciting books for the "Little Libraries" that are located throughout the city. She has been leading a Narcolepsy support group for 11 years, and is also active in the hemophilia cause, including volunteering her time and energy to the hemophilia camp during the summer months. Eleanor is a person of great faith and her church means much to her. In addition to her many hours a week spent volunteering, she also works part-time at Shaw's supermarket. Eleanor was married to Matthew Vieira for 47 years until his death in 2016. She is a proud mother and grandmother.



Eleanor Vieira, Revere

Recommended by Rep. Vincent

Betty, a resident of Amesbury, established Tammi's Closet in memory of her daughter who passed away in 1996. Tammi's Closet provides prom dresses for girls who cannot afford a dress on their own. Betty works tirelessly to keep her storefront open with local donations and fundraising events. Since opening six years ago Tammi's Closet has outfitted over 1,000 girls in prom dresses throughout the community. In addition, she sent 120 prom dresses to the students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland Florida, where the mass shooting took place in 2018. Betty is dedicated to assist those in need no matter the circumstance. She is a true advocate for the community.



Betty Vitale Neal, Amesbury
Recommended by Rep. Kelcourse



Karen Walsh Pio, South Hadley
Recommended by Rep. Carey

Karen Walsh Pio has dedicated her life to improving her community by being an advocate, a mentor, a teacher, a leader and a role model. Karen has been involved in countless community events, but her passion is working on substance abuse prevention. In 2005 Karen started the South Hadley Drug & Alcohol Prevention Coalition. Karen continues to educate students and the community on substance prevention and works to empower parents to help their children. Karen has strongly advocated for higher restrictions on the sale of tobacco products. Karen's involvement in the community has had a positive impact on people of all ages. The Second Hampshire District is honored and privileged to have her in our community.

Mary Ellen Welch was a lifelong advocate for social and environmental justice in East Boston and surrounding communities. The first president of the Neighborhood of Affordable Housing, Inc. (NOAH), longtime chair of the Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association, a founding member of Airport Impact Relief (AIR, Inc.) and the East Boston Friends of the Greenway, and an active member of Irish Americans Against Apartheid, among numerous other activities, Mary Ellen could always be found at the forefront of grassroots advocacy. She marched alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., against the Vietnam War, and with the Maverick Mothers in protest against Logan Airport expansion. A teacher for 47 years, Mary Ellen promoted civic education and engagement among her students at the Hugh O'Donnell Elementary School in East Boston. Mary Ellen loved her neighbors, cared deeply for their environment, safety, health, and wellbeing, and dedicated her life to fighting for them.



Mary Ellen Welch,
Recommended by Rep. Madaro



Lisa White, Milford
Recommended by Rep. Murray

Lisa White is a Registered Nurse who has served various roles in the Milford Public Schools for almost 20 years. Lisa is presently Wellness Nurse and has worked to: Implement and coordinate programs for behavioral health and substance abuse prevention, education and awareness. Facilitate health education programming for students with intellectual disabilities. Serve as a liaison between school staff and community agencies to identify students at risk. Provide professional development to teachers, coaches and parents covering various health topics. Participate in numerous community agencies and organizations. Lisa has also served as a volunteer for the Milford Summer Food Program bringing meals to our under served students. She is a board member at the Milford Youth Center and provides free alterations to prom gowns for students in need at Jackie's Boutique. Lisa is a tireless advocate for the physical, social and emotional health of Milford's children. She is passionate in her belief of giving back to her community with her sole purpose to improve the quality of life for families.



Joannah L. Whitney, PhD, is a gifted advocate for people living with disabilities, calling on everyone at the local, state, and national level to create policies and an accessibly built environment where everyone is both seen and welcome. In the town of Greenfield, Joannah is at the center of advocacy efforts to build a new and accessible library. At the federal level, Joannah is helping to draw necessary attention to disastrous federal policy which penalizes those receiving SSDI. Joannah has said, "I'm fighting for huge numbers of people who are threatened every day from being erased from public view."

Joannah L. Whitney, Greenfield
Recommended by Sen. Comerford

Since 1981, Mary "Polly" Wilbert has lived in South Salem. Since then, she has actively advocated for her neighborhood and community. Polly serves as President of the South Salem Neighborhood Association and sits on the Salem State University Neighborhood Advisory Committee. Polly helped found the Alliance of Salem Neighborhood Associations that created more conversation and collaboration among neighborhoods in Salem on citywide issues. Polly is a member of the Friends of Greenlawn, helps coordinate historic tours of the cemetery, and supports the preservation of the Dickson Memorial Chapel at Greenlawn. A wonderful asset to her community, Polly embraces and seeks to improve the diverse and historical characteristics of Salem that makes our city such an attractive place to live and to visit.



Polly Wilbert, Salem
Recommended by Sen. Lovely



Reverend Jill Wiley is a tremendous asset to the city she has called home for twenty years. Rev. Wiley came to Brockton to serve as a minister to a local Methodist church. She participated in Brockton Interfaith Community (BIC) on many issues that improved conditions for the residents of our city. When her time ended at the church, she became more involved with arts, culture and history in the city. She mobilized the "Freedom Quilt" that is currently hanging in the historical Brockton Main Library. She worked closely with St Paul's Soup Kitchen and later opposed the power plant. She always worked closely with the clergy of the city and was a member of the Board of Churches that addressed hunger in our city, crime, and empowered them with voter registration and education. She was always a friend of the immigrant community and was involved with ESL programs. She was on many teams throughout the community that wanted better for all the citizens of Brockton. Now as she looks at seventy she is going back to the beginning, when she was doing art and being political.

Jill Wiley, Brockton
Recommended by Sen. Brady

Danielle Williams is an organizer for Massachusetts Communities Action Network (MCAN) and is working on the Prophetic Resistance Boston group of African-American churches. Last year, they organized two forums on the Suffolk County District Attorney's race and organized volunteers to reach over 14,000 people by phone and encourage them to vote. They are also meeting with hospitals about changing policies so people with CORI's could get hired. She previously worked for Rep. Gloria Fox, for City Councilor Felix Arroyo, Sr., and for SEIU 1199. She was also a leaders in Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Roxbury.



Danielle Williams, Boston
Recommended by Rep. Tyler

Sheila Wilson has long been an advocate for the safety of nurses, EMTs, and other healthcare providers. She has been the driving force behind a legislative push to make the assault of a nurse or other healthcare provider a felony; Massachusetts is one of only 15 states where this is not already a reality. After spending her career as a Registered Nurse, Sheila decided to address the issue head-on following her retirement. She has seen far too many cases where healthcare providers are victims of assault while on the job, and wanted to do her part to make the workplace safer for these essential professionals. Sheila's bill has been re-filed again this year with a strong number of co-sponsors, and despite personal obstacles, she has continued to organize efforts to spread awareness of the bill. For her selflessness in raising the profile of this important issue, and for her devotion to ensuring the safety of healthcare providers across Massachusetts, I am glad Sheila Wilson is a 2019 Unsung Heroine.



Sheila Wilson, Quincy
Recommended by Rep. Ayers



Antigoni Woodland, Boxford
Recommended by Rep. Nguyen

Antigoni Woodland of Boxford, Massachusetts is a life long advocate for women's rights. She graduated from Albany Medical College with an MD specializing in obstetrics and gynecology and worked for 10 years as an OB-GYN Specialist. Her main motivation for pursuing this career was her passion for women's access to healthcare. Antigoni continues her advocacy and is an active member of the community. She has taken on many active roles including as the Treasurer for the Boxford Democratic Town Committee, as well as a member and Treasurer of the Melissa Women's Charitable Society of the Greek Church of Ipswich. She is an active member of Freedom North Shore, which advocates for the rights of women, children, and families. As an advocate for Freedom North Shore, she has participated in efforts to implement automatic voter registration through the Massachusetts legislature this session. For these reasons and many more, we are delighted to recognize Antigoni Woodland for her contributions as a heroine of our community.

Dottie Yeadon has been a fixture in the Burlington community for decades. As a school bus driver for more than 22 years, Dottie has made a career of supporting Burlington students and youth sports. Through her service as a bus driver, Dottie has impacted the lives of countless students. To the students of Burlington, she is not only their bus driver, but a friend and an ally to those in need. Dottie also dedicates much of her spare time volunteering to support community events including Burlington Pride Day, Truck Day, and the Fourth of July activities. Dottie is an invaluable member of the community and it was especially evident after she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2018. The entire community rallied to support her in her battle against the disease. She was also celebrated as Burlington's Citizen of the Year.



Dottie Yeadon, Burlington
Recommended by Rep. Gordon



Lingya Zhou, Acton
Recommended by Rep. Gouveia

Lingya emigrated to the US almost 30 years ago and has continuously contributed to her community through civic engagement, volunteering, and local leadership. Lingya attended school in Boston and settled in Acton where she raised her family. After the 2016 election, Lingya advocated on behalf of undocumented immigrants in the town of Acton, sharing her own personal experiences as an immigrant, and reminding all of what being an American means: to be open, kind, just, and to contribute to your community. Lingya is a bridge-builder between the active, progressive Chinese community (which she co-leads) and other political groups in the area. Lingya has also recently taken on leadership roles in various organizing efforts, such as serving as a Steering Committee member of Indivisible Acton, as a member of the Acton Democratic Town Committee, and as a volunteer for the Yes on 2 Campaign.



The Meaning of the Yellow Rose

The yellow rose is a symbol of the women who struggled for 72 years to be included in the United States Constitution. They achieved their goal through a peaceful revolution without firing a single shot.

Courageous suffragists faced jail, hunger strikes, years of organizing, ridicule, and great disappointment before achieving full suffrage when the 19th Amendment was finally adopted in 1920.

They came from rural and urban backgrounds, different economic classes, different races and generations. They worked together. Diversity became their strength as they united under a symbol: the yellow rose. The yellow rose stood for unity, friendship, and determination.

Today, the yellow rose reminds us that our own work to improve the status of women in the Commonwealth continues... requiring diversity, unity, and determination. We must strive for victory in our own peaceful revolutions.



**THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF
WOMEN**



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