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Awards to be Presented at Governor's Conference on Aging and Human Services

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Illinois Department on Aging Director Margo E. Schreiber today announced that various individuals and groups will be honored during an awards presentation to be held at the Governor's Conference on Aging and Human Services at 11:15 a.m., on December 14, 2001, at the Sheraton Hotel, Cityfront Center, in downtown Chicago.

"We will honor individuals and groups who have worked hard to improve the quality of life for older adults and their caregivers in our state," Schreiber said. "We are very grateful for the extraordinary accomplishments they have made."

AARP will present its Bright Star for Seniors Award to:

- **Gene Manuel**, of **Robinson**, a volunteer with AARP's federal advocacy program. Manuel is being recognized for working tirelessly to promote the needs of seniors before the state legislature, founding the Robinson Senior Expo, and hosting a town meeting about the high cost of prescription medications.
- **Pat Polos**, of **Chicago**, **John Herman** of **Arlington Heights**, and **Amy Pascheday**, of **Edwardsville**, long time volunteers with AARP's state legislative program. Polos served as Coordinator of a Chicago-based AARP volunteer group, and Herman and Pascheday are former chairs of the State Legislative Committee. Herman has also served on AARP's National Legislative Committee, and has taken leadership on tax, utility and managed care issues. Polos worked to achieve passage of the 1999 Assisted Living and Shared Housing Act. Pascheday has assisted on a full range of issues and played a critical role in the expansion of the Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance Program.
- **State Senators Carole Ronen** of **Chicago** and **David Sullivan** of **Mt. Prospect** and **State Representatives Julie Hamos** of **Evanston** and **Tom Cross** of **Yorkville**. The legislators are being recognized for enacting pro-consumer telecommunication changes which benefit residential telephone subscribers. Many seniors will now be offered flat rate plans. In addition, consumers will be eligible for compensation when telephone companies fail to keep appointments or complete repairs and installation in a reasonable timeframe.

The Illinois Association of Nutrition Project Directors based in Effingham will present its Shining Star Award to:

- **Michael Strader**, of **Charleston**, Director of the Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program. Strader has served as director of the program since 1975 and it has grown to serve 14 counties with 1,600 meals daily. He is also being recognized for his fundraising skills, advocacy and always being a knowledgeable and energetic activist on behalf of seniors.

The Illinois Adult Day Service Association will present its Adult Day Services Employee of the Year Award to:

- **Karen Cripps, of Mt. Vernon, co-chair of the Association's Legislative Committee, for her "diligence with legislators that has made Adult Day Services a household word around the capitol." Cripps has kept the Association's membership advised and continually updated about how efforts were going. Her nomination states, "Without her guidance, our efforts would not have been as effective as we were. Karen has laid a solid foundation for our future efforts in dealing with legislators."**

The Illinois Council of Case Coordination Units will present its Case Manager of the Year Award to:

- **Kate Marshall of LaGrange**, who works as a Case Manager and Supervisor at the Southwest Suburban Center on Aging. In addition to serving her own clients, Marshall is the chief trainer for new staff. Her nomination states, "While maintaining realistic expectations, she strives to uncover client and family strengths yet upholds her firm commitment to the client's right to self-determination. She works until the job is done – making sure her efforts are well documented, on time, and of the highest quality." In addition to working for seniors, Marshall performs community service, and, she and her family provide home cooked holiday meals to approximately 100 homebound seniors.

The Illinois Department on Aging will present its Award for Excellence to:

- **The Senior Servicing Seniors 70 Plus Club.** The Club originated in 1997 as a way of recognizing seniors who work in service to other seniors as homemakers. The club was founded by **Lorena Vinegar**, Area Administrator of Community Care Systems, Inc., Chicago, to honor these older workers who are known for low absenteeism, a willingness to help out whenever needed, ability to work as a team member and to mentor younger workers. There are currently 59 "70 Plus" Club members and the average age is 76. They carry a caseload of one to three clients and work up to 25 hours a week.

The Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging will present its Sid Granet Aging Network Achievement Awards to:

- **Bethel New Life of Chicago and Dee Harper and Marilyn Shelby**, Co-Directors of the **Edwards County Council on Aging**, based in **Albion**. Bethel New Life is a comprehensive faith-based community development corporation serving Humboldt Park, West Garfield Park and the Austin community. It is being recognized for providing resources, spiritual enrichment and social and recreational programs for seniors. Bethel also converted a wing of former St. Anne's Hospital into the Beth Anne Residence with 125 units of affordable senior housing.

Harper and Shelby became co-directors of the Edwards County Council on Aging in 1992 and have worked well together to achieve the best for seniors in their region. The Council serves approximately 75 percent of the 1,649 persons 60 years of age and older in a rural county with a total population of 6,971. The nomination states that Harper and Shelby have worked to make the Council the "**pride of the community.**" The two often serve seniors on their own personal time, such as providing them transportation and helping them move. They also coordinate a volunteer program to deliver meals to homebound seniors. The nomination states, "**Marilyn Shelby and Dee Harper go to work each day because they love helping people.** They love their jobs. No matter what the circumstances, they get the job done."

and, its Lifetime Achievement Award to:

- **Dorothy S. Kimball**, Executive Director, **Project LIFE Area Agency on Aging, Springfield**. Kimball's tenure at Project LIFE has spanned the evolution of the Aging Network in Illinois. She joined the staff as Assistant Director in 1972, when it was a demonstration project under sponsorship of Senior Citizens of Sangamon County. In 1974, the Illinois Act on Aging was passed, creating the Illinois Department on Aging, and Project LIFE became an Area Agency on Aging. Kimball helped the Agency grow over the years and has enhanced the lives of thousands of seniors. Throughout her 29 years at Project LIFE,

Kimball has worked hard to make aging services comprehensive. Her nomination states, "By example, she has shown us all how to conduct ourselves with style and grace, and we wish her the best in the next chapter of her life." Kimball plans to retire at year's end.

The Illinois Association of Illinois Senior Centers will present its Senior Center Symbol of Excellence Awards to:

- **Pat Hensley**, of **Joliet**, Illinois Association of Illinois Senior Centers President from October 1, 1999, to September 30, 2001. Hensley is recognized for providing increased membership, additional member benefits and advocacy for the funding of senior centers.
- **Will County Senior Services Center, Joliet**, is recognized for membership support for the success of the Association. Will County Senior Services Center, Joliet, is recognized for membership support for the success of the Association. During Pat Hensley's tenure as President of the Association, the center supported her office with monetary donations, printing and copying services and newspaper publishing.
- **Effingham City/County Committee on Aging** for its celebration of National Senior Center Week each May. During this week, the Committee hosts a variety of events including a health screening for seniors and an intergenerational program linking seniors and preschoolers. The week has become a major celebration and includes the participation of area businesses and the promotion of senior centers and the needs of older adults.
- **AARP State Legislative Committee** and **Representative Bill Mitchell** of **Forsyth** for advocating for senior centers in Illinois, support in the successful completion of a survey of 155 senior centers throughout the state, and increasing the overall awareness of the role that senior centers play.

The Illinois Association of Community Care Program Homecare Providers will present its Mary I. Hill Homecare Assistant Awards

to several individuals who perform in-home services for seniors and provide the essential link among clients, homecare agencies, and case managers. The following will be given awards for their dedication, exceptional problem solving skills and positive impact on their client's well-being:

- **Annie Fleming**, Casa Central, **Chicago**
- **Lennie Mae Reed**, Addus HealthCare, **Waukegan**
- **Shigeyo Matsuda**, Japanese American Service Committee
- **Shirley Hoyle**, Adult Comprehensive Human Services, **West Frankfort**
- **Velma Tracy**, Intouch Services, Lutheran Social Services, **Peoria**.

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