

4th Annual Ronald McDonald House of Providence Women's Leadership Awards

PROVIDENCE, RI, September 28, 2012 – Five local leaders recently received a Ronald McDonald House of Providence Women's Leadership Award. The outstanding achievements of these individuals were acknowledged during a ceremony on September 27, at the Ronald McDonald House of Providence (RMH Providence).

The Women's Leadership Award honors women who consistently make a positive impact and demonstrate exceptional leadership in the Rhode Island community. For the fourth year, RMH Providence presented these awards in 5 categories: Community Service, Healthcare, Business, Athletics, and Education.

The 2012 honorees were:

Community Service: Sixcia Devine, founder of SIXCIA Business Development and Caritas Smile, a charity focused on educating, inspiring and empowering women and children internationally. Ms. Devine helps clients create business plans and secure funding to promote job growth.

Education: Susan Connery, Director of the Feinstein Community Service Center at Johnson & Wales University's Providence Campus. Ms. Connery develops programs to provide community service and service-learning opportunities for thousands of students each year. Through this program, Susan established award winning collaborations between the University and Greater Providence non-profits and schools.

Business: Karen Davis, Vice President of Community Relations at Hasbro, Inc. Ms. Davis is responsible for the global philanthropic programs of Hasbro, Inc., including grant making, product donations, employee volunteer programs, cause related marketing, and strategic philanthropic relationships. Through these programs and partnerships, Hasbro annually helps over four million children in need worldwide.

Athletics: Carolyn Thornton, the first full-time, female sportswriter hired by the Providence Journal. During her career, Thornton has covered all major New England professional sports teams and the Olympic Games. Carolyn was a three time Ivy League center fielder for Brown University's softball team and in high school she competed in softball, basketball and cross country.

Healthcare: Betty Vohr, MD has been the Director of the Women and Infants Hospital's Neonatal Follow-up Clinic since 1974 and Medical Director of the Rhode Island Hearing Assessment Program since 1990. She works improve the long-term outcomes of high risk premature infants and infants with hearing loss.

"Each recipient deserves our highest praise for the achievements they bring to Rhode Island," said Michael Fantom, Chief Executive Officer of the Ronald McDonald House of Providence. "These awards demonstrate our gratitude for all of their accomplishments."

This year's winners join an elite group of recipients. Former winners were Sybil Bailey, Molly Huddle, Patricia Flanagan, MD, Teresa Hacunda, Dr. Carolyn Woods, Kati Machtley, Pamela High, MS, MD, Cindy L. Schwartz, Linda H. Newton, Dr. Anne Hird, Armeather Gibbs, Reverend Janet Cooper-Nelson, Myra J. Edens, RN, MSN, FACHE, Kimball Hall, Amy Rudolph, and Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Roberts.



From left: Betty Vohr, Susan Connery, Sixcia Devine and Carolyn Thornton.