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**2021 SILVERSOURCE FILM & AWARDS EVENT HONORS
COMMUNITY LEADERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF SENIORS**

STAMFORD, CT/April 23, 2021 – Several Fairfield County residents and organizations received special recognition as part of the 2021 SilverSource Film & Awards event, “Coming of Age in Aging America: Challenges & Solutions,” held last evening. The awards were given to individuals, organizations and volunteers who have made exceptional contributions to improve and enrich the lives of older adults in Fairfield County, particularly during the pandemic.

“Senior citizens are one of the fastest growing demographics in the world, and locally they represent almost a quarter of the population in Fairfield County,” said SilverSource CEO Kathleen Bordelon. “During the pandemic, we have seen different organizations working together to strengthen the system of support for this population. Our 2021 award winners are those who went above and beyond their normal responsibilities to ensure seniors were safe and cared for, and are each stars in a larger galaxy of support in our community.”

Specifically, this year’s award winners include:

Marie Allen, Executive Director, Southwestern CT Agency on Aging (SWCAA) - 2021 SilverSource Outstanding Organization, Contribution to Community Award -- Under Marie’s leadership, SWCAA went above and beyond for senior communities throughout the region during the pandemic, including a Herculean effort to procure and deliver groceries to all 14 cities and towns across Fairfield County. Marie currently resides in Orange, CT.

Christina Crain, Executive Director, Stamford Senior Center - 2021 SilverSource Outstanding Individual, Contribution to Community Award -- Under Chris’ leadership, the Center delivered meals and groceries to help seniors survive the pandemic and stay safe in their homes. She and her colleagues have also kept older residents virtually connected by moving many classes onto Zoom and YouTube, doing fitness in the park and conducting monthly Drive-Through Lunches. Chris is a resident of Stratford, CT.

Donna Spellman, Executive Director, River House Adult Day Center -- 2021 SilverSource Outstanding Individual, Contribution to Community Award – Donna and River House provided a critical lifeline to elderly residents and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic, launching a new satellite program called “Distance Care” that provided a much-needed remote support system

and connection for clients and their caregivers. Distance Care included ongoing wellness calls, delivery of meals and groceries, daily Zoom therapeutic recreation groups, weekly activity packets and a weekly Caregiver Support Group. Donna currently resides in Norwalk, CT.

Outstanding Volunteer Awards are going to three Stamford residents – Robin Druckman, Laurie Pensiero and Pam Staab..

- Robin volunteers with Stamford Together, a citywide program that supported the emergency response to the COVID-19 emergency. She spearheaded the Stamford Together Senior Outreach Program that contacted more than 8,000 residents and directly supported hundreds with a connection to resources and services.
- When she is not at work as Osborn Home Care’s Business Development Manager, Laurie is an active community volunteer – always going above and beyond to help seniors. Her contributions have included delivery of groceries and meals to the homebound, and organizing drive-thru meals for the Stamford Senior Center.
- Pam has been a critical member of the SilverSource pandemic response team, and an invaluable and steadfast volunteer for the grocery delivery program. She takes a personal interest in the most vulnerable clients and invests significant time and effort in them.

SilverSource Board member and volunteer Kate Sullivan (of Greenwich) is the recipient of this year’s ***Shining Star Award***. From the beginning of the pandemic, Kate was instrumental in getting the SilverSource Emergency Food Pantry and Grocery Delivery Program up and running, to keep hundreds of older clients fed and safe at home. She is being recognized for her exceptional contributions, tireless volunteerism and perseverance to get the job done in spite of all challenges.

About SilverSource

SilverSource provides a safety net to seniors in need, to keep a roof over their heads, with the heat and lights on, food on the table and the medical care they need. In addition, the SilverSource “Ride to Wellness” program provides free transportation for older residents traveling to and from medical appointments. SilverSource, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, located at 2009 Summer Street, Stamford, CT 06905. www.SilverSource.org.

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