



**2012 NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY
NOVEMBER 14, 2012
Association of Fundraising Professionals
Western Massachusetts Chapter, Inc.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**RECIPIENTS OF WESTERN MA PHILANTHROPY DAY
AWARDS ANNOUNCED**

The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Western MA Chapter today announced the recipients of its annual Western Massachusetts Philanthropy Day Awards.

“Over 40,000 people across North America join in this AFP-sponsored celebration of the generosity, time and financial support of individuals and companies,” said Gary Coombs, Board President of AFP, Western Massachusetts. “Their exceptional efforts inspire others to become involved.”

The awards will be presented November 14, 2012 during the AFP Philanthropy Day Luncheon at the Log Cabin in Holyoke, MA. Dave Madsen, Managing Editor of ABC 40--Fox 6 will emcee the event.

2012 Award Recipients. Awards will be presented to the following individuals, corporation and non-profit organizations:

Outstanding Philanthropists

Michele and Donald D'Amour, nominated by Patricia Burden, AFP member

Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser of Hampden County

Ron Copes, nominated by Western New England University

Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser of Hampshire County

Julie Cowan, nominated by Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech

Outstanding Philanthropic Corporation

Chicopee Savings, nominated by Elms College

Outstanding Young Philanthropist/Fundraiser of Hampden County

Andrew Robitaille, nominated by Link to Libraries, Inc.

Outstanding Young Philanthropist/Fundraiser of Hampshire County

Amherst Regional High School-Future Business Leadership Group, nominated by Cooley Dickinson Hospital

Outstanding Professional in Philanthropy

Dr. Carla Oleska of the Women's Fund, nominated by Lynn Korza and Eileen Kirk

President's Award

Agencies that feed the hungry in the Pioneer Valley.

“These individuals and organizations exemplify the ideals of community service, philanthropy, and volunteerism within each of our award categories,” said Pat Burden, Philanthropy Day Chair and an AFP board member.

The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Western MA Chapter recognizes philanthropic efforts, and provides networking opportunities and trainings for development professionals in Western New England. Its members include executives, fundraising professionals and program managers from area non-profits including social service organizations, colleges, hospitals and professional associations.

The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), the sponsor of National Philanthropy Day, represents more than 40,000 members in 213 chapters throughout the world, working to advance philanthropy through advocacy, research, education and certification programs.

For more than 50 years, AFP has been the standard-bearer for professionalism in fundraising. The association fosters development and growth of fundraising professionals and promotes high ethical standards in the fundraising profession.