

*2012 Outstanding Young Philanthropist,
Hampden County - Andrew Robitaille*

Although still in middle school, Andrew's abilities have shown great promise as a future leader in society. His talent to connect and inspire both children and adults is already very impressive. This past summer he was selected to participate in the People To People Ambassador Program as an international ambassador. Andrew, of Westfield, is a grade 8 student at Academy Hill School in Springfield. A straight-A scholar, he is a Bible camp leader at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, works at a soup kitchen for the homeless in Springfield and in Westfield, and even appeared in local stage productions through the Westfield Theatre Group. He serves as a Certified Red Cross Babysitter where he reads to children as part of this program. He ran his first book drive for Link to Libraries as a grade six student and continued with a subsequent program. His work on this book drive was highlighted by TV 40 WGGB "Making a Difference" segment in November of 2011 and the Reminder Publications Hometown Heroes Award selected Andrew as its first Youth Award Recipient. Susan Jaye-Kaplan, president of Link to Libraries says, "His outstanding dedication to community service is more than commendable. Many see Andrew as a leader for tomorrow because he is already a leader today!"

2012 Presidential Award

This year's Presidential Award uniquely honors a multitude of agencies whose central purpose is to nourish and feed the hungry of the Pioneer Valley. Special recognition will be given to Lorraine's Soup Kitchen, Kate's Kitchen, the Springfield Rescue Mission, Loaves and Fishes, Parish Cupboard, Amherst Survival Center, Food Bank of Western MA, and Rachel's Table. This recognition brings awareness to world hunger and fulfills AFP's national philanthropy day's commitment to "change the world with a giving heart."



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**2012
NATIONAL
PHILANTHROPY
DAY**



Wednesday,
November 14, 2012
The Log Cabin, Holyoke, MA

*2012 Outstanding Philanthropists
-Michele and Donald D'Amour*

Nominated by Patricial Burden, Michele and Donald D'Amour have dedicated themselves to supporting, developing and providing educational programming through their personal generosity. Both Michele and Donald's primary education was local. Michele went on to graduate from Westfield State University and American International College where she received an MEd. Donald graduated from Assumption College, also attending University of Louvain, Belgium; University of Munich, Germany; and the University of Notre Dame with a PhD. in Philosophy. Guided by their faith and dedication to promote education, they have always generously supported creative educational programming and scholarship awards, both personally and professionally. The naming of the Michele and Donald D'Amour Museum of Fine Arts has brought new life to the Springfield Museum complex. Donald, chairman and CEO of Big Y Foods and Michele as its Educational Partnership Administrator oversee educational initiatives which include more than \$250,000 annually in scholarships for students in the area. They are steadfast in their belief that having opportunities to do well presents opportunities to do good and should be proportionately related.

*2012 Outstanding Volunteer in Philanthropy,
Hampshire County-Julie Cowan*

Proudly nominated by the Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech, Julie Cowan is Vice President for Commercial Lending for TD Bank. In 2010, Julie joined the Clarke Board of Trustees, having served on the Resource Development Committee and was elected to chair Clarke's Northampton Volunteer Steering Committee. She has provided countless hours to assist with the transition of Clarke's Northampton Campus.

In addition to her volunteer work at the school, she has served as Director of the United Way of Hampshire County and UW Campaign Co-Chair. Julie is a new Director of the Greater Northampton Chamber of Commerce and is

a member of its Economic Development Committee. "Julie's unwavering commitment is rivaled only by her positive attitude and strong work ethic," says Clarke School President, Bill Corwin.

*2012 Outstanding Volunteer in Philanthropy,
Hampden County-Ron Copes*

Currently residing in Bonnie Lake, WA, former Western New England University adjunct faculty Ron Copes will be returning to Western MA on November 14th to be honored at National Philanthropy Day. Colonel Copes is a Vietnam Veteran who served in the US Army for 27 years, receiving the Silver Star Medal and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm. He holds a BS from Lincoln University and an MBA from Atlanta University. He worked for MassMutual Financial Group for nearly two decades, serving as Vice President of Community Relations. He also served as interim CEO for the United Way of Pioneer Valley. In 2004, Ron received the National Conference for Community and Justice Human Relations Award. Volunteer commitments include affiliation with a diverse number of boards that include Baystate Health System, Amistad Foundation, Boy Scouts of America, and Springfield Business Improvement District Board. Ron reminds us that "Volunteering is something that all of us can do. Find what interests you and where you can make a difference," Western New England University is proud to nominate Ron for this prestigious award.

*2012 Outstanding Philanthropic Corporation
-Chicopee Savings Bank*

Chicopee Savings Bank has lived its mission, that is, to be "a profitable and well-capitalized bank, dedicated to serving our community." In fact, in 1854, this strong commitment to community resulted in one of its first loans to Chester Chapin to establish the Boston and Albany Railroad. One-hundred and fifty-eight years later, the bank's commitment to community continues through volunteer leadership and generous financial support which amounts to more than \$300,000 annually. In 2006, the bank tendered more than 550 shares of initial stock to establish Chicopee Savings Charitable Foundation. Over the last six years, more than \$1 million dollars has been donated back to the community through sponsorships or direct contributions. Thousands of volunteer hours by more than 100 bank officers and employees are hallmark accomplishments and every weekend one or more of the 100 non-profits will witness the volunteer enthusiasm of Chicopee Savings Bank's dedicated staff. From board membership to registration booths, CSB volunteers are carrying out the bank's mission.

*2012 Outstanding Professional in Philanthropy
-Dr. Carla Oleska*

Chosen by her peers and nominated by Volunteers Lynn Korza and Eileen Kirk, Dr. Carla Oleska is named Outstanding Professional in Philanthropy. Her associates proclaim her as a visionary, grand communicator and a mentor to so many women who have crossed her path. Dr. Oleska, executive director of the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts, has her roots in Rhode Island and her heart in bringing diverse groups of women together to honor each other's individuality. Through her work with the Woman's Fund Carla has been the force behind such innovative programs as the Leadership Institute for Political and Public Impact (known as LIPPI) and "Standing on Her Shoulders." In the early 90's before her tenure at the Woman's Fund, she created innovative programs, namely, Step Forward; Step Ahead; and New Horizons at Elms College for economically disadvantaged/underserved women and girls. Thousands have benefited and the program now serves as a national model. Dr. Oleska holds a BA from the College of New Rochelle, an MA in English and a PhD. in Critical Theory from the University of Rhode Island. She serves and has served on a variety of boards including Girl Scouts of America, the Polish Center for Discovery and Learning, and Conway School for Sustainable Landscape Design. She was also a member of the Advisory Committee at Bay Path College.

*2012 Outstanding Young Philanthropists,
Hampshire County-A.R.H.S.-Future
Business Leaders Group*

The Cooley Dickinson Hospital enthusiastically chose the Amherst Regional High School-Future Business Leaders Group as Outstanding Young Philanthropists-Fundraising Volunteers. "We are so proud of this dedicated group of young adults that shared our mission and our passion," says Mary Ellen Walsh, Cancer Center Director. Under the leadership of teacher and club advisor Missy Shea, the FBLG embraced the Cancer Care Program and Center at Cooley Dickinson Hospital. Their business plan included an intent to raise funds to help community members faced with the diagnosis of cancer and made its goal to be "making a difference for the benefit of our community" and has since adopted that as their ongoing effort raising thousands in support of the planned comprehensive cancer center at Cooley Dickinson. These young people have rallied around an important issue, educating themselves about the disease of cancer and how local resources can play a vital role towards awareness and healing.

