

## **2017 EUGENE POLICELLI SERVICE AWARDS**

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On May 2, 2017, the South Windsor Board of Education announced the recipients of the 15th annual Eugene Policelli Service Awards at a ceremony held at South Windsor High School. A brief summary of their accomplishments and accolades is provided below.

### **Emily J. Appleton - Student Award**

As a middle school student, Emily became involved in the South Windsor Haiti School project by making posters that were seen throughout the community. As a high school student she continued her involvement by sitting on the Board of Directors and holding the office of Secretary. As one of the student representatives she helps bring a different perspective to the discussions and decisions made by the board. Emily is also a member of the National Ski Patrol and volunteers at Mount Southington. She is responsible for assessing a guest's injury and accessing appropriate care and promoting safe skiing by enforcing safety rules. Her work helps to ensure the enjoyment and safety for all patrons. Emily has gone above and beyond to receive additional training. She is certified as a professional rescuer for both CPR and AED and for Chair Lift Evacuations and Avalanche

rescues. As a member of the Ski Patrol, Emily has taken on a leadership role in helping to educate new patrol candidates and is often the first to arrive at the scene which puts her in charge of the care of the injured guest. In May 2016, she was awarded the Young Adult Patroller of the Year for the Connecticut Region and placed 13th overall in the Eastern Division. Additionally, she has volunteered for the CT Special Olympics Winter Games. In her role she helps her athlete get to their specific event and get onto the chair lift. Emily then skis down the mountain by his or her side providing encouragement and assistance. She has demonstrated great empathy for others, and possesses a warm and engaging personality which are a perfect match for working with athletes with disabilities.

### **Lindsey Cartier - Student Award**

When Lindsey's name is mentioned, you often hear her described as organized, dedicated, inspiring and a pleasure to work with. Throughout her high school years, she has served her school and the community in a variety of capacities. As a sophomore, Lindsey was one of the class officers at South Windsor High School. She was involved in all facets of their activities, from helping to design a class T-shirt to taking a leadership role in organizing their very successful fund-raising activities. Lindsey also served as an officer on the Student Council, where she helped plan and implement a Holiday Party open to all young

people in South Windsor. She worked countless hours before the event to plan the activities in addition to organizing the volunteers needed to make the dance successful. This fundraiser has netted more than \$1,000 which was donated to the Jimmy V. Foundation for cancer research. From 2014 to the present, Lindsey has led the "South Windsor for the Kids" organization which raises money for the Connecticut Children's Hospital through a dance marathon. Under Lindsey's leadership, the South Windsor for the Kids organization has donated more than \$17,000 to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

### **Sandra C. Jeski**

Sandra Jeski was born and raised in South Windsor and has spent more than four decades making a difference in our community through her voluntary service. Whether donating her gift of time to our schools, her church or our community, Sandra is always dedicated and conscientious. Sandra has served on the South Windsor Agricultural Land

Preservation Council for 13 years studying issues concerning farmland, open space and land use. This work helps to enhance the quality of life for all residents by providing areas for passive recreation and the preservation of wildlife. She dedicates her time to organizations that seek to help others and in turn has helped to shape the landscape of our town.

She is a member of the town's Community Emergency Response Team and is certified to help members of our community in the event of a natural or manmade disaster. She served on the Historic District Commission helping to preserve the historical character of local properties. Sandra is currently South Windsor's Town Historian, and was instrumental in establishing the South Windsor Beautification Committee. She has also volunteered for Wood Memorial Library and the South Windsor Haiti School project. She has been on the parish council for St. Francis of Assisi Church where she has worked on the Immaculate Conception Shelter's food committee and yearly

auction fundraiser committee. As a volunteer driver for FIST (Friends in Service Together), she has helped hundreds of local seniors get to their medical appointments. Last but not least, Sandra has been instrumental in the success of the South Windsor Farmer's Market. Four years ago she became the Market Master and has worked tirelessly in that role. In addition to her hours of preparation before and at the market, she also visits other local markets bringing back information on how to improve. In the 2016 season more than 18,000 visitors came to shop and in turn helped to contribute an estimated \$263,000 to our local economy.

### **Daniel W. Rezende**

Daniel Rezende is genuine, sincere, approachable, and has great wisdom. When you meet anyone who has had the pleasure of his company that is what you will hear. More than 30 years ago, the Recreation Department began the South Windsor Adaptive Games, now known as the Monday Night Social Club. The club embraces the needs of the special needs population aged 14 years and older, and Dan has been involved since its inception. The goals of the group are to provide social connections and opportunities for friendship which were not readily available. Dan's contributions go above and beyond his role as supervisor of this group. He works tirelessly to promote an environment of support, respect and fun for its members. He continually reaches out to the community to engage volunteers who can enrich the program. His love and passion for this group extends not only to the

club's participants but to their families as well. He also encourages the members to participate in the South Windsor Olympics of which he has been involved for more than 23 years. He also organizes an Open Gym every Friday night so that his athletes can continue to engage in social and physical activity throughout the year. As a coach, he is a constant cheerleader for "his kids" by helping to train, support and celebrate their victories. Dan has also volunteered more than 3,000 hours over a period of 40 years for the Little League and American Legion baseball organizations. He has served as Manager, Coach and League Director. His players and their families refer to him as "Chief," a term of endearment and a sign of respect for what he has done for them. More than 1,000 players have worked with Dan and always describe as a man of great integrity, dedication and kindness.