



West Haven Community House
227 Elm Street, West Haven, CT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bill Heffernan selected for Community House's 2014 'Pauline Lang Exceptional Service Award'

WEST HAVEN (Sept. 5, 2014) – Typically once each year the West Haven Community House selects one member of its board as its "Pauline Lang Exceptional Service Award" winner named in honor of the agency's founder.

For 2014, WHCH Board President Stacie Phan has selected William Heffernan III as this year's honoree.

"While Bill has been a board member for only a few years," Phan said, "he nevertheless has shown the qualities and commitment necessary to be an effective advocate and leader.

"Even prior to his board service, Bill was intimately involved with our fundraising golf tournaments and other fundraising activities. Becoming a board member in 2010, he has demonstrated over and over again one of the most important traits we could ask of a volunteer board member, which is his dependability.

"I do not think in his entire four years that Bill has been on the board that he has ever said 'no' to anything asked of him."

Phan added that Heffernan wears a variety of hats and plays several pivotal roles on the Community House Board. In addi-



At the 2014 Annual Board Meeting on June 19, Bill received his award, and is shown here next to a portrait of the agency's founder and award namesake, Pauline Lang.

tion to serving as 2nd Vice President of the Board, Heffernan "has had a significant impact on our Executive Committee, Building & Grounds Committee and most recently our Nominating Committee."

A past chair of the Events Committee, Heffernan played a pivotal role in the planning and execution of a variety of events. But by far his most visible public role has been to act as emcee for the agency's very popular "A Night at the Races" event held each April. "If you have ever been to any of our 'A Night at the Races' events, you will have seen Bill splendid in his tuxedo, microphone in hand," Phan said.

She and Executive Director Patty Stevens both agree that Heffernan's outgoing personality and skill in keeping the event flowing and interspersed with humorous observations and quips has been



Bill seen here at the 2013 "A Night at the Races" event behind the microphone, while his daughter, Anita, appears in the background.

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a key factor in the event's ongoing success. For the past several years, the "A Night at the Races" event has attracted more than 300 attendees and netted the agency much needed revenue.

For his part, Heffernan is encouraging the greater West Haven community to support the agency's next fundraiser on Sunday, Oct. 5 – the annual FunWalk and Health & Wellness Fair that features a 2-mile walk along the boardwalk in West Haven, a route interspersed with fun activity booths.

But it is not just his fundraising efforts that earned Heffernan the Board commendation this year. As Stevens noted, "On very short notice, in fact, with virtually no notice, Bill was asked to speak on behalf of the board and the agency at our Read Across America event held last March. He made a wonderful presentation, including creating a quick poem of his own."

As it turns out, awards and recognition are nothing new for Heffernan, a lifelong city resident and lieutenant in the West Haven Fire Department. His list of awards and citations includes: West Haven Elks Firefighter of the Year 1998; CT Secretary of State Public Service Award 2004; West Haven Community House Certificate of Appreciation 2001 & 2004; Charles N. Davidson "Outstanding Community Service" Award 2010, and, the West Haven Professional Firefighters Community Service Award 2014.

Locally, Heffernan attended Colonial Park Grammar School, Bailey Junior High and graduated from West Haven High School in 1981. He also earned an Associate of Science Degree in Fire and Occupational Safety in 1999 from the University of New Haven. In his career, Heffernan has held a variety of positions including iron worker. He is also owner of Alpha Carpet and owner/partner in Johnny's Grille.

He received his Firefighter I certifications in April 1991 and in March 1993, which was followed by numerous other certifications including Aerial Operator, Hazmat Technician, Fire Service Instructor and Fire Officer.

He also holds several Federal Emergency Management Agency certifications, as well as those from the National Fire Academy, the CT State Fire Academy, Amtrak, the Fire Department of New York, Callan & Co, and including two from the Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center at New Mexico Tech in "Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings," and, "Prevention and Response to Suicide Bombings."

Among his numerous memberships and affiliations, Heffernan is a member of West Haven Hook & Ladder, West Haven Knights of Columbus, West Haven Elks Club, sponsor of the William J. Heffernan Memorial Award at West Haven High School, West Haven Professional Firefighter's Local 1198, CT Fire Department Instructors Association, previous Co-Chair of the West Haven Fire Dept. Toy Drive, Local 1198 40th Anniversary Committee, New Haven Emerald Society, West Haven Fire Dept. Brick Walkway Committee, West Haven Firemen's Memorial Board of Trustees, founder and chairman



Bill, back row middle, is seen here with a donor, left, and fellow board member Ken Prisco, right, along with children from a Head Start classroom in 2011.

of the West Haven Fire Department Historical Society, West Haven Historical Society, and, co-chairman of the West Haven Fire Dept.'s 125th Anniversary Committee.

Heffernan is the son of school teachers Evelyn and William Heffernan, Jr., of West Haven. He has three siblings: sister Catherine Heffernan, a social worker and also a member of the board at the West Haven Community House; a brother, Daniel, an attorney, and, sister Nancy, also a school teacher. He was married to Anne Marie Raubeson in 1992, a licensed registered nurse, and has two children, Anita and William Heffernan IV.

The entire West Haven Community House family extends its congratulations and thanks to Bill for his continued service to not only the agency, but to the entire West Haven community.

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For more information on this release, contact Development Director Chris Carroll at (203) 934-5221, ext. 133, or by email at: ccarroll@whcommunityhouse.net.