CITY of STAMFORD
Citizen of the Year - 2026

JWV Community Scholarships and Veterans' Recognition

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Dr. Maggie Young to be Honored as the City of Stamford's 2026 Citizen of the Year

STAMFORD, CT — On behalf of the City of Stamford, the JWV Fred Robbins Post 142, and the Citizen of the Year Selection Committee, we are pleased to announce the selection of Dr. Maggie Young as Stamford's 2026 Citizen of the Year (COTY).

Dr. Young was unanimously recognized because "she has demonstrated a belief in interfaith harmony, possesses the highest standards of responsibility in civic life, has helped in the promotion of projects for the public welfare, and who has a meaningful connection to the City of Stamford and made significant contributions to the betterment of the city" – the criteria for selection of one of Stamford's most prestigious community service/volunteer awards.

"Those in our community who have worked with Maggie know her remarkable story, her tireless energy, and her unwavering commitment to helping others improve their lives," said Mayor Caroline Simmons. "Through her leadership and compassion, she plays an integral role in making Stamford a safer and stronger place to live. I am proud to join the Committee in recognizing Dr. Maggie Young as this year's Stamford Citizen of the Year."

Jevera Kaye Hennessey, chair of the Selection Committee said, "Maggie's volunteer dedication is testimony to the unique role she has played not only in Stamford but in the State to so many organizations."

In addition to her professional work, Dr. Maggie Young has given back selflessly to the Stamford community for the past 40 years serving on the boards of numerous organizations providing recovery and mental health services, including CCAR (Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery), Governor's Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee, and was instrumental in starting HER Time, supporting recently incarcerated women as they reintegrate into the community.

She also co-facilitates the Stamford Anti-Violence program with the Stamford Police Department and Domus; teaches DUI classes; volunteers every Sunday for the mental health program at Stamford Health; serves on the VITA Collaborative of social service agencies; worked closely with Stamford CARES; and serves as a facilitator for youth prevention workshops in the schools.

The list of her voluntary contribution continues: Maggie founded the Families in Recovery Program when it was housed at Franklin Common; facilitates trainings throughout lower Fairfield County, including QPR (Question Persuade and Refer) MH gate-keeper training, SBIRT (Screening brief intervention and referral to treatment) as well Naloxone/Narcan – opioid reversal medication training.

Through her own personal journey, Maggie was drawn to supporting others through the often difficult and confusing first steps of recovery and reentering the community in innumerable positive ways.

The COTY selection committee, The City of Stamford and the Jewish War Veterans are proud to honor Dr. Maggie Young as the 2026 Citizen of the Year. Two upcoming events will celebrate her: first, the plaque naming ceremony at Government Center, and second at the Citizen of the Year Dinner which will be held this spring. Details to follow.

About the City of Stamford Citizen of the Year Award

In the early 1940s, Fred Robbins, a veteran who had served in both World War I and II, settled in Stamford, became involved in community affairs and worked with then Mayor Webster Givens to establish a Citizen of the Year (COTY) award. COTY has been awarded since 1945 when Mayor Givens appointed Post 142 of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States be the sponsoring organization. Now named Fred Robbins Post 142, it has sponsored the award on behalf of the City for 75 years, and over this time, has now honored 81 men and women who have served the Stamford community so well. For more information, visit www.stamfordcoty.org/coty.

Prior City of Stamford Citizens of the Year:

1945 Father John Kelley
1946 C. Russell Waterbury
1947 Rabbi David W. Pearlman
1948 Rev. Lloyd F. Worley
1949 Walter H. Wheeler, Jr.
1950 Benjamin Bogin
1951 Sarah F. Smith
1952 Norris E. Pierson
1953 Gibbs Lyons
1954 Jean Ware Hoyt
1955 Harold E. Rider
1956 Pat Marshall
1957 Harry Rosenbaum
1958 Joseph E. Morrow
1959 Rev. Donald F. Campbell
1960 J. Walter Kennedy
1961 Walter Thayer
1962 Thomas C. Mayers
1963 T. Carter Dodd
1964 Rev. Russell McGown
1965 Doris Kirshbaum
1966 John F. Cameron
1967 Herbert B. Kohn
1968 Dr. Peter Goldmark
1969 Thomas J. Feeney
1970 Rev. Cyrill S. Peters
1971 Dr. Angelo Mastrangelo
1972 John O. Nicklis
1973 Charles A. Ukkerd
1974 Alphonsus J. Donahue, Jr.
1975 Louis Lotstein
1976 Lillian Moran
1977 Tony P. Pia
1978 Pobie Johnston
1979 Edith Sherman
1980 Fred T. Allen
1981 Wayne L. Tyson
1982 Christel Truglia
1983 Julius M. Wilensky
1984 Joseph F. Fahey
1985 Sylvia Rosenfield
1986 Frank D. Rich, Jr.
1987 S. Beatrice Foreman
1988 Norman T. Woodbury
1989 Jane F. Norgren
1990 John T. D. Rich
1990 Elizabeth P. Rich
1991 Lynne R. Laitman
1992 Charles A Guinta
1993 Charles C. Judd
1993 Jane M. Judd
1994 John A. Ball
1995 Michael J. Cacace
1996 George B. Harvey
1998 Adele Gordon
1999 Polly O'Brien
2000 Len Miller
2001 Sam Cingari
2002 Rev. Winton M. Hill III
2003 Marc Lyons, Jr.
2004 Rick Robustelli
2005 Sandy Goldstein
2006 Al Sanseverino
2007 June Rosenthal
2008 Richard E. Taber
2009 Juanita T. James
2010 Bobby Valentine
2011 Arthur Selkowitz
2012 Jami A. Sherwood
2013 Timothy J. Curtin, Jr.
2014 Gene Rubino
2015 Jay Sandak
2015 Mary Sommer
2016 Richard W. Redniss
2017 Dudley Williams
2018 Hon. Dannel P. Malloy
2019 Cathy Ostuw
2020 Courtney Nelthropp
2023 Jevera Kaye Hennessey
2023 William Hennessey
2024 Adriana Molina
2025 Harry Day