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City of Stamford

2026 Citizen of the Year

Award & Scholarship Presentation Dinner

Honoring

Dr. Maggie Young

and outstanding

Scholarship Recipients & Stamford Veterans

Fred Robbins
Post 142

City of Stamford

2026 Citizen of the Year

Award & Scholarship Presentation Dinner

Stamford Citizen of the Year 2026

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*Prior COTY Recipient

Program

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

City of Stamford

2026 Citizen of the Year

Award & Scholarship Presentation Dinner

Welcome & Introductions
Gary H. Stone, Co-Chair

Presentation of Colors
Stamford Police Department Honor Guard & Honored Veterans

National Anthem
CPT Joe Colavito

Invocation
Reverend Andre Bradley

Mayor of Stamford
Caroline Simmons

Program
Rick Redniss, Co-Chair

Presentation of Scholarships & Veterans' Recognition
Lisa Feinberg
Ray Mazzeo

Superintendent, Stamford Public Schools
Tamu Lucero

Special Presentation
Rick Redniss

Introduction of Citizen of the Year
Nateal Heard & Naiera Robinson

2026 Citizen of the Year
Dr. Maggie Young

Presentation of JWV COTY Award
Stephen Fischer

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83 Citizens

For 82 years, the City of Stamford has recognized a Stamford resident for his or her service to the community.

$787,500

Since 2005, $787,500 in scholarships has been awarded to 122 Stamford high school seniors at the annual Citizen of the Year event.

122 Students

Since 2005, 122 high school seniors have been awarded $7,500 scholarships for their outstanding community service to the City of Stamford.

117 Veterans

Since 2005, 117 Stamford veterans have been honored by awarding annual scholarships in the name of Stamford veterans who have selflessly served our country and our community.

Congratulations, Maggie!

It has been Our Pleasure and Honor
to have Founded and Sponsored the Annual
City of Stamford Citizen of the Year Commemoration
Since its Inception in 1945

The Jewish War Veterans of the United States
Fred Robbins Post 142, Stamford, Connecticut

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Gary H. Stone
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City of Stamford 2026 Citizen of the Year

Dr. Maggie Young

For more than 40 years, Dr. Maggie Young, DSW, LADC, LMSW, has been a steady, compassionate force in the Stamford community, dedicating her life to strengthening individuals, families, and systems of care. A Stamford resident since 1967, Maggie's impact is felt across the city – in schools, hospitals, treatment programs, and community organizations – where her leadership has helped create pathways to healing and stability.

Guided by her own personal journey, Maggie has devoted her life to helping others take the first steps of recovery with dignity, compassion, and hope. Her work has touched thousands of lives, often quietly and without recognition.

Dr. Young serves as Chief Recovery Officer at Liberation Programs, Inc., where she oversees an inpatient treatment program and leads prevention and education services that support youth and their families. A trusted leader in behavioral health, she has worked across prevention, inpatient, outpatient, and recovery support settings, improving outcomes for individuals impacted by substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders throughout Stamford and Fairfield County. Her work emphasizes early intervention, long-term recovery, and keeping families connected.

Maggie was instrumental in the development of Families in Recovery Program (FIRP), Connecticut's first residential addiction treatment program for women and their children and the only program of its kind in Fairfield County. Her vision transformed care for pregnant and parenting women by strengthening collaboration among child welfare systems, hospitals, courts, and community providers, ensuring families remain connected and supported throughout recovery. FIRP has become a model for family-centered treatment locally and statewide. Her expertise has reached beyond CT, including specialized trainings for child welfare and court support professionals and Tribal leaders in Juneau and Anchorage, Alaska.

Beyond her professional leadership, Maggie is deeply engaged in civic life. She serves on numerous boards and committees, including the Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR), Mental Health Connecticut, Malta House, Mid-Fairfield AIDS Project, and the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence/Westchester. She was appointed to the Connecticut Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee and sits on the CT Maternal Mortality Review Committee and Youth Mental Health Alliance. She volunteers weekly with Stamford Health's psychiatric services, co-facilitates Stamford's Anti-Violence Program, supports youth prevention initiatives in local schools, and was instrumental in bringing HER Time, a program empowering women reentering the community after incarceration, to Stamford. She is also a member of the Connecticut Hall of Change, Great 8, class of 2021.

A proud mother and grandmother and faithful member of the Union Baptist Church, Dr. Maggie Young has spent four decades leading, serving, and advocating for others – helping shape a stronger Stamford and making her an inspiring and deeply deserving choice as Stamford's 2026 Citizen of the Year.

Senator Richard Blumenthal
Connecticut
Certificate of Special Recognition
Presented to
Dr. Maggie Young
In Honor of Being Named the City of Stamford's
2026 Citizen of the Year
June 2, 2026
Date
Senator Richard Blumenthal

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Dr. Maggie Young has dedicated more than 40 years to serving the Stamford community through her leadership, compassion, and advocacy for individuals and families impacted by substance use, mental health challenges, and recovery; and

WHEREAS, as Chief Recovery Officer at Liberation Programs, Inc., Dr. Young has helped lead critical prevention, treatment, education, and recovery initiatives that have strengthened systems of care throughout Stamford and Fairfield County; and

WHEREAS, through her leadership and volunteer service, Dr. Young has worked tirelessly to reduce stigma, expand access to support services, and provide hope and mentorship to countless individuals and families in our community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Young's commitment to public service and community well-being has made a profound and lasting impact on the City of Stamford; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her extraordinary contributions and decades of dedicated service, Dr. Maggie Young has been named the 2026 Stamford Citizen of the Year;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor of the City of Stamford, do hereby proclaim June 2, 2026, to be

Dr. Maggie Young Day

And encourage all residents to join me in recognizing and celebrating Dr. Young's outstanding leadership, service, and contributions to our community.

Mayor Caroline Simmons

MAYOR CAROLINE SIMMONS
CITY OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

TEL: 203-977-4150
EMAIL: MAYORSOFFICE@STAMFORDCT.GOV

June 2, 2026

Dr. Young,

I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you on being named the 2026 Stamford Citizen of the Year. This well-deserved recognition reflects your extraordinary compassion, leadership, and decades of service to the Stamford community.

For more than 40 years, you have been a dedicated advocate for individuals and families navigating recovery, mental health challenges, and reentry into the community. Through your work as Chief Recovery Officer at Liberation Programs and your extensive volunteer service throughout Stamford, you have transformed countless lives with dignity, empathy, and hope.

Your leadership has strengthened systems of care across our community — from prevention and education programming for youth and families, to recovery support services, violence prevention initiatives, and behavioral health advocacy. Your work has not only improved access to critical services but has also helped reduce stigma and foster a more compassionate and connected community.

What makes your impact especially meaningful is the way you have used your own personal journey to uplift others and help people see that recovery and healing are possible. Your unwavering commitment to meeting people where they are and supporting them through some of life's most difficult moments is an inspiration to all of us.

On behalf of the City of Stamford, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your service and congratulate you again on this well-deserved recognition.

Sincerely,

Mayor Caroline Simmons

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Dear Maggie,

On behalf of everyone at Liberation Programs, and personally, it is my great honor to congratulate you on being named Stamford Citizen of the Year. This recognition is a fitting tribute to your decades of extraordinary leadership, compassion, and unwavering commitment to the well-being of individuals and families throughout our community.

For more than 20 years, you have been a driving force in prevention, intervention, and behavioral health initiatives serving Stamford residents. Through your leadership, advocacy, and hands-on involvement, you have helped expand access to critical support services for youth, families, and individuals facing mental health and substance use challenges.

Your presence in the Stamford community has been both visible and impactful. Whether speaking at community forums, collaborating with schools and community organizations, or championing initiatives that strengthen families and promote wellness, you have touched countless lives with your wisdom, empathy, and dedication. Your efforts have helped foster stronger partnerships across the community and created lasting opportunities for prevention, education, and recovery support.

Because of your vision and tireless commitment, Stamford has become a stronger and more connected community. Your leadership has inspired collaboration among healthcare providers, schools, nonprofit organizations, and community leaders, helping to build systems of care that support individuals and families at every stage of need. The impact of your work will continue to benefit future generations for years to come.

This honor reflects not only your professional accomplishments, but also the respect and admiration you have earned from colleagues, community leaders, families, and friends throughout the region. We are deeply grateful for your partnership, leadership, and the profound difference you continue to make every day.

Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition. We celebrate you and all that you have contributed to the Stamford community.

With sincere admiration and gratitude,

John Hamilton

339 West Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604
855-542-7764
www.liberationprograms.org

Fred Robbins Post 142
Jewish War Veterans
143 Hoyt Street
Stamford, CT 06905

June 2, 2026

Dear Maggie:

It is with great admiration and genuine pride that I congratulate you on being selected as Stamford's *Citizen of the Year*. This recognition could not be more deserved.

For forty years, you have given of yourself—quietly, consistently, and with extraordinary compassion. Through your leadership at Liberation Programs, you have shaped addiction treatment, prevention, and education in ways that have changed lives across our community. Co-founding Connecticut's first residential recovery program for women and children stands as one of many lasting contributions that reflect both your vision and your heart.

Your impact extends far beyond your professional achievements. Whether volunteering weekly in psychiatric care, co-leading anti-violence initiatives, mentoring women through empowerment programs, you have never stopped showing up for people who need you most. You have touched lives without fanfare, always with grace.

Your life is a powerful example of resilience, purpose, and service. You have overcome challenges and transformed them into a lifelong commitment to lifting others. That is why you stand today as an icon in our community and why you are so worthy of being called *Citizen of the Year*.

On behalf of the Fred Robbins Post #142, Jewish War Veterans, we warmly welcome you to the distinguished group of individuals who have given so much to the City of Stamford. Your name elevates that list.

Congratulations, Dr. Young. Stamford is a better, kinder, and stronger place because of you.

With deep respect,

Stephen B. Fischer
Commander
Fred Robbins Post-142
Jewish War Veterans

Shoreline RECOVERY LLC
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June 1, 2026

Congratulations, Dr. Maggie Young! I was so delighted to hear that you have been selected as Stamford Citizen of the Year—an honor that is so well deserved.

Maggie has always been an inspiration to me and to so many others in our field. She carries herself with grace, integrity, and authenticity in all that she does. She is a true example of what recovery looks like in action—compassionate, engaged, and always willing to step forward and help others.

I'd like to share a personal story that speaks to her character. Several years ago, I made a last-minute decision to attend CCAR's Multiple Pathways of Recovery Conference in Punta Gorda, Florida—only to find that every room was booked. Without hesitation, Maggie offered to share her room with me. And not just any room—it had one king-sized bed! What could have been awkward instead turned into something unforgettable. We laughed endlessly and, for those few days, it felt like a true slumber party. That experience perfectly captures Maggie's generosity, warmth, and ability to make people feel welcome and at ease.

She is truly a gem, and I feel fortunate to know her—both professionally and personally.

Congratulations again, Maggie, on this well-earned recognition.

With admiration and gratitude,

Karen Ablondi, MPH, LCSW, LADC

Karen Ablondi, MPH, LCSW, LADC
Shoreline Recovery
karen@shorelinerecovery.org
203.605.7543

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www.rtor.org

May 15, 2026

Dr. Maggie Young, LADC, LMSW, CCs, RCP
Chief Recovery Officer
Liberations Programs, Inc.
339 West Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Dear Maggie,

Please accept our enthusiastic congratulations for your selection as Stamford Citizen of the Year! The Laurel House and rtor.org team know first-hand how deserving you are, both professionally and personally, of this significant honor.

Not only have you dramatically improved the lives of Liberation's clients, you also have been a model for collaboration with other organizations in the field of recovery, engaging complementary services and programs to meet the full needs of those you serve. You have promoted our services as well, making referrals to rtor.org Resource Specialists to help your clients' families rebuild their lives, and to our Education and Employment programs for your clients' vocational goals.

We all describe you as passionate, recovery-oriented in all that you do, and dedicated to connecting people and helping them succeed in the community. You are a great communicator and we are proud to call you both a valued colleague and a friend.

Enjoy this fitting tribute! We look forward to continuing our work together.

Warm regards,

Linda M. Autore

Linda M. Autore
President and CEO

Laurel House, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization that helps individuals and families achieve and sustain mental health to lead fulfilling lives

Fairfield County's Community Foundation

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Dear Maggie,

We are absolutely delighted to congratulate you on being named Stamford Citizen of the Year. This recognition feels especially meaningful because it so perfectly reflects who you are and the care, integrity, and leadership you bring to our community every day.

Your work as Chief Recovery Officer at Liberation Programs has had a profound and lasting impact on countless individuals and families. Through your leadership, you continue to advance recovery-focused services rooted in compassion, dignity, and hope. The thoughtfulness and humanity you bring to your work inspire all of us and strengthen the entire Stamford community. We are also deeply grateful for your service on our Community Impact Committee, as well as your generous contributions through your involvement on numerous boards. You consistently show up with insight, collaboration, and a true commitment to making a difference. Your voice matters, and the time and energy you give make our work—and our community—stronger.

This honor recognizes more than your professional accomplishments; it celebrates your unwavering dedication, kindness, and belief in the power of community. We feel fortunate to work alongside you and to learn from your example. Stamford is better because of you.

Please accept our heartfelt congratulations on this well-earned recognition. We hope you take this moment to feel proud of the extraordinary difference you make every day.

With sincere congratulations and admiration,
Mendi Blue Paca

May 15, 2026

Dear Maggie (Dr. Maggie Young),

Congratulations on being named Stamford Citizen of the Year! After more than two decades of knowing and working with you, I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this recognition.

Our paths first crossed when I was working with the Stamford Health Department HIV Program and you were overseeing FIRP for Liberation Programs. From the very beginning, your professionalism, dedication, and no-nonsense approach stood out. It was immediately clear that you were a force for good and a fierce advocate for the women you served.

Over the years, our professional relationship grew into a valued friendship. As my career took me to different agencies, I was grateful that our paths continued to intersect. When I arrived at Kids In Crisis, our collaboration grew even stronger, and today I continue to enjoy partnering with you through Greenwich Together, the Stamford Youth Mental Health Alliance, and many other committees and initiatives.

What makes working with you so special is not only your extraordinary work ethic and leadership, but also your sense of humor, compassion, and authenticity. Beyond our professional connection, we have shared life's challenges and joys, especially the pride we take in our children's accomplishments. I feel incredibly fortunate to count you among my friends.

Your tireless dedication to the recovery community, combined with your willingness to share your own experiences and vulnerabilities, has changed countless lives and made Stamford a stronger, more compassionate community.

Ralph Waldo Emerson's words capture your impact beautifully:
"To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived . . . This is to have succeeded."

Congratulations, my friend. This honor is richly deserved.

With much love,

Ellen Brezovsky

ctor
Shari L. Shapiro

*Board Emeritus

JOIN OUR PLEDGE TO HELP CONNECTICUT'S CHILDREN

Connecticut Association of Addiction Professionals

CONGRATULATIONS to Dr. Maggie Young-"Stamford Citizen of the Year 2026

Dear Maggie,

On behalf of the Connecticut Association of Addiction Professionals, it is my great pleasure and privilege to share our heartfelt congratulations on your award- "Stamford Citizen of the Year 2026". The Award is well-deserved for your exceptional contributions to Connecticut's Substance Use and Co-Occurring Disorders for over 40 years. Maggie, you possess a truly outstanding blend of wisdom, dedication, and compassion, as evidenced by your stunning professional and volunteer wins and accomplishments.

Your commitment to providing quality and comprehensive SUD treatment is demonstrated in your professional and educational achievements. As a new counselor, your talents and energies provided the keys to a remarkable journey of growth. You now hold the position at Liberation Programs, Inc. as Chief Recovery Officer with involvement in special services for families and inpatient treatment program for pregnant women and parenting women with children. Accompanying your career path has been your educational pursuits- moving through a BA to the attainment of a DSW and a CT Licensure LADC, licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor-breathtaking!

Your generosity of spirit extends to your innumerable volunteer advocacy and civic activities. There are so many initiatives, which you have participated in- this congratulatory letter is unable to list them all and--- might fall short in missing one. With this Award, the citizens of Stamford have expressed their deep gratitude for your work in the City's Anti- Violence Programs, prevention programs at Stamford schools, the highly acclaimed HER Time for women re-entering the community after incarceration, and so many vital efforts for enriching both Stamford and Connecticut.

Closing on a personal note, I am thrilled that you have recently joined our terrific CAAP Board of Directors. We look forward to your valued participation in CAAP's vital mission.

Sincerely,
Susan C. Campion LADC LMFT
President: CT Association of Addiction Professionals
New Haven, CT 06512

75 Charter Oak Ave
Building 1 Suite 305
Hartford, CT 06106
Office: (860) 244-CCAR
Fax: (860) 244-2228

April 16, 2026

Dear Maggie,

I am so grateful for the opportunity to congratulate you on being named Stamford Citizen of the Year—an honor that could not be more deserved.

I first connected with you early in my career when I was working at the Connecticut Certification Board. Even though our conversations often centered on certification questions, it was always a joy to answer the phone and hear your voice on the other end. Your positivity, energy, and genuine warmth shone through every interaction, turning what could have been routine calls into meaningful connections.

When I began working at CCAR, I had the pleasure of "meeting" you all over again. You came right up to me and said you were the one who had called so many times with certification questions—and once again, it felt like reconnecting with an old friend. From that moment on, you have been a constant presence at CCAR: through your leadership at Liberations, your service as a Board member and Board President, and your unwavering support of our mission.

Your energy is infectious. Your joy is unmistakable. Whether training through our curriculum, serving as the emcee at our Multiple Pathways of Recovery Conference, or rolling up year after year with a van full of participants for our annual Recovery Walks, you show up with enthusiasm, commitment, and heart.

You are such an asset to this field because people simply feel better for having known you. Your light has brightened countless lives—and I know I am deeply grateful that you have shone it on mine, especially as I navigate my not-so-new executive director role. Your encouragement, presence, and example mean more than you know.

Congratulations, Maggie. There is truly no one more deserving of this recognition. I appreciate you. CCAR appreciates you. And we celebrate not just this honor, but the lasting impact you have made on every life you have touched.

With love and gratitude,

Stacy Charpentier
Executive Director

www.ccar.us

Community Mindfulness Project

May 2026

Dear Dr. Young,

On behalf of the entire team at the Community Mindfulness Project, congratulations on being named Stamford's 2026 Citizen of the Year. It is an honor that could not be more deserved.

While our paths at Liberation Programs are only beginning to cross person to person in a regular and meaningful way, we have heard your name spoken with reverence and gratitude by so many people we trust and admire: clients whose lives have been changed, colleagues whose work has been elevated, and our own board members and advisors who point to you as a north star for what compassionate leadership in this field can look like. Long before we were partners, you were already part of our story through the voices of the people you've touched.

The Families in Recovery Program has been one of the most meaningful settings in which CMP has had the privilege of working. Sitting in a circle with mothers who are fighting hard for themselves and for their children, we are reminded constantly of the infrastructure of care that makes those moments possible, and so much of that infrastructure bears your fingerprints. To know that you have spent more than four decades building and sustaining that kind of support, quietly and consistently, is both humbling and inspiring.

As we look ahead to deepening our work together, bringing mindfulness more fully into the recovery journey at FIRP and beyond, we carry enormous gratitude for the foundation you've laid and excitement for what we can build together. We believe that healing is possible for everyone, and the path can be provided with utmost dignity and respect. We are fortunate to work alongside someone who has believed that, and acted on it, for so much longer than most.

With deep admiration and warm congratulations,

Ella Crivello and the Community Mindfulness Project Team

United Way Coastal and Western Connecticut
www.unitedwaycwc.org

UNITED WAY

Dear Maggie,

Congratulations on being named Stamford's Person of the Year, an honor that so clearly reflects the impact you've made in our community and in the lives of so many people, including mine.

You have been more than a colleague to me...you've been a friend, a source of encouragement, and a steady reminder to keep going, even when the work feels heavy. There's something powerful about the way you show up: with intention, with heart, and with a deep belief in people. It's not just what you do, it's how you do it.

From your transformative leadership at Liberation Programs to the way you pour into others through HERtime, and the love and dedication you show to your family, your church, and the broader community. You don't just talk about purpose, you live it. You guide, uplift, and challenge people toward greatness, and you do it in a way that feels both personal and profound.

And somehow, even in the midst of all you carry, you still take the time to send a message that ends with "create a great day". This is such a simple phrase, but it carries so much weight because it reflects how you actually live. AND...you don't just say it. You help make it possible for others.

You are truly one of the most inspiring people I've ever met. I only wish more people carried the same spirit, commitment, and authenticity that you bring into every space.

This recognition is well deserved, but it's also just a glimpse of the legacy you're continuing to build every single day. I'm super proud of you, my friend!!

Create a great day,

Yolande Ford, LPC
Senior Director of Equity and Culture
United Way Coastal and Western Connecticut

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Stamford, CT 06901
(203) 348-7711

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Rachel Kornfeld, LCSW, SBL

June 1, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

Maggie Young was introduced to me as a legend in the field of mental health-and I quickly learned that description was not only accurate, but understated.

Maggie has a remarkable presence. She is the kind of person who elicits an immediate sense of warmth, comfort, and genuine interest when she enters a room. Her career is filled with extraordinary accomplishments. What stands out most is the manner in which Maggie makes every person she encounters feel truly seen, valued, and heard.

When I learned she was being honored as Citizen of the Year, my immediate response was-*yes, of course*. There is no one more deserving. Maggie is a true humanitarian, a master clinician, and a deeply respected colleague and community leader whose impact extends far beyond any single role or title.

Her work has touched countless lives, and this recognition reflects not only what she has achieved, but how she has achieved it-with compassion, integrity, and unwavering dedication to others.

I hope Maggie feels the immense love, gratitude, and admiration that this honor represents-because it is exactly what she has given so generously to so many throughout her remarkable career.

With immense respect,

Rachel Kornfeld

Rachel Kornfeld, LCSW, SBL
Chief Executive Officer

Jewish Family Services of Greenwich
67 Holly Hill Lane
Greenwich, CT 06830
203-622-1881
www.jfsgreenwich.org

Health
Housing
Hope
MFAP

May 18, 2026

Dear John,

It gives my colleagues and I, here at The Mid Fairfield AIDS Project (MFAP), the greatest pleasure to congratulate Dr. Maggie Young on her award as Stamford's Citizen of The Year 2026. This is so well deserved as Maggie has relentlessly worked to improve her status in the community by acquiring her Doctorate and serving those in need for more than the past thirty years.

I know Maggie well as she has served on MFAP's board of directors over the past five years. As executive director I work closely with her and have had the privilege of benefiting from her experience, knowledge and loving kindness. Maggie Young is in the business of saving lives. Her joy is infectious as is her commitment that never wains.

We feel so grateful and are extremely blessed to work with her. I am so proud of her receiving Citizen of the year 2026.

Respectfully,

Stuart Lane

Stuart Lane
Executive Director MFAP

MFAP
618 West Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06850
203 855-9535 Fax 203 642-3920 info@mfap.com
www.mfap.org

Commissioner Nancy Navarretta, MA, LPC
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

CONNECTICUT

April 22, 2026

Dr. Maggie Young
c/o Liberation Programs, Inc.
15 Commerce Road
Stamford, CT 06902

Dear Maggie:

Congratulations on being selected as the Stamford Citizen of the Year, an honor that reflects your extraordinary leadership, compassion, and longstanding commitment to your community!

Having had the privilege of knowing you since 2012 when I served as the Chief Operating Officer of Liberation Programs, I am personally able to speak to your competence and inspirational personal story of long-term recovery. I continue to appreciate your contribution to the state's behavioral health system as Liberation Programs' first Chief Recovery Officer. You are a stellar agency ambassador, clinical supervisor and innovator. You have worked with every population served by Liberation Programs- young adults, pregnant and parenting women, men and women living with substance use and mental health disorders as well as the public at large, in your efforts to promote health and wellness in your community.

In my current role as the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, I have witnessed the influence you have had on hundreds of individuals pursuing their own recovery, as well as the contribution you have made to statewide policy and systems change.

Maggie, you leave no stone unturned, your profession, fellowship, community activities, volunteer work, mentorship, commitment to family and spirituality are a genuine reflection of who you are as an agent of change. You match your enthusiasm for recovery and wellness with your thirst for knowledge. So many accomplishments in the past decade; completing your doctorate, following completion of your MSW and numerous certifications and continuing education credits

410 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06134
Phone: 860-418-7000

ct.gov/dmhas

People gravitate toward you. You have an inner light and that illuminates the way for others who may have lost hope. You have the ability to magnify personal strengths in others so that they come to believe in their right to claim recovery as their own, become productive members of the community and, for some, parent their children in a safe recovery environment. You have used your story as a platform to educate people from all walks of life and reduce the stigma at the intersection of criminal justice systems and addiction. I have no doubt that you will continue to generously share your time and passion with individuals, families, communities, our state, and the national recovery conversation.

The town of Stamford has chosen well as they honor you as their citizen of the year!

Sincerely,

Nancy Navarretta, MA, LPC
Commissioner

CONNECTICUT
Mental Health & Addiction Services

ct.gov/dmhas

REAL TALK WITH RESPECT

Her Time
UNWIND. UPLIFT. UNITE.

"Community Support at its best"

May 6, 2026

Dear Dr. Maggie,

On behalf of all of us at **Hang Time and Her Time,** congratulations on being named **Stamford's Citizen of the Year.** This recognition is a beautiful reflection of your extraordinary commitment to your community, your compassionate leadership, and the powerful way you show up for others every single day.

Your impact in Stamford has been both meaningful and lasting. Through your vision, persistence, and belief in the importance of supporting justice-impacted women, you played a pivotal role in bringing **Her Time** to the City of Stamford. Because of your leadership, Her Time now regularly serves more than 40 justice-impacted women annually, creating a space where they can successfully reintegrate into the community, connect to critical resources, and most importantly, be **truly** seen and heard.

That ability to make people feel seen and heard is one of your greatest gifts. You have a rare and remarkable way of meeting people exactly where they are, at every level and in every circumstance, with dignity, compassion, and authenticity. That quality has made you not only an effective leader, but also a trusted friend, advocate, and source of hope to so many.

Your work as a **2021 Inductee in the Connecticut Hall of Change** is yet another reflection of your dedication to justice, healing, and transformation. Through this avenue, you have continued to advocate for change, uplift the voices of those too often overlooked, and inspire individuals returning home from incarceration to believe in their own worth and potential.

Maggie, I am honored to call you a friend and partner and I applaud the many ways you continue to strengthen lives and communities. You inspire all of us at Hang Time every day, and we are deeply grateful to walk alongside you in this work.

With heartfelt congratulations and gratitude-your friend,

Michele Litt, Executive Director, Hang Time

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David Rabin
CEO

greenwich
UNITED WAY
Local Insights. Lasting Results.

June 2, 2026

Dr. Maggie Young
Liberation Programs, Inc.
339 West Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Dear Dr. Young,

On behalf of the Greenwich United Way, I am honored to extend our heartfelt congratulations to you on being named this year's Stamford Citizen of the Year.

This recognition is a fitting tribute to your exceptional leadership, unwavering compassion, and deep commitment to the community. Through our partnership, we have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the integrity, thoughtfulness, and tireless dedication you bring to your work each day. Your ability to lead with both vision and empathy has not only strengthened the initiatives we share but has also made a lasting impact on the individuals and families we serve together.

Beyond your professional accomplishments, what stands out most is your genuine care for others and your consistent willingness to go above and beyond in service of the community. You have set a standard for what meaningful, community-centered leadership looks like, and your influence will continue to inspire those around you for years to come.

Please accept our sincere congratulations on this well-deserved honor. It is a privilege to work alongside you, and we look forward to continuing our shared efforts to make a positive difference.

Best,

David Rabin
CEO

2 Dearfield Drive, Suite 300 • Greenwich, CT 06831 • 203-869-2221
www.greenwichunitedway.org

Dear Dr. Maggie Young,

Congratulations on being named Stamford Citizen of the Year. This recognition comes as no surprise to all of us who have had the privilege of working alongside you and witnessing the incredible impact you make in every space and community you are part of.

Thank you for your years of dedication to Greenwich Together and to the countless individuals and families you support through your work. Your leadership, compassion, and willingness to always step up and help others are truly remarkable. You are consistently one of the first people willing to lend your time, expertise, and energy to support our coalition and community initiatives.

Greenwich Together proudly recognized you with our 2025 Outstanding Leader Award an honor voted on by coalition members and given to someone who truly lives the mission of Greenwich Together, goes above and beyond, and creates lasting impact within the community. There could not have been a more deserving recipient.

Your involvement in our Education Committee and your leadership in helping bring important projects like Hope Day to life have made an enormous difference in our community. Beyond your professional expertise and wealth of knowledge, your commitment to continued learning, attending conferences, and staying informed reflects the passion and dedication you bring to this work every day.

Perhaps most importantly, you bring joy, kindness, and laughter into every room you walk into. Your positive spirit is contagious, and your presence makes people feel supported, valued, and inspired.

We are so grateful to have you as part of the Greenwich Together family and deeply appreciate all that you do. Congratulations again on this well-deserved recognition.

With gratitude and admiration,

Corina Restrepo, LCSW
Assistant Director of Outreach & Prevention Services
Prevention Coordinator, DFC Grant, Greenwich Together

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Celebrating the one and only Dr. Maggie Young

It is my honor to celebrate Maggie Young. There is no doubt that her impact reaches far beyond her professional role as Chief Recovery Officer at Liberation Programs. Maggie's contributions to the community are extraordinary. She is truly a Citizen of the Year, every year, in every sense.

Maggie exemplifies integrity, civic responsibility, and a deep belief in bringing people together in service of others. Her work has strengthened the fabric of Stamford and touched countless lives throughout the region.

Through her work, she has offered dignity, encouragement, and second chances to individuals seeking hope and stability during some of the most challenging moments of their lives.

Her leadership, compassion, and tireless advocacy continue to inspire all who know her. She is not only a respected professional, but a trusted mentor, a champion for vulnerable individuals and families, and a powerful force for positive change in the Stamford community and beyond.

Maggie lights up a room just by walking in with her genuine self. I am a better person just knowing Maggie Young.

With Love and Adoration,

Shari L. Shapiro
Executive Director

MALTA HOUSE

HOPE FOR LIFE

May 15, 2026

Dear Maggie,

The Malta House Board and staff warmly congratulate you on being selected as the Stamford Citizen of the Year. This is a prestigious and well-deserved honor, and we are so proud of you.

We are especially grateful for your contributions to Malta House as a Board member since 2021. Your expertise has been an invaluable resource to the Board as we discern how best to support the families we are privileged to serve. Our residents have directly benefited from your deep knowledge of addiction prevention and treatment, and your guidance has helped shape the compassionate, thoughtful practices we use to support mothers in need.

As a member of the Program Committee, you have guided important discussions and decisions with wisdom, sensitivity, and grace. Most recently, you collaborated with the team to establish a Tier System for our programs, creating a clearer path toward independence and long-term stability for the mothers and children we serve. Your calm and thoughtful leadership helped us navigate complex decisions and develop a stronger program for the future.

Beyond your professional contributions, you have become a dear friend to so many within the Malta House community. Your uplifting emails so often bring a smile to our faces, and your kind and compassionate words during times of hardship reflect the generosity of your spirit. Upon hearing of this recognition, our Board Chair, Michael O'Rourke, shared these heartfelt words:

"You have no idea how thrilled I was to hear of this prestigious honor. Years ago, you would talk to my mom and brighten her day with kindness, so this award does not surprise me at all. Your contributions to Malta House are immeasurable, and I thank you for them. Bless you."

With deepest appreciation for all you do to support Malta House, we celebrate this wonderful recognition and congratulate you most sincerely.

Warm regards,

Pamela

Pamela Shilling
Interim Executive Director and Board Member

On behalf of the Malta House Board and Staff

JFS GREENWICH | BENNETT CENTER FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

May 1st, 2026

Dear Dr. Young,

It is our great pleasure at Jewish Family Services of Greenwich to congratulate you on being named Stamford's Citizen of the Year.

This prestigious honor recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional voluntary service, civic leadership, and a deep commitment to improving the quality of life in Stamford. As a long-time partner, collaborator, and friend of JFS, you embody these values in every aspect of your work.

Your unwavering dedication to your clients and your tireless advocacy for children, families, and individuals in need reflect the very spirit of civic responsibility this award celebrates. Through your leadership and commitment, particularly in the field of addiction recovery, you have made a lasting and meaningful impact on the well-being of the community.

You have also exemplified the importance of bringing people together, fostering compassion, and strengthening connections across diverse groups. Your ability to persevere through challenges, innovate in the face of obstacles, and consistently act with kindness serves as an inspiration to all who work alongside you.

You are reliable, dedicated, and unmatched in the quality of care you provide and the relationships you build with clients, community members, and partners alike. Your contributions reflect not only professional excellence but also a profound commitment to public welfare and community unity.

We are honored to have you as a member of the JFS community and proudly congratulate you on this remarkable and well-deserved achievement.

With Sincere Gratitude,

Your Friends and Team at Jewish Family Services of Greenwich

VALENTINE
RECOVERY
CONSULTING

May 7, 2026

Dear Dr. Young – "Maggie!",

Congratulations — and thank you. Those two words feel almost insufficient given everything you have given to this community, but they come from the heart.

Being named Stamford's Citizen of the Year is a recognition well deserved, and yet anyone who knows your work understands that recognition has never been the point. You show up — for individuals navigating addiction, for families finding their footing, for pregnant and parenting women who need support without judgment, and for those rebuilding their lives after incarceration. You show up because you understand what it means to need someone in your corner.

Your leadership at Liberation Programs, Inc. has changed lives in ways that go far beyond what any title or award can capture. By leading with your own lived experience, you have helped dismantle stigma and shown others that their story, too, can become a source of strength.

The bridges you have built — between communities and care, between struggle and hope, between isolation and belonging — are your true legacy. And it is a legacy felt in the smallest moments, too. Your cheerful messages every few weeks, checking in and letting me know how much you care about my family, mean more than I can say. You have a rare gift for making an entire community of people feel genuinely loved, and it is something I can only hope to emulate in even a small way.

Please know how deeply your presence is felt and how genuinely you are admired. This honor is a meaningful reflection of the gratitude so many carry for you.

With heartfelt congratulations and admiration, Sandy

SEValentine

Sandy Valentine, LCSW, RCP-F, CPRS
Co-Founder

e: sandy@valentinerecovery.com
m: 860 803-7145

CONNECTICUT

Department of Children & Families

April 27, 2026

John Hamilton
President and CEO
Liberation Programs
339 West Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Dear John:

I'm writing this letter per your request to express the reflection of Dr. Maggie Young I would like to share. First, I'd like to say a huge congratulations Dr. Maggie Young!!! Her acknowledgement and recognition for Stamford Citizen of the Year is honored by so many and very well deserved!!! In the multiple years we have worked together, she has been a leader and a true individual about the work. Given Dr. Young's personal life experience, experience with "the system," - she definitely "gets it!" Seeing her talk to parents who were struggling with substances has always been so valuable because her delivery has always been from her heart and she was direct which is what clients need and want. As a member of "the team", anytime DCF reaches out to Dr. Young, she replies quickly with the information needed which demonstrates true partnership with the Department. What's amazing about Dr. Young is that she has been on "both sides of the fence," and we can all call her Doctor - which demonstrates your ambition and drive to succeed. Dr. Young is expectational at working with diverse populations whether its clients or professionals. Her leadership and dedication has been so valuable to the community and Liberation Programs which is why the community is celebrating Dr. Young as leader. Dr. Young, enjoy embracing this special recognition with your family, friends and co-workers!

Respectfully,

Andrew Whelan, LMSW
Social Work Supervisor

505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: 860-500-6300

ct.gov/dcf

CJW & Associates
community & organizational development

May 2026

Dr. Maggie Young
Chief Recovery Officer
Liberation Programs, Inc.
339 West Avenue
Bridgeport, CT, 06604

Maggie,

I am honored to write this letter of congratulations to you for being recognized as Stamford Citizen of the Year.

Your selection comes as no surprise. I have had the privilege of working alongside you for more than a decade through the Greenwich Community Health Improvement Partnership (GCHIP). At every meeting, you bring a smile that reflects your collaborative spirit, along with a calming presence when the world feels chaotic, and hope when situations seem hopeless. You truly live by your creed: "Make It A Great Day!"

Being named Stamford Citizen of the Year is a well-deserved honor that reflects both your character and your lifelong commitment to others.

You consistently uphold strong personal and professional values. You contribute meaningfully to the community while respecting the diverse rights, perspectives, and freedoms of others. You engage deeply in civic life and foster environments that are inclusive, compassionate, and collaborative. You are truly remarkable, and I am grateful that our paths crossed and we continue to work together.

Your calling to help individuals, families, and communities heal and recover is inspiring. Your steady leadership, compassion, and commitment to restoring hope are a blessing to so many.

So, while you continue enjoying the love and support of your family, friends and colleagues, I hope you also take a moment to fully enjoy and appreciate this recognition. You have certainly earned it.

Congratulations Maggie!

Warm Regards,

Chuck Wiltraut

CJW and Associates + 610.349.7319 + cwiltraut@wiltraut.com
www.wiltraut.com

Tanisha Alilaikannan

Academy of Information Technology and Engineering

Tanisha is a highly motivated, honorable, and dedicated student whose integrity and commitment to helping others have shaped her leadership both in and beyond the classroom. She is known for her maturity, initiative, and her deep commitment to lifting others up and guiding those around her.

In the Civil Air Patrol, Tanisha has distinguished herself as one of the most capable and respected cadets in her squadron. Rising through roles as Flight Sergeant, Cadet Aerospace Education Officer, Flight Commander, and ultimately Cadet Commander of the largest squadron in New York Wing, she oversees more than seventy cadets while modeling the Air Force core values of integrity, service before self, and excellence. She has led the Honor Guard, coordinated Aerospace Education activities, and guided her team to national finalist recognition in the MIT CubeSat Challenge, where they earned the Best Presentation Quality Award for their disaster relief satellite design. She has also led CAP/NASA missions, attended leadership schools, supported veterans' ceremonies, and earned multiple leadership honors, reflecting her dedication to service and mentorship.

Beyond Civil Air Patrol, Tanisha founded and leads the Junior Leadership Board at Women's Mentoring Network, recruiting peers and organizing drives that provided essential items to women and families. She has volunteered with the Ferguson Library, encouraging participation in the Summer Reading Program, and supported the Stamford Museum & Nature Center through educational and family events. Across her work, she leads with professionalism, initiative, and a genuine desire to uplift others.

Tanisha has committed to University of Southern California.

Thomas R. Bouchard

U.S. Army National Guard

Major General Thomas R. Bouchard retired in October 2023 after completing over 39 years of service in the Active and Reserve Components of the U.S. Army. He served as Deputy Commander for Mobilization and Reserve Affairs at U.S. Special Operations Command and previously as Assistant Adjutant General, Rhode Island National Guard.

Major General Bouchard enlisted in the Army Reserve in 1984 and was commissioned through ROTC. He completed the Army Special Forces Qualification Course in 1993 and transitioned to the Rhode Island National Guard in 1997. His assignments were primarily in U.S. Army Special Forces units, including the 5th and 19th Special Forces Groups, with deployments to Haiti, Kuwait, Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star. He has also earned the Master Combat Infantryman Badge, Special Forces Tab, Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, and Air Assault Badge.

Major General Bouchard holds a BS from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, an MBA from Boston College, an MA in Law and Diplomacy from Tufts University, and an MA in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

In his civilian career, Major General Bouchard is a Geopolitical Analyst at Academy Securities and previously served as a Senior Fixed Income Portfolio Manager at DWS Investments. He and his family live in Stamford, where he serves on the Board of Representatives.

Annabelle Alvarez

Westhill High School

Annabelle is a responsible, dependable, and self disciplined student whose leadership and commitment to serving others have strengthened her school and the Stamford community. She is known for her steady leadership, thoughtful approach to challenges, and willingness to support those around her, consistently demonstrating the values of respect, integrity, and loyalty.

In JROTC, Annabelle has shown strong leadership, rising from Private to Lieutenant Colonel and serving as Battalion Commander, the highest student leadership position. She oversees more than 180 cadets, manages a senior staff, prepares reports, leads ceremonies, and supports major battalion events. Her service includes charity fundraisers, clothing, food and toy drives, Give 2 Troops collections, nursing home visits, and city parades. A notable achievement was leading her battalion in raising $14,000 for the Military Ball. Through JROTC, she has developed skills in motivating others, decision making, planning, public speaking, and teamwork.

Beyond JROTC, Annabelle serves as a Student Ambassador and Community Service Lead with Future 5, where she helps plan and support service programs benefiting organizations such as Veterans Park Partnership, Person to Person, and the Back-to-School Shop. She assists with citywide events, supports programming, and helps create positive experiences for new members. Annabelle also serves as Secretary of the National Honor Society, maintaining club communications and tutoring fellow students, and she contributes to the Westhill wrestling team by managing social media and assisting at practices and meets.

Annabelle has committed to Pennsylvania State University.

Adele E. Hodges

U.S. Marine Corps

Colonel Adele Hodges is a retired United States Marine Corps officer who completed a distinguished 33-year career. She earned her undergraduate degree from Southern Connecticut State College and holds multiple master's degrees in business, military art and science, and strategic studies.

Throughout her career, she served in senior leadership roles across the U.S. and internationally, including in Japan, Hawaii, and Europe. She commanded major units such as the 1st Maintenance Battalion and made history as the first woman to command Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. Her final assignment was at Marine Corps Headquarters, where she served as Director of Readiness Assessments.

Her many honors include the Legion of Merit and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Since retiring, Colonel Hodges has remained deeply involved in veteran advocacy. She serves as Chair of the Veterans Heroes Foundation, sits on multiple boards supporting veterans, and in 2026 was inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame.

Nadav Coll

Stamford High School

Nadav is an exceptional, reliable, and community minded young leader whose maturity and dedication to service have played an important role in his troop, school, and the communities he serves. He is known for his humility, responsibility, and steady leadership style, always demonstrating a genuine desire to help those around him.

In Scouts BSA, Nadav has distinguished himself through years of dedicated service and leadership. He has held roles including Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, Senior Patrol Leader, and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, guiding younger Scouts, planning troop meetings, coordinating logistics for campouts, and helping oversee troop operations. For his Eagle Scout Project, he envisioned and led the construction of a 16 by 14 foot enclosed vegetable garden at Temple Sinai, managing planning, volunteer coordination, and execution from start to finish. His ability to take ownership of this complex project and motivate others demonstrated the leadership, initiative, and flexibility praised by his Scoutmasters.

Beyond Scouting, Nadav is actively involved in service and leadership across his school and community. He serves as Vice President of the Jewish Student Union, helping plan and lead weekly meetings, and participates in BuildOn, supporting fundraising efforts and citywide cleanups that benefit underserved communities. As Captain of the Stamford Ski Team, he organizes practices and works closely with coaches to support more than thirty athletes. He also volunteers with Schoke Jewish Family Services by distributing food and preparing care packages for families in need, and he supports Temple Sinai through Mitzvah Days and community events.

Nadav has committed to University of Colorado and will be studying Business.

Ari Vogel

U.S. Army

Born in Montreal and raised in Stamford, Ari Vogel has spent most of his life in Connecticut.

He holds degrees from the University of Maryland and Fairfield University, along with graduate certificates from Harvard and Columbia.

Ari served in the United States Army from 2006 to 2014 as a Human Resources Specialist within Army Intelligence. He was stationed at Fort Hood and deployed to Mosul, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he organized weekly Shabbat services and helped bring a Rabbi to the area during wartime. He is a lifetime member of Jewish War Veterans.

Following his service, Ari worked in intelligence-related research and co-produced a military radar conference. He also remained active locally, completing Stamford's Citizen Public Safety Academy and volunteering with the Community Emergency Response Team.

Ari taught English and Hebrew to middle and high school students, and Intelligence Writing at the college level. In 2024, he joined the Board of the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County.

Ruby Jimenez

Westhill High School

Ruby is a kind, community oriented student whose strong work ethic and genuine desire to help others have made a meaningful contribution within her school and the broader community. She is known for her empathy, creativity, and confidence, bringing care and purpose to every initiative she leads.

Through her four years in the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council (MYLC), Ruby has become a respected and influential student leader. As a member of the executive team, she helps plan weekly meetings, develop outreach initiatives, and guide more than forty students addressing mental health, suicide prevention, sexual assault prevention, and peer support. She has led peer to peer programming in both high school and middle school settings, creating thoughtful, research informed educational materials. She also served as the primary architect of High School Uncharted, a guidebook connecting incoming students to mental health resources, district policies, and healthy coping strategies, reflecting her perseverance and commitment to student well being.

Beyond MYLC, Ruby is a Lead Ambassador and Youth Advisory Council member with Kids Helping Kids, where she co-developed a summer science program and supports major community events. She has mentored students at the Boys & Girls Club of Stamford, volunteered in Stamford Hospital's Radiology Department, and helped coordinate community drives through the Women's Mentoring Network. Ruby has also assisted the Ferguson Library's Summer Reading Program and serves as Co-President of La Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica, expanding cultural and educational opportunities for her peers.

Ruby has committed to the University of Connecticut.

Laverna McDonald

U.S. Army

First Sergeant Laverna "Pnut" McDonald is a retired U.S. Army leader who served more than 42 years, while also building a 31-year career with UPS. A Stamford High School graduate, she rose to senior enlisted leadership roles specializing in logistics, transportation, and operations.

Her military career included service with elite units such as the 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions, Joint Special Operations Command, and international forces. She completed eight deployments, including five combat tours in Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and served at Ground Zero following the September 11 attacks.

She earned 29 military awards, including two Bronze Star Medals, one for valor, along with numerous commendations and campaign medals.

Since retiring, she has remained highly active in the veteran community, serving in leadership roles with the American Legion, VFW, DAV, and the Stamford Veterans Resource Center.

Ishana Kumar

Rye Country Day School

Ishana is a thoughtful, humble, and intellectually curious student whose commitment to service has been a positive force within her school and the organizations she serves. She is known for stepping in where help is needed, a steady work ethic, and her desire to create opportunities for others.

At Rye Country Day School, Ishana was selected as a 2025 Community Engagement Fellow, a highly competitive program that allows a small group of students to design meaningful projects with local organizations. Through the Fellowship, she partnered with INTEMPO, creating and teaching a Jazz Pop program for elementary and middle school students. She introduced students to jazz fundamentals, arranged pieces for performances, and adapted when they needed additional support by learning guitar, arranging requested songs, and offering one on one encouragement. Her work helped expand music access at a time when reduced arts funding limited opportunities for young musicians.

Ishana's intellectual leadership also extends into academic research. She served as a student researcher at the University of Virginia's Biocomplexity Institute, where she examined breast cancer inequities and contributed to the development of a causal analysis framework to quantitatively assess potential solutions. In addition, Ishana serves on the Public Purpose Student Leadership Board, a selective group of students who mentor clubs, allocate resources, and organize schoolwide initiatives such as the annual Blood Drive and first ever Walkathon fundraiser. She is also the Founder and Student Leader of the Research and Innovation in Science and Engineering program, mentoring students whose projects have placed regionally, and Co President of the Disability Rights, Education, Activism, and Mentoring Club. She further contributes as a Youth Music Coordinator for the Sri Sathya Sai Organization, composing and performing multilingual fusion music at community events.

Ishana has committed to Wellesley College, where she plans to continue her academic pursuits and compete as a member of the fencing team.

Willie Young

U.S. Army

Willie Young, a 1979 graduate of Stamford High School, began his journey in Stamford before attending Johnson & Wales University, where he studied Finance Marketing. In 1984, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, completing training at Fort Jackson and Dover Air Force Base.

He went on to serve as a Small Arms Specialist with the 75th Ranger Battalion at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Georgia, while also earning an associate degree from Saint Leo University. He later concluded his military service at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn.

After the Army, Mr. Young returned to Stamford, working as a Community Relations Representative for Congressman Stuart McKinney. He then moved to Atlanta, where he completed a television production program at Georgia Tech, launching a successful career in the entertainment industry. He worked as a television producer with Jermaine Dupri, supported BET productions with Sony Music, and later served as an Artist Manager with Walt Disney's Hollywood Records.

In 2012, he founded Kappstone Media, a marketing company he later sold. Today, Mr. Young is dedicated to community service, helping coordinate initiatives that provide meals to more than 500 individuals each month.

Building Better Communities... Together

Congratulations

Dr. Maggie Young

and

Scholarship Recipients & Honored Veterans

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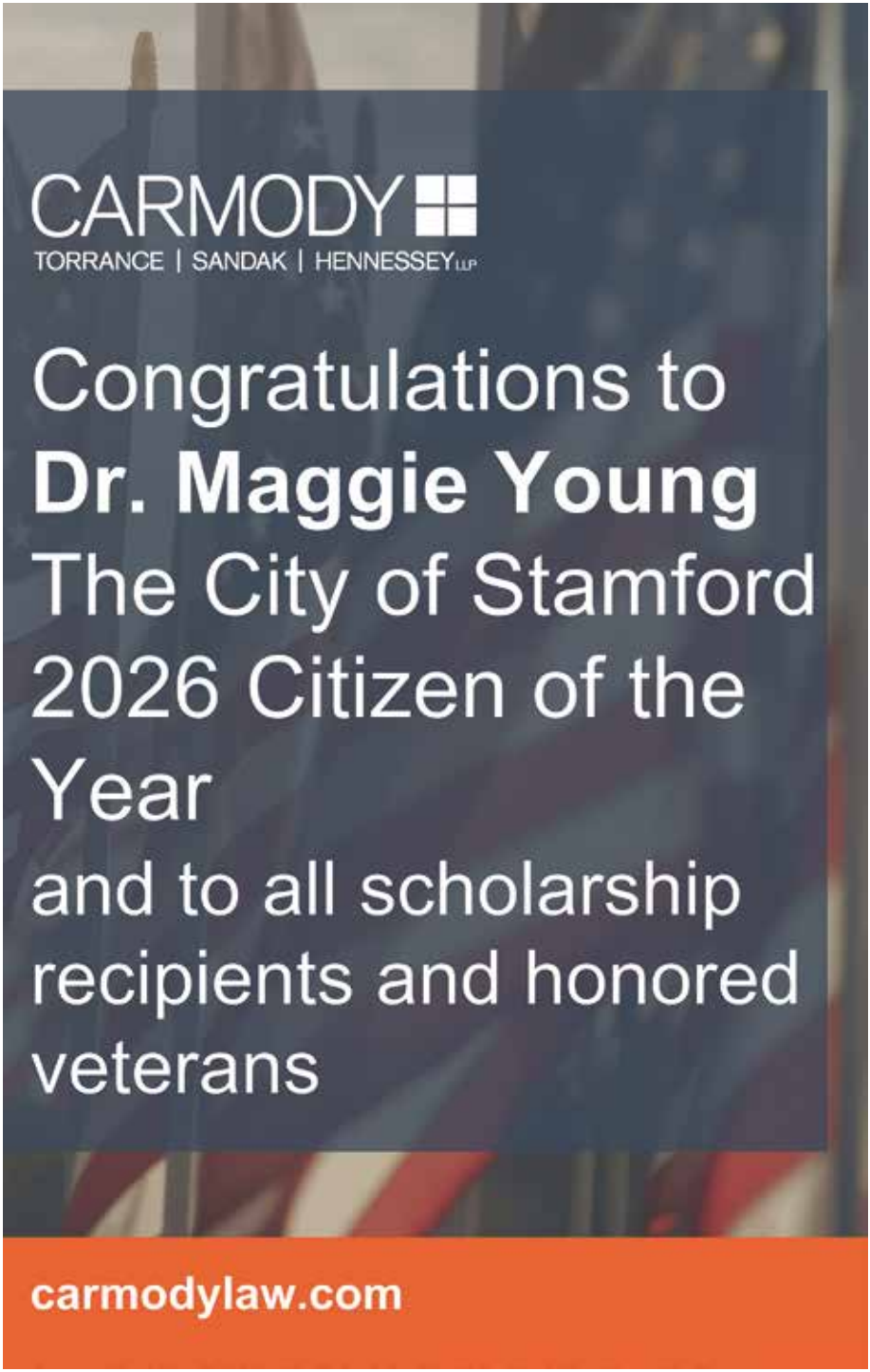
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TORRANCE | SANDAK | HENNESSEY LLP
Congratulations to
Dr. Maggie Young
The City of Stamford
2026 Citizen of the
Year
and to all scholarship
recipients and honored
veterans
carmodylaw.com

Congratuations

as

City of Stamford's
2026 Citizen of the Year Honoree

Dr. Maggie Young

& Scholarship Recipients,
Honored Veterans

for their extraordinary commitment
and service to the Community.

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Congratulations
Dr. Maggie Young,
Scholarship Recipients,
& Honored Veterans

2026
COTY
Award

We proudly congratulate
Dr. Maggie Young on being honored as
The 2026 Citizen of the Year!

We also honor this year's
Scholarship Recipients and our Veterans.

Thank you for strengthening
the heart of our community!

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Congratulations to
Citizen of the Year 2026
Dr. Maggie Young

and

Scholarship Recipients
Annabelle Alvarez
Jaya Iver
Nadav Coll
Ruby Jimenez
Tanisha Alilaikannan
Mollie Herz

In Memory of our beloved
Daniel K. Roberts WWII Veteran

Jeri, Mark, Jacob and Josh Appel

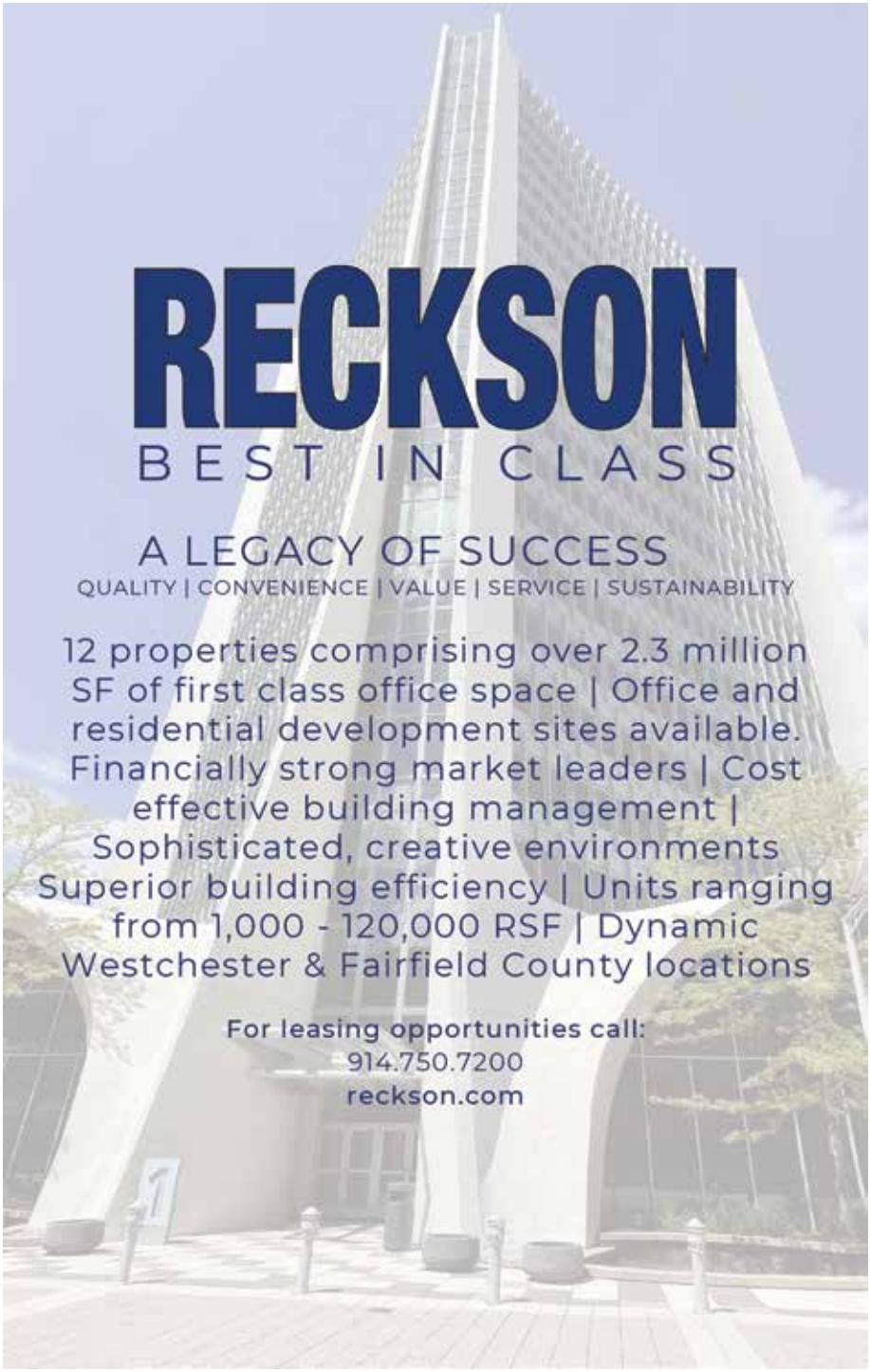
We are humbled by the potential of tonight's scholar citizens.

We are grateful for the service and sacrifice of Our veterans.

We are blessed to live in a community That honors stand-out citizens like Dr. Maggie Young.

Congratulations to you all.

Betsey & Arthur Selkowitz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On Behalf of Building and Land Technology & Harbor Point,
Congratulations to Dr. Maggie Young, the 2026 Stamford citizen of the year!

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William and Jevera Hennessey

Congratulations to
Dr. Maggie Young

2026 Citizen of the Year

We are proud to support
City of Stamford's
Citizen of the Year,
Scholarship Recipients
& Honored Veterans

City of Stamford
2026 Citizen of the Year
Award & Scholarship Presentation Dinner

Juanita T. James

Congratulations to Dr. Maggie Young

2026 Citizen of the Year

I am proud to support
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Citizen of the Year,
Scholarship Recipients
& Honored Veterans

City of Stamford
2026 Citizen of the Year
Award & Scholarship Presentation Dinner

Congratulations, Maggie!

We are so proud of you!

Dr. Maggie Young, DSW, LADC, CCS

Stamford Citizen of the Year

Liberation
PROGRAMS

Congratulations to Dr. Maggie Young

2026 Citizen of the Year

We are proud to support
City of Stamford's
Citizen of the Year,
Scholarship Recipients
& Honored Veterans

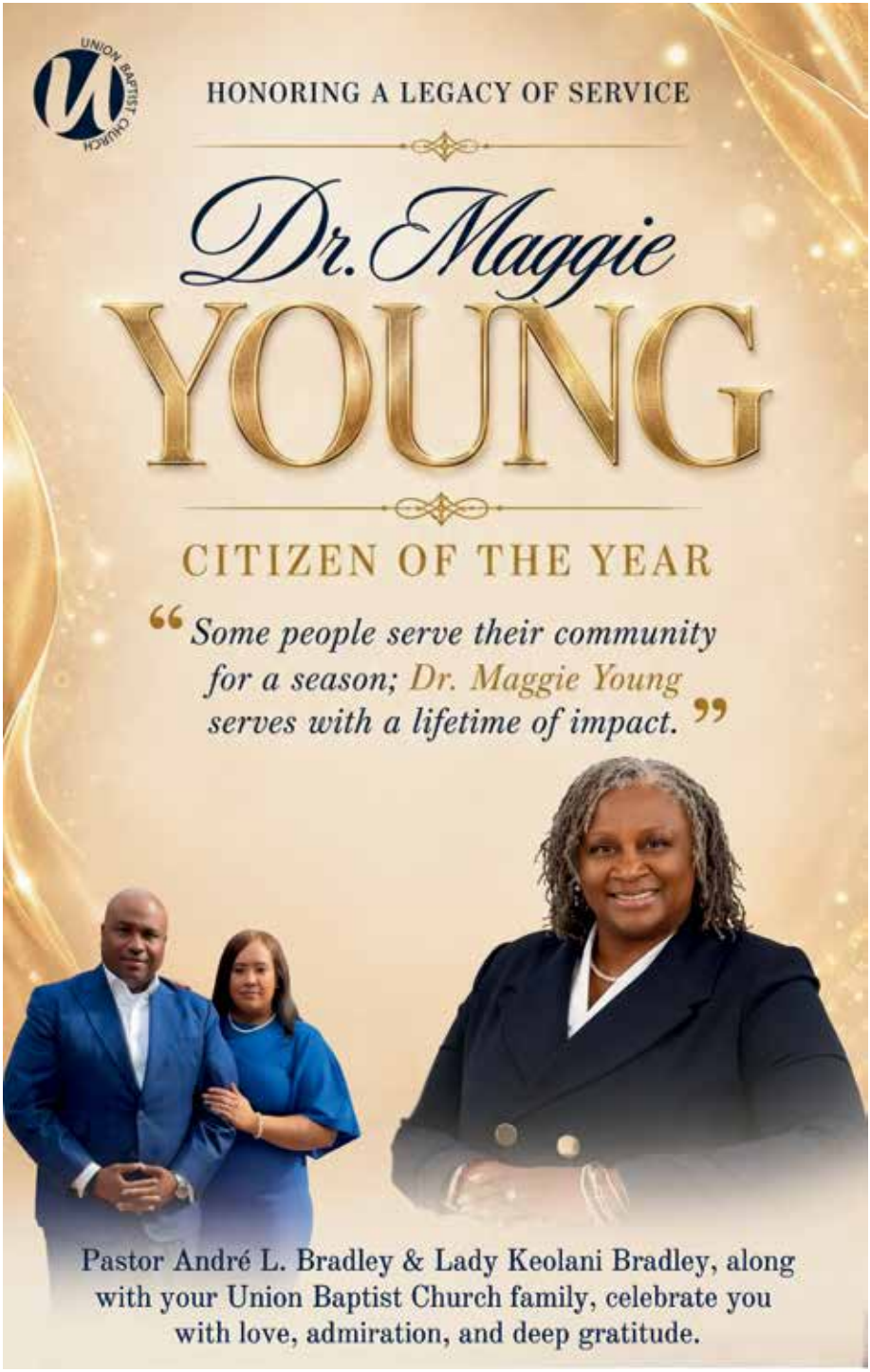
City of Stamford
2026 Citizen of the Year
Award & Scholarship Presentation Dinner

Congratulations

Congratulations to Dr. Maggie Young, the 2026 City of Stamford Citizen of the Year!

Stamford Health is proud to honor Dr. Young for her dedication to the Stamford community, and we're thrilled to celebrate her accomplishments tonight.

STAMFORD HEALTH


UNION BAPTIST CHURCH
HONORING A LEGACY OF SERVICE
Dr. Maggie
YOUNG
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
"Some people serve their community for a season; Dr. Maggie Young serves with a lifetime of impact."
Pastor André L. Bradley & Lady Keolani Bradley, along with your Union Baptist Church family, celebrate you with love, admiration, and deep gratitude.

DOMUS
LOVE LIVES HERE

DOMUS IS PROUD TO SUPPORT DR. MAGGIE YOUNG AS SHE RECIEVES THE STAMFORD CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD!

WE LOVE YOU MAGGIE! CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations Maggie!

Congratulations on your outstanding achievement. Thank you for your support of Mental Health Connecticut and the participants we serve. We are grateful to have you on the board and wish you continued success in all your future endeavors!

From All Your Friends at Mental Health Conecticut

Congratulations to our long-time friend,
Maggie Young!

You are a star and an inspiration!

Warm regards,

The Lowenthal Family

Mort, Eleanor (z'l), Terri, Emily & Meg

ROCCO V. D'ANDREA, INC.

D'ANDREA SURVEYING & ENGINEERING, P.C.

Honoring
Dr. Maggie Young
The City of Stamford's
2026 Citizen of the Year!

Our firm was established in 1947 by our founder Rocco V. D'Andrea of Riverside, Connecticut. Since that time we have been proudly serving Fairfield and Westchester Counties for over 70 years with original records dating back to the 1890s.

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the Umbrella Club

The Umbrella Club proudly congratulates
Dr. Maggie Young
2026 Stamford Citizen of the Year

Our members are truly proud to celebrate this well-deserved honor, recognizing your many years of meaningful service to the community.

The Umbrella Club was established over 40 years ago as a nonprofit organization. The Club provided compassionate financial assistance of more than $600,000 in 2024 to children with complex health needs throughout Fairfield County.

Ann & Michael Zucker

are proud to support
City of Stamford's Citizen of the Year
and
Scholarship Recipients & Honored Veterans

City of Stamford
2026 Citizen of the Year
Award & Scholarship Presentation Dinner

Past Scholarship Recipients

2025
Nina Edwards
Owen Herz
Hayden Katz
Tejasvi Rawat
Alex Orellana Rico

2024
Anna "Annie" Edwards
Tessa Fabiano
Victoria Gibek
Ella Leferman
Keira Lubliner
Rohan Sahu

2023
Nora Ansellem
Sebastian Bernhard
Elvis Coy
Joaquin Diaz-Huerta
Jose Portillo Palma
Amelia Stone

2022
Dante Ayars
Aryan Donikena
Michael Edwards
Mollie Herz
Aishwarya Sivasubramanian

2020
Hannah Bushell
Sabine Charles
Thomas Connolly
Alex Edwards
Zachary Kitay
Wendy Lopez
Martine Prevot

2019
Samuel Diamond
Shayna Druckman
Eliel Duquene
Maureen Ferrer
Jacob Herz
Lauren Klym
Claudia Lucien

2018
Joshua Appel
William Gold
Kirian Jagtiani
Mischel Noboa
Anya Ramseur-Moore
Nikhil Anil Rao
Marissa Young

2017
Daniel Altamura
Gabrielle Baum
Mandy Chery
Andrea Vega
Justin Wexler

2016
Eve Critelli
Shayla Farrow
Doron Feller
Hannah Katz
Nii Pobie

2015
Renee Cooper
Alexandra Kelley
Jenna Plotzky
Rebecca Rakowitz
Allana Van Houten

2014
Sophie Handler
Michael Hoherchak
Rachel Katz
Tim McMullen

2013
Eric Altamura
Thomas "Alex" Lyons
Jason Rathman
Adam Tisser
Dawn Winsor

2012
Jonathan Berman
Joshua Friedman
Allison Macari
Shenya Nalywayko
Woody Pierre
Diane Yang

2011
Grace Altamura
Andrew Bishop
Michelle Greenman
Phebe Mathai
Rachel Winsor

2010
Juan Arguto
Sarah Benjamin
Jasmine Forbes
Marissa Friedman
Jaime Manela
Jyotsna Winsor

2009
Daniel Berman
Kimberly Chacra
Kasey Glass
Ethan Hammerman
Elize Huang
Samantha Stone

2008
Emily Anderson
Nico Critelli
David Fogel
Alex Forniciari
Marisa Torres
Mallika Vora
Dudley Williams

2007
Rachel Benjamin
Jennifer Greenman
Jake Manela
Sergiy Podolsky
Amy Sierpina

2006
Molly Aronica
Kristen Crowley
Gregory Schneider
Jeremy Slen
Michelle Tomczyk

2005
Nicole Corpolongo
Andrew Pramberger
Jacob "Jake" Stone
Kelly Walters

Past Honored Veterans

2025
Cheryll Duerk
Richard S. "Dick" Fisher
Philip Alan Gerard
Donald Hartman
Richard H. "Cookie" Thomas, Sr.

2024
William S. Baer
Thomas J. Finn, Jr.
Walter Koopman
Daniel Molina
Thomas Patterson
Anthony Venezio

2023
James L. Dudley, Jr.
William J. Hennessey, Sr.
Rev. Winton M. Hill
David M. Kaplan
Joseph Mitchell Kaye
John Robert O'Brien

2022
Joseph Colavito
Stephen B. Fischer
Mary Hennig-Rosenblum
Terrance McGrath
Leslie L. Monthan
Daniel K. Roberts
James A. Sparrow

2019
Emanuel "Manny" Blosio
Donald Hunter
Larry Hunter
Lenny Hunter
John Lund
William F. Malloy
Kimberly Morant

2018
Robert Barker
Michael Doyle
Josephine Carpanzano
Mario Carpanzano
Salvatore "Chip" Cingari
Ralph DelVecchio
Robert McGrath
Leroy Terrell

2017
Jessica Aguirre
Erica Class
Raymond Ketchum
Thomas Morelli
Tyrsa Pratcher
Robert Redniss

2016
Genie D. Camacho
Robert Cody
Paul Levi
Alan R. Nielsen
Mel Rich

2015
James Caporizo
Anthony DiGiacomo
James L. Mazurek
Dominic Santagata
Albert A. Walla
Lillian R. Walla

2014
Ernest N. Abate
Anna Edwards
Robert E. King
Rabbi Philip E. Schechter

2013
Richard M. Cassone
Ursa Coleman
Archie Elam
Senator Carlo Leone
Henry Stern

2012
Megan Backes
Sherwin Baer
Jeff Calcott
Bill McGirr
Maria Theresa Stewart
Frederic Weisberg

2011
Jack Halpert
Jane Jackson
Franklin Melzer
Ben Reed
Andy Sentementes

2010
James Caterbone
Brynnen Hahn
Seth Lapine
John Moses
Chris Munger
Don Russell

2009
Robert "Gabe" DeLuca
Dr. Milton Hollander
Leon Jaiven
Dahlia "Pobie" Johnston
Jimmy Nestor
M. Dean Montgomery

2008
Catherine Collins
Phil Giordano
Tim Huff
John Liberatore
Rolf Rosenthal
Alan Sosnowitz
Kurt A. Zimbler

2007
George Ducanic
Fred Golove
Jack Palmer
John Rubino
Allen Shanen

2006
Paul Drenckhan
Tim Leonard
Norman Lotstein
Opal Naiburg
Joe Shawinsky

2005
Pasquale "Pat" Battinelli
John J. Boccuzzi
Leslie "Les" Meyers
Carmine "Carm" Vaccaro

Past Citizens of the Year

2025 Harry Day
2024 Sgt. Adriana Molina
2023 Jevera & Bill Hennessey
2022 Courtney Nelthropp
2019 Cathy Ostuw
2018 Gov. Dannel P. Malloy
2017 Dudley N. Williams
2016 Rick Redniss
2015 Jay Sandak & Mary Sommer
2014 Gene Rubino
2013 Tim Curtin
2012 Jami A. Sherwood
2011 Arthur Selkowitz
2010 Bobby Valentine
2009 Juanita T. James
2008 Richard E. Taber
2007 June Rosenthal
2006 Al Sanseverino
2005 Sandy Goldstein
2004 Rick Robustelli
2003 Marc Lyons
2002 Rev. Winton M. Hill III
2001 Sam Cingari
2000 Len Miller
1999 Polly O'Brien
1998 Adele Gordon
1997 George B. Harvey
1996 Michael J. Cacace
1995 John A. Ball
1994 Jane M. Judd
1993 Charles C. Judd
1992 Charles A Guinta
1991 Lynne R. Laitman
1990 John T. D. & Elizabeth P. Rich
1989 Jane F. Norgren
1988 Norman T. Woodbury
1987 S. Beatrice Foreman
1986 Frank D. Rich, Jr.
1985 Sylvia Rosenfield
1984 Joseph F. Fahey
1983 Julius M. Wilensky
1982 Christel Truglia
1981 Wayne L. Tyson
1980 Fred T. Allen
1979 Edith Sherman
1978 Pobie Johnston
1977 Tony P. Pia
1976 Lillian Moran
1975 Louis Lotstein
1974 Alphonsus J. Donahue, Jr.
1973 Charles A. Ukkerd
1972 John O. Nicklis
1971 Dr. Angelo Mastrangelo, Jr
1970 Rev. Cyrill S. Peters
1969 Thomas J. Feeney
1968 Dr. Peter Goldmark
1967 Herbert B. Kohn
1966 John F. Cameron
1965 Doris Kirschbaum
1964 Rev. Russell McGown
1963 T. Carter Dodd
1962 Thomas C. Mayers
1961 Walter Thayer
1960 J. Walter Kennedy
1959 Rev. Donald F. Campbell
1958 Joseph E. Morrow
1957 Harry Rosenbaum
1956 Pat Marshall
1955 Harold E. Rider
1954 Jean Ware Hoyt
1953 Gibbs Lyons
1952 Norris E. Pierson
1951 Sarah F. Smith
1950 Benjamin Bogin
1949 Walter H. Wheeler, Jr.
1948 Rev. Lloyd F. Worley
1947 Rabbi David W. Pearlman
1946 C. Russell Waterbury
1945 Father John Kelley

History of Stamford Citizen of the Year Award and JWV Community Scholarship Program

In the early 1940s Fred Robbins, a veteran who had served in both World War I and II, moved to Stamford from Baltimore, where he had been active in civic and veterans affairs, and had organized and run a successful Citizen of the Year recognition program. Once settled in Stamford and involved in our community affairs, Robbins approached then Mayor Webster Givens to sponsor a similar award here to what he had done in Baltimore.

This annual award was to honor an ordinary citizen who was an extraordinary member of the Stamford community. Robbins identified four parameters that the honoree had to exemplify: a demonstrated belief in interfaith harmony; high standards of responsibility in civic life; support of projects for the public welfare; and personally work with distinction to benefit Stamford on a community-wide basis.

While Mayor Givens wholeheartedly embraced the idea, he could not authorize a direct sponsorship based on Stamford's city charter. The mayor, however, could authorize a private organization to sponsor the award on the City's behalf, and he did so.

In 1945, Mayor Givens appointed Post 142 of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, of which Robbins was the commander, to be that sponsoring organization, and the City of Stamford Citizen of the Year award was established. Post 142, now named Fred Robbins Post 142, has sponsored the award on behalf of the City for years. Over this time, the Post has honored more than 70 men and women who have served our community so well.

In 2005, Fred Robbins Post 142 expanded this recognition effort. It established the JWV Community Scholarship Program to help foster and promote community service and recognize in a tangible fashion high school seniors who had made significant contributions to our community.

These exceptional and motivated high school men and women have demonstrated similar attributes as our Citizens of the Year have. They are clearly candidates to be selected in the years to come as a Citizen of the Year themselves, either here in Stamford or in another community. Fred Robbins Post 142 awards these scholarships in the names of Stamford veterans who have selflessly served our country and our community as well.

Fred Robbins
Post 142

Where Are They Now?

Doron Feller, 2016 JWV COTY Scholarship Recipient

If one word defines Doron Feller's journey since graduating from Stamford High School in 2016, it is "connection." That theme has shaped his education, career, faith, and family legacy.

After high school, Doron attended UConn Storrs and studied Psychology with a clear purpose. His volunteer work with Friendship Circle inspired a passion for supporting young people on the autism spectrum and led him toward behavioral psychology. Even during college breaks, he stayed involved, applying what he learned in class to strengthen those relationships.

His connection to his Jewish identity also deepened at UConn through Aish, where he served as Vice President, helped organize weekly Shabbat meals, studied with the campus rabbi, and encouraged other students to connect with their heritage and community.

After graduating in 2020, and after a summer landscaping in Stamford, Doron worked as an ABA therapist, helping children with autism—many of them largely nonverbal—build essential life skills while involving their families in the process. He later joined a local IEP outplacement school, supporting students who needed more individualized care than traditional public school settings could provide.

His path then took an unexpected turn. While planning a move to Hartford, Doron saw an opening at NextMinds, aka the Connecticut Invention Convention, a nonprofit that helps young people identify problems and create solutions. He took the leap, discovered that a longtime board member had once been one of his landscaping clients, and found a professional role that felt like a natural fit.

Now, four years later, as Associate Director of Community Partnerships, Doron leads outreach that brings free STEM programming to more than 1,000 students each year in schools, libraries, and community centers across Connecticut. He also helps drive fundraising and builds partnerships with community groups, industry leaders, and government agencies, expanding access to innovation for more than 10,000 young inventors annually.

Doron's JWV COTY scholarship was also meaningful early in college. It helped cover books and supplies, eased financial pressure, and reinforced the idea that social impact is not only a periodic act of service, but also a meaningful career path.

That lesson has stayed with him, along with his family's legacy. Doron is the grandson of Melvin Feintuck, a longtime member of JWV Fred Robbins Post #142 until his passing in 1992, whose values he continues to honor, and of Walter Feller, a Jewish World War II veteran and proud member of the Stamford Jewish community.

By returning to Fairfield County this year, Doron has come full circle as a third-generation Stamford High graduate and Stamford resident continuing a family tradition of service, connection, and commitment to community.

About the City of Stamford Citizen of the Year

Honoring Individuals Who Make A Difference

Honoring individuals who have truly made a difference in our community through their voluntary service and participation in civic life.

What We Are About

For 82 years, the City of Stamford has recognized a Stamford resident for his or her service to the community. Since its founding in 1945, The City of Stamford Citizen of the Year program has been sponsored on behalf of the City of Stamford by The Fred Robbins Post 142, Jewish War Veterans of The United States. This proud tradition continues and our original mission has been greatly expanded.

Since 2005, through JWV Community Scholarships a 501(c)(3) charity, we have awarded $787,500 in scholarships at the annual Citizen of the Year dinner to 122 seniors from area high schools who live and volunteer in Stamford. These students are recognized for their outstanding service and contribution to our community. Each scholarship is awarded in honor of a U.S. Veteran, who is also recognized for his/her service to our country and our community.

Our children are our community's future Citizens of the Year. It is only fitting that we recognize high school students who give of themselves to improve the quality of life in Stamford. By honoring exemplary Stamford student leaders with JWC Community Scholarships in concert with the Citizen of the Year program, we help them reach their academic goals and reinforce the importance of their volunteer work and commitment to helping others.

Honoring Our Veterans

In recognition of their service the program honors Veterans by awarding the scholarships in the names of Stamford veterans who have selflessly served our country and our community.

Joe Colavito

National Anthem

CPT Joe Colavito enlisted in the Connecticut Army National Guard in December 2010 as a 42R, Army Musician. Since then, he has served as the supply sergeant for the 102D Army Band, a recruiter in both Middletown and Stamford, and the marketing and social media NCO for the 6th Recruiting and Retention Battalion. After completing Officer Candidate School in 2021, he commissioned as a Quartermaster Officer, and was assigned as a Platoon Leader in HHD, 1109th Theater Aviation Support Maintenance Group. Since then, he has served as the state Holistic Health and Fitness Coordinator, Operations Officer of the 6th Recruiting and Retention Battalion, Recruit Sustainment Program Officer in Charge, and currently as the Operations Officer of the 143D Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. CPT Colavito lives in Stamford with his wife Jenna, and their two children, Johnny and Rosie.

Stamford Police Department

Honor Guard

The Stamford Police Honor Guard is a ceremonial unit comprised of sworn members of the police department who are highly motivated and maintain exceptionally high standards of appearance, conduct and who show aptitude for ceremonial duty. The primary role of the unit is to provide funeral honors for fallen comrades. The unit also participates in parades, ceremonies, and at the discretion of the Chief of Police.

Scan to Donate

Help Fund Scholarships for
Stamford's High School Seniors

City of Stamford

2026 Citizen of the Year

Award & Scholarship Presentation Dinner

Fred Robbins
Post 142