



**STRATFORD**  
COMMUNITY FUND

*Stratford Community Fund  
Lighthouse Awards Ceremony*

*Thursday, November 3, 2016*

*Sponsored by*



**THE MILFORD BANK**  
*Always There.*





Dear Friends,

An important part of the Stratford Community Fund's mission is to recognize and honor community groups, businesses and outstanding members of our community, who have given generously of their time and talent for the betterment of our Town. The Lighthouse Award was initiated by the Stratford Community Fund in 2007 as a means of acknowledging the important contributions of these individuals and groups. We believe that celebrating our successes provides inspiration to others and ultimately results in making our community stronger and motivates others to be involved in community service.

2016 is the 26th anniversary of the formation of the Community Fund. The Fund was created in 1990. The original officers and directors were M. Lewis Chaplowe, recently deceased, George O'Connor, Richard Slater, Constantine "Gus" Chagares, Robert Dains, H. Richard Brew, and Gary Jacopian.

It is a pleasure working throughout the year with our dedicated Board members as we meet bi-monthly to enrich the quality of life for all Stratford residents and visitors. Check out the beautiful Book of Recognition that is here on display this evening and consider joining us as a Board member. Donations to the SCF are tax deductible and an easy way to impact many within this great Town of Stratford. Also please check out our website at [www.stratfordcommunityfund.org](http://www.stratfordcommunityfund.org).

Thank you for joining us tonight and for your goodwill and support throughout the year. Special thanks to Kathie Cepetelli and Marie Guman for once again chairing this event and congratulations to the 2016 Lighthouse Award recipients.

Sincerely,

*Bill O'Brien*

Bill O'Brien  
President  
Stratford Community Fund



# Program

## **INTRODUCTION**

Bill O'Brien  
President, Stratford Community Fund

## **2016 LIGHTHOUSE AWARD PRESENTATIONS**

Carole Adzima

Robert and Maria Santo

Billie Chaplowe

The Stratford Old Timers Athletic Association

Tim Bishop

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

Bill O'Brien



## Carole Adzima

Carole was born in Bridgeport and shortly afterwards moved to Fairfield. She is a graduate of Roger Ludlowe High School in Fairfield, received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Bridgeport, and received a Certificate at the Institute for Organization Management from the University of Delaware.

Carole worked most of her career at the Bridgeport Regional Business Council. She served as Vice President of Finance, as well as the first Director of Leadership Greater Bridgeport and was Executive Director of the Stratford Chamber of Commerce for almost 20 years. She loves Stratford, and calls it her “adopted” Town. While Director of the Chamber, she served on many Town committees, and chaired the community effort to save the Army Engine Plant. Following the Base Realignment and Closure vote to close the plant, Carole served on the Town of Stratford’s Economic Development Committee for reuse of the Stratford Army Engine Plant. Carole was active on the Town’s restoration committee of the William Perry Historical Homestead; and facilitated the formation of the non-profit, The Perry House Foundation. Upon her retirement from the Chamber, she became President and Executive Director of the Foundation and serves in that position until today.

While at the BRBC, Carole was a member of the Board of Directors of both the Connecticut Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives and the New England Association. In 2002, she was named State of Connecticut, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director of the Year by the Connecticut Association. In 2003, she received the prestigious Volkmann Award, presented to a Chamber Executive for their dedicated service to the Community and the Association. In 2002 Carole received the Girl Scout, Housatonic Council “Woman of Distinction Award”. During her career, she also served on the Board of Directors of Career Resources, Inc., Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition, and still serves on Board of Stratford Softball Tournaments, Inc. and Square One Theatre.

She loves to travel, especially to Anguilla and Italy. In 2005, her entire family spent a month in Italy...her “trip of a lifetime”. Her great loves are her family and especially enjoyed watching her older grandsons play baseball and lacrosse and currently enjoys watching her younger grandson play soccer for SHS. Carole has been married to her husband, Gary, for 55 years. They have two adult children, Gregory and his wife, Ellen Austin Adzima, of High Point, North Carolina and Andrea Adzima Buchanan and her husband, Robert of Stratford. Carole and Gary have three cherished grandsons-- Alexander and Austin, both of Boone, North Carolina and Jackson Buchanan, of Stratford.



# Robert & Maria Santo

Rob and Maria Santo have worked for years as a team for the betterment of Stratford. They are always the first the step forward and the last to leave if there is work still to be done.

Rob and Maria both serve on various teams as coaches. Rob has helped young athletes through Stratford YMCA Flag Football (which he pioneered and received an award from the Regional YMCA for this program), Stratford PONY Baseball, Sterling House Basketball, Stratford Pop Warner Football, Stratford PAL Softball and Stratford High School Football. Maria has also stepped up to help through coaching with Stratford Pop Warner Cheerleading, Stratford PAL Softball, SHS Football team - endurance training, SHS Track team - flexibility training, SHS Volleyball - strength training, and Girl Scouts – Pilates training to help earn their badge.

Along with offering their time, the Santos have also helped come up with ways for organizations to collect funding. They pioneered (and ran) Stratford Academy Thanksgiving Bake Sale, SHS Football Fundraiser, SHS Scrap Metal Fundraiser, Stratford Old-Timers Athletic Association Golf Tournament, and SHS Craft Fair and Tag Sale. They have also been involved with the Healthy Stratford Council Heart Health Walk to raise money for AEDs (Automated External Defibrillator) for our Town Buildings, the Walt Czekaj Annual Golf Tournament, car washes for various SHS athletic teams, Bottle and Can Drives for various SHS athletic teams, Mums for SHS Volleyball team, and Volleyball Concessions

Rob has offered his construction skills and leadership (and Maria has joined in) on various building/facilities projects around town including: Stratford PONY Baseball Field House/Concession Stand at Clover Field, Nichols School Walkway and Garden, and Walt Czekaj Fitness Center on King Street at SHS. They have also directed projects at Longbrook/Penders such as having painted press box, ticket booths, and concession stand, built “Karen’s Garden” and planted the perennial bulbs and shrubs in memory of Karen Beatty Newall, helped renovate the Concession Stand (the Hot Spot), and built a patio and assisted in moving/relocating the flag pole and the Penders Memorial to be more visible. At the Shakespeare Theater they helped build a stage for summer performances and assisted in clean-up of the interior, while they also helped with clean up at the Stratford VFW facility.

Along with providing time coaching and building, Rob has somehow managed to serve on several committees including the Walt Czekaj Charitable Trust, Stratford Old-timers Athletic Association, Stratford High School Booster Club, Town of Stratford Athletic Review Committee, Credit Federation for Financial Professionals, Distillers, Importers and Vintners Financial Association, Northeastern University Mentor for MBA Students. Maria has also done her share of committee work on the Stratford Academy PTA (Note from the Editor: She was the best PTA treasurer ever), Stratford High School PTSA and Healthy Stratford Council.

Rob leads a Community Service team at his workplace (Diageo North America) coordinating events that include a large project annually on Earth Day. Locations include Beardsley Zoo, Bridgeport; Norwalk Shelter; Mill River Project; Red Cross Blood Drives; PAWS; and STAR, Norwalk.



## Billie Chaplowe

Billie Chaplowe, a longtime Stratford resident, now living in Texas has an extensive record of service to her community.

“Stratford is just a very special place and I am honored to be recognized as part of its celebration,” she said upon receiving notice that should would be a recipient of the Lighthouse Award.

Billie served for years on the Stratford Community Fund board and was the organization’s secretary for during part of that time.

In addition, she also was a member of the Red Cross Board of Directors for the town. Billie was also an elected member to the Stratford Board of Education and served a four year term with that organization.

She was also a volunteer with the Stratford Library and worked with various events and initiatives for that organization. She also worked with Meals on Wheels.



# Stratford Old Timers Athletic Association

For the past fifty (50) years the Stratford Old Timers Athletic Association has

been active in acknowledging local athletes of the past, in promoting activity in sports for its members and in recognizing outstanding High School athletes with scholarships for their further educational endeavors.

Since 1962, former local athletes and local sports enthusiasts have been honored annually at Awards Dinners with Golden Crown, John "Jack" Geary Achievement and Tim Ramik Citizen's Community Awards.

These awards encourage both good sportsmanship on the field and in life beyond and promote sports activity for old time athletes and the younger generations.

The Association also honors local citizens who have supported the ideals of the Association.

In addition, the group regularly sponsors a soccer and basketball team in the Sterling House leagues.



# Tim Bishop

Tim Bishop has been practicing law since 1989, focusing primarily in the areas of litigation, municipal, corporate and contract law. After 6 years as Stratford's Town Attorney, Tim accepted the position of General Counsel with ICR, one of the most successful financial communications companies in the world with offices in Beijing, Hong Kong, LA, San Francisco, Boston, NY, and its worldwide headquarters in Norwalk, CT. Tim's community involvement got a big push forward after graduating from the Bridgeport Regional Business Council's Leadership program.

Since then his community service includes board positions on several local organizations including: Material Exchange – Chairman; Alpha Home – Chairman; The Stratford Red Cross; Bridgeport Community Health Center (now Optimus); The Stratford Greenway Committee – Chairman; The Stratford Indian Princess and Guides program – Longhouse Chief; The Stratford Chamber of Commerce – President; The Bridgeport Regional Business Council; The Stratford Rotary Club – President; The John Patrick Flanagan Foundation; Stratford PAL; and Goodwill.

In his years as a volunteer he has been an active participant in a variety of causes including: Special Olympics; The Housatonic River Cleanup; Project Green Sweep; Homesteader for the Perry House; Christmas in April; Habitat for Humanity; The Rotary Club's annual Dictionary and Thesaurus project; Speaking to the Stratford Senior Men's Club; Reading to children at Stratford Academy; Serving Thanksgiving Dinner at the Baldwin Center; Delivering Turkeys at the Stratford Rotary Club & Sterling House's Thanksgiving Food Basket Project; and Local Captain of the United Way's annual appeal.

In addition, Tim has volunteered his time to set up several charitable non-profits and assisted many more with a wide variety of legal issues. As a fundraiser, Tim has served in every conceivable capacity, helping to raise money for homeless relief, the environment, cancer research, disaster relief, dolls and bears for hospitalized children, literacy, clothing for underprivileged families, clean water, education, toys for disadvantaged children, food banks, police dogs, drug education, playgrounds, cultural centers, the Arts, seniors, nature programs and countless other causes.

He has participated in over a hundred walks, runs and bike rides, lost 50 dozen golf balls, ate a half truckload of chickens and consumed over 300 pounds of cheese at cocktail parties to raise money for causes he (or in many cases his friends) care passionately about. Some of his favorites include the Perry House, Blues on the Beach, Sterling House, The Stratford Library, The Stratford Rotary Club, the Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament, and Stratford Street Sculpture.

Tim's passion for life inspires his love of nature and the outdoors. He is an enthusiastic hiker, ultralight backpacker, scuba diver, master captain, deep sea fisherman and skier. His other experiences include soloing an airplane, building nuclear submarines, working as a Chef in a 3 star restaurant, running marathons, cycling centuries, riding motorcycles, brewing beer and making wine and cheese. In his travels he has been bitten by a moray eel, bumped by a shark, swarmed by bats and bitten by penguins. His favorite sports teams are the UCONN Huskies, the Red Sox and anyone who beats the Yankees.

# **Stratford Community Fund Board of Directors 2016 – 2017**

## **PRESIDENT**

Bill O'Brien

## **VICE PRESIDENT**

Chuck Lindberg

## **SECRETARY**

Hal Baird

## **TREASURER**

Patricia "Patty"  
Gallagher

Diane Barber

Fran Carson

Kathie Cepetelli

Patricia "Tish" Morrissey

Patricia Patusky

## **Lighthouse Awards Chairpersons, 2016**

Marie Guman and Kathie Cepetelli

# The Lighthouse Awards

The Stratford Community Fund's mission of fostering the spirit of community shines brightly as the organization honors members of the community who have demonstrated a commitment to volunteerism and to making Stratford a better place to live, work and visit. The Lighthouse Award is a unique and prestigious recognition to say thank you to those who act as a guiding light to others throughout the community.

Each year, the Stratford Community Fund considers many nominations of deserving residents. In evaluating nominees, the Board considers the following criteria:

- The nominee must live, work or volunteer in Stratford
- The nominee should serve as an example and role model to others throughout Stratford
- The nominee should exude good character, moral values and positivity
- The nominee should demonstrate outstanding volunteerism and commitment to community that goes above and beyond the typical call of duty
- The bulk of the nominee's efforts should go above and beyond the requirements of their full time or part time job (if applicable)
- The nominee should have demonstrated the above commitment over a sustained period of time (i.e. not a onetime project)
- The nominee should represent the SCF's mission of fostering the spirit of community by empowering others to reach their personal, professional, philanthropic and public service aspirations
- The nominee cannot have served on the Stratford Community Fund Board within the last two years

# Nominate A Lighthouse Award Recipient

Each year, the Stratford Community Fund recognizes those in our community, whose dedication as volunteers make Stratford a better place for all. If you would like to nominate an individual, business, or organization for the Lighthouse Awards, complete this form and return it to:

The Stratford Community Fund  
c/o Sterling House Community Center  
2283 Main Street  
Stratford, CT 06615

Or email the SCF at [stratfordcommunityfund@gmail.com](mailto:stratfordcommunityfund@gmail.com)

Nominated

Individual/Business/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Your E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your support of Stratford's volunteers!**

# Support The Stratford Community Fund

The Stratford Community Fund, Inc. is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The sole source of financial support for the Community Fund is the bequests and contributions of Stratford residents and businesses. The organization does not directly solicit donations, but welcomes the community's generosity as the size of the endowment impacts the scope, quantity and quality of the grants and awards it issues.

Your charitable gift to the Stratford Community Fund ensures that the SCF will continue to support deserving projects and organizations dedicated to Stratford, CT and its surrounding communities. The SCF strives to assist residents of the greater Stratford community in fulfilling their personal, professional, philanthropic, and public service aspirations.

Regardless of amount, each donation makes an impact. The financial support of the community enables the Stratford Community Fund to continue to work toward the goals of recognizing outstanding community members; improving the physical environment of Stratford and surrounding communities; fostering the intellectual and creative development of the diverse population of the greater Stratford community; and encouraging public generosity and community spirit.

To contribute to the SCF, please mail a check, paid to the order of Stratford Community Fund, Inc., to:

The Stratford Community Fund  
c/o Sterling House Community Center  
2283 Main St.  
Stratford, CT 06615

All donations made to the Stratford Community Fund are tax deductible.



# The Stratford Community Fund

The Stratford Community Fund is dedicated to enriching the quality of life for residents of the greater Stratford, Connecticut community.

For more than two decades the SCF has supported a diverse spectrum of organizations and individuals, contributing more than \$30,000 to their community efforts. The initiatives supported by the SCF have ranged from youth development and education to adult programming and town beautification.

The Stratford Community Fund is managed by a board of volunteer directors to operate award funds that align with the SCF's mission of fostering the spirit of community by empowering residents of the greater Stratford, Connecticut community to reach their personal, professional, philanthropic, and public service aspirations.

The SCF's aims to honor and recognize standout community members; improve the physical environment of Stratford and surrounding towns; foster intellectual and creative development of the diverse population of the greater Stratford community; and encourage public generosity and community spirit

To learn more about the Stratford Community Fund, nominate a deserving resident for the Lighthouse Award, apply for a grant or contribute to the Fund, visit [www.stratfordcommunityfund.org](http://www.stratfordcommunityfund.org) or email the Board at [stratfordcommunityfund@gmail.com](mailto:stratfordcommunityfund@gmail.com).





