



Foundation for Westwood Education Honors

Patricia Carty-Larkin with the 2013 Barbara M. Friedman Award

The Westwood Educational Foundation is proud to announce that **Patricia Carty-Larkin**, director of Westwood's Council on Aging, has been chosen as this year's recipient of its highest honor, the **Barbara M. Friedman Award**. Each year the Foundation presents the Friedman Award to honor an individual who, through exemplary service to others, embodies the Foundation's mission to provide innovative, inspiring and meaningful educational programs to Westwood residents of all ages. Ms. Carty-Larkin is such an outstanding individual, and well deserving of the award.

For over 21 years, Ms. Carty-Larkin has served as the Director of Westwood's Council on Aging. She was a strong force behind the development of the Senior Center, where she directs programming with thoughtfulness and concern for the residents she serves. A passionate advocate for the needs of seniors in town, Ms. Carty-Larkin constantly seeks to provide the education and services seniors need most, orchestrating and arranging educational series on nutrition, health, and financial preservation, and often bringing in tax and legal professionals to offer free advice and assistance. She also organizes cultural programming such as author visits and history lectures series. Working with an extremely limited budget, she tirelessly writes grant requests and stretches each dollar to its maximum use in order to provide these resources.

The Senior Center Ms. Carty-Larkin helped create has become an inviting epicenter of activity and fellowship under her leadership. Ms. Carty-Larkin always seems to be present, ready to listen with an open door and ready to help without need for recognition. She puts in every small touch she can – such as the curtains she sewed herself and the floral centerpieces she creates seasonally – to make the Center warm and welcoming. During any week, seniors can find bridge and whist, bingo and Wii games, exercise classes, craft classes, book clubs and blood pressure clinics available to them. Ms. Carty-Larkin is described by one colleague as a “selfless woman” who quietly goes out of her way to help others, often without those she helps even aware of her actions.

The **Barbara M. Friedman Award** award was created ten years ago by the Westwood Educational Foundation in honor of its founder, who recognized the need to support enrichment opportunities for all members of the Westwood community. The Foundation is proud to honor Ms. Carty-Larkin for her exceptional and compassionate efforts to assist her fellow Westwood citizens. We wish her continued success in her endeavors, and thank her for her service.