



the compassion to care, the leadership to conquer

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Contact: **Ashley Shaw**
Public Relations & Outreach Coordinator
319-277-4100
Ashley.shaw@alz.org

Alzheimer's Association East Central Iowa Chapter announces Mission Awards Recipients

Cedar Rapids, Iowa - Every year the Alzheimer's Association East Central Iowa Chapter recognizes individuals, businesses and groups who have worked throughout the year to advance the mission of the Alzheimer's Association. Mission Awards allows the Alzheimer's Association to acknowledge winners in the following categories: Advocacy; Fund Development; New Volunteer of the Year; Program Service; Distinguished Organization; Public Awareness; Walk to End Alzheimer's SuperSTAR; and Volunteer of the Year.

The Advocacy Mission Award was presented to Senator Tom Harkin. Senator Harkin played an instrumental role in the 2010 passing of the National Alzheimer's Project Act. NAPA will create a coordinated national plan to overcome the Alzheimer crisis by ensuring the coordination and evaluation of all national efforts in Alzheimer research, clinical care, institutional, and home and community based programs along with their outcomes. The Iowa Department of Public Safety received the Public Awareness Mission Award for the creation of the Iowa Endangered Persons Advisory (EPA). The EPA system disseminates information about vulnerable missing or endangered persons to law enforcement and the media.

Dr. Susan Shultz was the recipient of the Program Service Mission Award. Dr. Schultz garnered funding from the NIH to make the University of Iowa an Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative 2 clinical trial site. ADNI2 is a five year, groundbreaking investigation to identify and standardize strategies for earlier diagnosis and disease monitoring.

The UNI Q-Crew, a branch of the Advocates for Alzheimer's student organization at the University of Northern Iowa, received recognition as the winner of the Service Club Mission Award. The group of students successfully launched QUASH at the University of Northern Iowa in 2010 raising more than \$10,000 to support the efforts of the Alzheimer's Association. The Fund Development Mission Award was given to Lois

Peterson of Iowa City. In October 2007, Alzheimer's disease robbed Lois of her spouse, Dr. Richard Peterson, professor of Medicine and Radiology at the University of Iowa and Chief of Nuclear Medicine at the IC Veterans Administration Hospital. Lois invests annual major gifts, participates in the Walk to End Alzheimer's, and strives to raise concern and awareness of Alzheimer's disease and the Alzheimer's Association.

Deb Thome of Gilbertville was the recipient of the Walk SuperSTAR Mission Award. Deb was the top individual fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Association East Central Iowa Chapter raising almost \$7,000 for the 2010 Walk. The New Volunteer Mission Award was given to Debra Masek of Lansing for her involvement in the Northeast Iowa Walk held in West Union. Outside her job as a 5th grade teacher, Debra serves on the planning committee for the Walk to End Alzheimer's, is a team captain and is a top fundraiser in the area.

Finally, the 2010 Volunteer of the Year Mission Award recipient was diagnosed with Younger Onset Alzheimer's at the age of 43. He was active in the various aspects of the Alzheimer's Association including involvement in the Alzheimer's Association's fundraising events, advocacy efforts and raising awareness for Alzheimer's disease. The award was presented in honor of Jon Witherell. Jon's mother, Judy Morningstar accepted the award on his behalf.

About the Alzheimer's Association:

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's. For more information, visit **www.alz.org/eci**.

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