

## Warwick Beacon – “Greer among Circle of Stars honorees”

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### Greer among Circle of Stars honorees



STANDOUT SERVICE: Celebrating the Providence Center and its dedicated employees from left are Andrew Prescott, Bill Devereaux, Kathy Hinckley, Dr. Jim Greer and Dale K. Klatzker.

The Providence Center celebrated its 40th anniversary at its annual Circle of Stars event with nearly 350 guests on Thursday, Nov. 5 at the Westin Providence Hotel. For the past 40 years, the Providence Center has been providing comprehensive services to adults, adolescents and children experiencing mental health, substance abuse and emotional and behavioral problems. Serving more than 10,000 people annually, the Providence Center is one of the largest of mental health and addiction services in Rhode Island.

Four individuals who represent the trustees, employees, donors and clients who have been a part of the Providence Center's rich history and helped to shape its future were recognized at the event.

Bill Devereaux, Esq., partner at Pannone Lopes Devereaux and West LLC and resident of North Smithfield, represented trustees of the Providence Center. Dr. James Greer, clinical director of the Providence Center's Child and Family Services and resident of Cranston, represented employees. Kathy Hinckley, director of constituent affairs for the Office of Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy and a resident of Lincoln, represented clients. Andrew Prescott, on behalf of Nixon Peabody LLP, a "Global 100" law firm, represented donors.

The proceeds from Circle of Stars will be allocated to the newly established Coping with Crisis Fund, created to help the increasing number of underinsured and uninsured individuals who seek help for mental health and substance use issues. Last year, the Providence Center provided nearly \$2 million in

free care to over 2,000 uninsured clients.

"Our strong foundation is built on the belief that our clients' needs are best served not in a hospital, but in the community with a full array of services that embraces the whole person," said Dale K. Klatzker, Ph.D., president and CEO of the Providence Center. "From counseling and medication, to education and employment, health and wellness, affordable housing and meaningful spiritual and social lives, our clients' unique needs have always been, and always will be, met with care and compassion."

In his tribute to Dr. Jim Greer, Jim Gannaway, former Providence Center employee and current director of the Rhode Island Division of Casey Family Services, spoke of Greer's dedication to his work.

"I appreciate Jim for his commitment to his work and to the families of the children he serves," said Gannaway.

Guests also heard the stories of three clients whose lives were touched by the Providence Center. David Oliver, a former client and now a residential assistant at the Providence Center, recounted how the center guided his recovery from a 30-year addiction.

"At the Providence Center, I learned how to overcome my addictions and to live and work in society," said Oliver.

Karen Adams, anchor, WPRI-TV Eyewitness News served as emcee for the evening's program. Jim Botvin, chair of the Providence Center board of trustees and president of Colonial Toyota, chaired the event committee.

For more information, call 276-4020 or visit [www.providencecenter.org](http://www.providencecenter.org).