

**Carle Mowell Named Woman of the Year
By The Village for Families & Children**

Award to be presented at Girl Within Luncheon, Dec. 4

The Village for Families & Children's 2015 **Woman of the Year** award will be presented to Carle Mowell of West Hartford. Carle has been a dynamic and successful community volunteer in greater Hartford since 1973, active with the Junior League of Hartford, Aurora Foundation for Women and Girls, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and American School for the Deaf, among others. She has also personally mentored a young woman and now her daughter, as well.

Carle's foundational training with the Junior League of Hartford led her to recognize and value the importance of programs that empower women and girls and encourage leadership and voluntarism. With her Junior League colleagues, she participated in a group called Friends of the Family, a resource and referral center for teenage parents which was successfully transitioned to The Village, and was involved with the former Shelter for Women, whose work has also been carried on by The Village.

"The *Woman of the Year* award is given to a woman who is a strong advocate for at-risk girls and young women, who motivates and inspires young women to realize their potential, and whose efforts have a transformative effect on the lives of women and girls," said Joanne Eudy, vice chair of The Village Board.

"Carle is remarkable – she is exceedingly generous with her time and selfless in her demeanor. She wants no credit for all that she has accomplished, which makes it all the more fun and rewarding to honor her."

As a long standing Junior League member, Carle was intimately involved with the program and ultimately became a mentor to Rebecca, a teenage parent. Fifteen years later, they are still "family." Rebecca completed her high school education and has gone on to earn her bachelor's and master's degrees. She had a second child and now lives and works full time in Washington, DC. Carle and her family have been by Rebecca's side the whole time. This is just one example of the generosity and selflessness that characterize Carle's service to the community.

Nearly 500 women and men will be on hand as Carle receives her award at The Village's 15th annual *Girl Within Luncheon*, Dec. 4 at the Hartford Marriott. Proceeds from the event enable The Village to provide life-changing support for young women and girls in the Greater Hartford area who need the guidance and inspiration to become more resilient, confident and independent.

Luncheon guests will also hear from keynote speaker Mia Fontaine, who overcame childhood sexual abuse and teenage drug addiction to become a Georgetown graduate, best-selling author and national speaker on the long-term social and personal cost of child sexual abuse.

For more information about the event and to register, visit www.thevillage.org/girlwithin.

