



FOR RELEASE ON TUESDAY, May 31, 2011

National Church Residences and Cindy Farson, director of the Central Ohio Area Agency on Agency, received the 2011 Charles B. Jenkins Legacy Awards from Employment for Seniors (EFS) on Thursday (May 19).

The awards were presented during a dinner at Trillium Place, a residential center for seniors in northwest Columbus, to an organization and individual that had profound impacts on the lives of seniors in central Ohio in 2010.

Other finalists for this year's Legacy Awards in the individual category were: Carol Parlett, director of Active Older Adult programs at the YMCA Hilltop Branch; David Rosen, President/CEO of Wexner Heritage Village, and Bernie Workman, a volunteer with many organizations including the Delaware County Council for Older Adults, Picnic with the Pops, Senior Citizen Inc., New Albany Classic, March of Dimes, and Share. The Central Ohio Transit Authority was also nominated for the organization award.

Presented annually in May by the EFS board of trustees, the awards are named after Chuck Jenkins, former EFS executive director, whose assistance to seniors in central Ohio was a model for others to follow.

National Church Residences, located at 2335 North Bank Drive (Columbus), provides affordable housing and home and community services to over 4000 underserved older adults in Franklin County. The number one priority of most seniors is ensuring independence and ultimately, aging in place. National Church Residences is the innovator of numerous programs that blend safe housing with access to the community-based services that empower older adults to live how they choose.

Cindy Farson, director of the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging, has been involved in helping to improve the life of seniors throughout this five county area. She has taken the lead in Central Ohio as a spokesperson and advocate for the senior community in all areas of health and welfare, including job placement activities. Her endorsement to employers on the benefits of hiring seniors, and her support of the Annual Senior Job Fair, has made a significant difference in the lives of many mature job seekers.

Carol A. Ventresca, EFS executive director, told the dinner audience that the Columbus-based EFS has "advocated for mature job-seekers in need of resources and assistance to succeed in the current job market, for nearly 40 years." She added, "Our clients are the 'hidden jewels of the job market'. Employers are interested in mature job seekers who are skilled, experienced, and ready to do the job. Finding employment not only helps a senior and their family, they become contributors to the local economy."

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In 2010, more than 1,100 individuals registered for the free job-search and placement assistance from EFS. Demand for EFS services is increasing and is projected to continue to rise until the economic picture for seniors improves.

EFS also conducted a silent auction to raise money to support its valuable services. EFS is funded entirely by donations, grants and proceeds from the annual fundraisers.

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