

Soaring to Success award

December 15, 2009

(GateHouse News Service) BOSTON – Dec. 9, The Massachusetts Parent-Child Home Program presented its annual *Soaring to Success* award to four former and current program staff members from across the state, honoring them for their commitment to giving all Massachusetts children the opportunity to succeed in school and in life.

Regional Coordinator Carol Rubin and Sarah Walzer, executive director of The Parent-Child Home Program, presented the awards, with state senators and representatives from the awardees' communities and members of the Parent-Child Home Program Massachusetts Advisory Council in attendance.

Paula Ryan, the first coordinator of the Plymouth Parent-Child Home Program, started with only six families in 1993. Her hard work and dedication helped the site quickly grow to a peak of 95 families and 15 Home Visitors in the 2003-2004 program year. She managed to grow the Parent-Child Home Program successfully while also serving as the Title I Director for the Plymouth Public Schools and overseeing additional K-3 literacy activities. She also wrote the original grant application for the Plymouth Family Network, now in its eleventh year and currently located at Hedge Elementary School in North Plymouth.

Additional recipients include Peggy Beucler and Ellen Valade from the Cambridge Parent-Child Home Program, and Linda Diehl of the Pittsfield Program.

"Honoring these women reminds me of how much impact one person can have on the lives of many," Walzer said. "For decades they have worked to reach as many families as possible in their communities and with every home visit, every book and every toy, they made tremendous differences for each family and for their entire community."



Paula Ryan poses with Senate President Therese Murray at the Soaring to Success awards December 9, 2009.

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