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Senator Chris Murphy Presented with TEAM's Chairman's Award at Annual Meeting

Derby, CT, October 20, 2014 -- Senator Chris Murphy, the keynote speaker at TEAM's 49th Annual Meeting held on October 10, 2014 at the Grassy Hill Lodge, was presented the Agency's Chairman's Award in recognition of his broad, profound and positive impact on the quality of social and human services in the region. In his keynote address to 150 attendees, Senator Murphy spoke about the investments we need to make to help low income and middle class individuals, particularly in education. He discussed the importance of traditional education and job training programs to lift people out of poverty, and the impact investing in education will have on our nation's long term success.

2014 marks the 50th anniversary of President Lyndon Johnson's initiation of his Great Society program, a campaign to combat poverty. Known also as the beginning of the War on Poverty, the effort created legislation to assist economically vulnerable families. Those programs – Medicare, Medicaid, Food Stamps, and Head Start – form the backbone of today's federal safety net for families. This annual meeting was the final one for TEAM President & CEO Richard Knoll, who will retire at the end of the year after 34 years of service. Knoll endorsed Senator Murphy's remarks and support for building the educational assets of economically marginalized adults: "Our economy will be served by ready and able workers, whose training needs are met and whose barriers to employment are removed."

Two other awards were presented. The Lillian Chrostowski Award, in recognition of a local social service professional whose outstanding work has had a profound and positive effect on our community, was presented to Julie Penry, who recently retired as Executive Director of the Shelton Youth Service Bureau.

TEAM's Partnership Award, in recognition of a program or agency partner whose outstanding support and collaboration has assisted TEAM in advancing its agency mission, was given to the Shelton Echo House Fire Department in recognition of their extraordinary act of volunteerism in assisting the Shelton residents of January's Howe Avenue fire.

The meeting included testimonials by two TEAM clients who overcame significant barriers to employment with the Agency assistance. Stephane Skibo, TEAM Board Chairman, also introduced David Morgan as the new President & CEO of the Agency.

TEAM Inc. is a private, 501c (3) non-profit corporation whose mission is to connect individuals and families with solutions that lead to well-being, self-sufficiency and full participation in the community. It aims to achieve its mission by conducting activities that address the needs of economically disadvantaged individuals and families including resource mobilization, education, advocacy and service delivery. TEAM programs serve the communities of Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, Milford, Orange, Oxford, Shelton, Seymour and Woodbridge.

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