



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### RIPIN Announces 2017 Partnerships Awards Recipients to be given at 3rd Annual RIPIN Breakfast

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Cranston, RI—The Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN) is pleased to announce that our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Breakfast will be held Thursday, June 1, 8:00 am-10:00am, at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, RI. At this year's Annual Breakfast, we will share our stories, present our community partnership awards, and recognize the impact RIPIN has made in the lives of those we serve.

This year's RIPIN Partnerships Award recipients were nominated and selected based on their unique contributions and commitment to RIPIN's mission and vision. The *Legislative Partner Award* is given to Rep. Deborah Ruggiero (D-Jamestown), who has demonstrated an understanding of educational and health issues facing our families and children with special health care needs through sponsorship, legislation and advocacy.

The *Community Partner Award* goes to Linda Katz of the Economic Progress Institute for her demonstrated commitment to addressing the barriers to health and education that many Rhode Island children, youth, and families face.

The *Agency Partner Award* goes to *Help the Homeless*, which has made a significant impact on the lives of individuals, families, children and youth that RIPIN serves. *Help the Homeless*, is a new community-based agency that uses the power of social networks to help homeless families obtain the goods and services they need.

Finally, the *Care-Giver Leadership Award* goes to Mary Pendergast, Special Education Director at the RI School for the Deaf, who has enabled other care-givers to be better advocates for all Rhode Islanders.

RIPIN is grateful for the support of these individuals, and our entire Rhode Island community.

Established over 25 years ago, RIPIN helps thousands of Rhode Islanders every year turn challenging situations into opportunities to advocate for themselves and their loved ones. Through health care coordination, health and education programs, and community outreach services, RIPIN peers work side by side with individuals and families to help them navigate complex systems of care. More information: [www.ripin.org](http://www.ripin.org)

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