



2008 Women of Courage: Women of Inspiration Awards

Lutheran Settlement House was pleased to honor nine courageous women as the recipients of the **2008 Women of Courage: Women of Inspiration Awards**. This year's honorees overcame incredible obstacles and made significant contributions to the community in the areas of Adult Education, Domestic Violence, Senior Services and Homeless Services. They were celebrated at a Dinner and Awards Ceremony held on Thursday, May 22, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Philadelphia.



Mistress of Ceremonies Dawn Stensland Mendte.

winning the Spirit Award, for her work with senior citizens.

The event featured FOX 29's Dawn Stensland as this year's Mistress of Ceremonies, and an appearance by Governor Ed Rendell, who delivered a brief address congratulating Secretary of Planning and Policy Donna Cooper for

Inspiration Award – Det. Rosemary DiLacqua, Philadelphia Police Department

The **Inspiration Award** recognizes a woman who has demonstrated a clear contribution to the community, and has served as an inspiration to other women.

Courage Award – Henrietta Hadley, Director of New Choices/ New Options, Community College of Philadelphia

The **Courage Award** recognizes a survivor of domestic violence who has helped victims and other survivors overcome the many challenges associated with domestic violence.

Purple Ribbon Award – Kathleen Sheeder Bonanno, English Teacher, Cheltenham High School

The **Purple Ribbon Award** recognizes a woman who has demonstrated a strong commitment to education and to raising awareness about domestic violence in our community.

Outstanding Returning Student Award – Celinette Olmo, former student, Community Learning Center

The **Outstanding Returning Student Award** recognizes a woman who has demonstrated initiative and tenacity by returning to school as an adult, and thereby serving as a role model to others.

Excellence in Adult Literacy Award – Diane Inverso, Director of Education, Mayor's Commission on Literacy

The **Excellence in Adult Literacy Award** recognizes a woman who has heightened public awareness of adult literacy needs in Philadelphia and has encouraged innovative learning at home, or in work and community settings.



2008 Winners: From Left to right: Darlene Marshall-Lee, Rosemary DiLacqua, Lisa Johnson Nutter, Jeannine Lopez, Donna Cooper, Celinette Olmo, Diane Inverso, Kathleen Sheeder Bonnano, and Henrietta Hadley.

Dignity Award – Darlene Marshall-Lee, Social Worker and Corporate Director of Social Services, St. Joseph's Hospital

The **Dignity Award** recognizes a formerly homeless woman who has overcome great obstacles in her life or at work.

Impact Award – Jeannine L. Lopez, V.P of Operations, Project H.O.M.E

The **Impact Award** recognizes a woman who has demonstrated a strong commitment to ending homelessness, and who has worked on behalf of homeless individuals.



Governor Edward Rendell offering his congratulations to the winners.

2008 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Jane Addams Award – Lisa Nutter, President Philadelphia Academies, Inc.

"It is because of Lisa's commitment to Philadelphia's youth, to education, career readiness, and community development that Lutheran Settlement House is honored to have her as the 2008 recipient of the **Jane Addams Award**," said Beatriz Vieira, Executive Director of LSH.

Spirit Award – Donna Cooper, Secretary of Planning & Policy, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

The **Spirit Award** recognizes a woman who serves as an advocate for the needs of senior citizens in the community.

Special thanks to the following event sponsors:



Table Sponsors: Brawer and Hauptman Architects, New Kensington Community Development Corporation, Project H.O.M.E, and Christ Ascension Lutheran Church.

Benefactors: Steven F. Bell, Jean Biesecker, and Elise Bruhl. **In Honor of Donna Cooper:** Gerald L. Zahorchak, and Harriet Ditcher.

If you or your company is interested in sponsoring the 2009 Women of Courage: Women of Inspiration Awards, please call Suzette Belz at 215-426-8610, ext. 208