



Washington State TCARE Project Wins Prestigious Award for Improving the Lives of Caregivers

Americus, GA - Named in honor of a great humanitarian, the ***Rosalynn Carter Leadership in Caregiving Award*** is the highest award given in the caregiving field. The Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI) is proud to announce that the winner of the 2010 Rosalynn Carter Leadership in Caregiving Award is the partnership between the Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A) and Rhonda J. V. Montgomery, PhD, Helen Bader School of Social Welfare, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The award ceremony took place during a gala dinner in connection with the 2010 RCI National Summit, which took place October 20-22 at Georgia Southwestern State University.

The ***Rosalynn Carter Leadership in Caregiving Award*** recognizes innovative partnerships between community agencies and caregiving researchers that bridge the gap between science and practice. These partnerships help move effective caregiver support programs to widespread use in the community more quickly and efficiently.

The Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Dr. Montgomery have worked collaboratively to implement the evidence-based Tailored Caregiver Assessment and Referral (TCARE) protocol throughout Washington State. Last June, W4A involved half of the state's Area Agencies on Aging in implementing and using TCARE; by January of this year, all Area Agencies on Aging throughout the state had implemented TCARE. Members of the UWM research team conducted intensive training for 98 case managers/family caregiver specialists throughout the state; 11 of which were later trained to be TCARE Master Trainers. To date, over 2,485 family caregivers have received 2,528 TCARE screenings and 2,103 TCARE assessments.

RCI unveiled its 12 recommendations to avert the caregiving crisis during its recent National Summit; one of the recommendations is making professional assessment and triage available to all caregivers. In addition to Washington, Dr. Montgomery's

TCARE protocol is currently being utilized to assist in this process in the states of Georgia, Florida, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

The ***Rosalynn Carter Leadership in Caregiving Award*** is sponsored by Johnson & Johnson, RCI's partner since 2001. This partnership builds on the significant work accomplished by the RCI over the past 23 years as well as on the credo of Johnson & Johnson to be "responsible to the communities in which we live and work," and to "encourage...better health and education."

The Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving was established in 1987 on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University (GSW) in Americus, Georgia. The RCI was formed in honor of former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, an alumna of GSW, to enhance her long-standing commitments to human development and mental health. The RCI works to establish local, state and national partnerships committed to building quality long-term, home and community- based services.

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Photo:

Members of the partnership team for the Washington State TCARE Project AA recently received a statuette designed by Frank Eliscu (Designer of the Heisman Trophy) and a \$20,000 check from Mrs. Rosalynn Carter at the 2010 RCI Awards Banquet in Americus, Georgia. Pictured (l to r): Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter; Rhonda J. V. Montgomery, PhD, Roy B. Walker, Chair, W4A.