



Sydney J. Bird, Barry Donenfeld and Donna Harvey

Recognized for Outstanding Leadership

Washington, DC (July 18, 2010) – At the opening general session of its annual conference July 18, 2010, in St. Louis, MO, the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) announced the winners of its 2nd annual prestigious *n4a Excellence in Leadership Awards*. The award recognizes leaders of n4a member Area Agencies on Aging and Title VI Native American Aging programs. Long-time aging services leaders Sydney J. Bird, Barry Donenfeld and Donna Harvey received the awards for their outstanding innovation and leadership in preparing their communities for the rapidly growing older population.

The 2010 *n4a Excellence in Leadership Award* to a Title VI Native American Aging program leader was presented to Sydney J. Bird of Macy, NE. Bird has served as the Title VI Program Director for the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska for the past six years, and currently represents Title VI aging programs on the n4a Board of Directors. She has a combined total of 36 years of experience working directly with service delivery to Native American elders on three Indian reservations in Nebraska.

The 2010 *n4a Excellence in Aging Award* for an Area Agency on Aging this year went to two aging services leaders—Barry Donenfeld and Donna Harvey. Donenfeld has served as Executive Director of NorthWest Senior and Disability Services based in Salem, OR, for nearly 20 years, where under his leaderships the AAA has nearly doubled in size. For eight years, he served as Chair of the Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disability where he helped develop planning, advocacy and legislative priorities. From 2000 until 2002 Donenfeld faithfully served as an n4a Board Member

and as the Association's President. He is a member of the Oregon Governor's Task Force on Senior Services and was appointed as the Governor's delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging.

Donna Harvey has been and continues to be an advocate for older people, with extensive involvement in the Aging Network at the local, state and national levels. She has led the Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging, in Waterloo, IA, for almost 24 years. Harvey has served on the n4a Board of Directors for two separate terms and as n4a President from 2004 until 2006. She currently is President of the Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging and was a delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging. Harvey served on the National Governor's Association Policy Academy on Long Term Care as well as on the Governor's task forces in Iowa for Transit, Alzheimer's and Long Term Care in Iowa.

In presenting the awards, n4a CEO Sandy Markwood said, "The work of the National Aging Network is critically important—to the lives of older Americans, their caregivers and their communities. These leaders inspire us with their passion and commitment for forging new paths for aging services and supports, and their pursuit of excellence in serving their older clients and caregivers. They emanate the vision and innovation that shape the future of our aging services delivery system."

CONTACT: Bob McFalls
rmcfalls@n4a.org
202.872.0888