



Education Center Box 220 | 501 Kings Highway East | Fairfield, CT 06825 | www.FairfieldPTAC.org

Alis B. McGrath Friend of Education Award

Each year, the PTA Council honors a member of the Fairfield community as a Friend of Education. This is a person who is committed to the cause of excellence in our public schools and who has demonstrated clear leadership through their active involvement, not just in the educational process, but on the larger community stage as well.

A nominee should meet the following criteria:

- ✓ **Has made a significant contribution to the betterment of the children in our public schools**
- ✓ **Has made a *system-wide* contribution to further education in the town**
- ✓ **Has made these contributions and/or been involved outside of his or her official responsibilities in the public schools**

In 2000, the PTA Council renamed its Friend of Education Award in memory of Alis B. McGrath, who was inspirational in her dedication to the town of Fairfield and its education system. It was felt she truly personified the very meaning of the award. Her lifelong and tireless contributions left us stronger and more able to meet the challenges of the future.

Her work on behalf of Fairfield's youth included serving as President of Holland Hill Elementary School and Fairfield High School PTAs, Director of the Fairfield High School Scholarship Foundation, representative to the Town Youth Council and Adults and Children Together (ACT). As a community activist, she served as a RTM member from District 8, Commissioner of Human Services, Newsletter Editor for the League of Women Voters, Docent for the Audubon Society, and member of the Senior Center Renovation Committee, just to name a few. In recognition of her many contributions, Alis was awarded the PTA Council's prestigious Deanna O. Kiernan Award in 1993.

Recent awardees include ***Michele & John Mitola***, active PTA members, former Board of Education member and current Board of Finance member; ***Alfred Kelly***, Chair and member of several school building committees; ***Sue Dow***, RTC Member and former Board of Education member; ***Joy Shaw***, founder of the River-Lab program; ***Howard Diamond***, past president of the High School Scholarship Foundation of Fairfield; ***Leann Ratner***, PTA Council executive board member and active in the Friends of the Public Library, River-Lab and the Boy Scouts; ***Jennifer Maxon Kennelly***, Board of Education member and champion for Odyssey of the Mind and diversity initiatives, and our most recent recipient, ***Reini Knorr***, active PTA volunteer and leader in community outreach.

The Fairfield PTA Council seeks nominations for the **Alis B. McGrath Friend of Education Award**. Applications may be obtained on the Fairfield PTA Council website (www.FairfieldPTAC.org) or by contacting Julie Gottlieb, Chair of the PTAC Awards Committee, at segjkg@att.net.

Please note that the PTA Council may choose not to grant this award if no nominee meets all of the criteria listed above.

All nominations for the 2018 Alis B. McGrath Friend of Education Award are due by Friday, May 25, 2018.

Everychild. Onevoice.