

FROM:



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For immediate release, please

**Massachusetts Councils on Aging Honor Ruthann Dobek, Frank Caro
and BrooklineCAN as “Innovators of the Year”**

Ruthann Dobek, Frank Caro, and the Brookline Community Aging Network (BrooklineCAN) were honored on June 5 by the Massachusetts Councils on Aging (MCOA) with the 2015 “Innovator of the Year” award.

In presenting the award, Jayne Colino, Director of the Newton Senior Center and past president of MCOA, stated that the accomplishments and approaches taken by BrooklineCAN co-chairs Dobek and Caro “inspire her”. She added that BrooklineCAN has brought collaborations and partnerships to a whole new level.

One of its main accomplishments was gaining Brookline’s recognition as a World Health Organization (WHO) Age-Friendly community. Added Colino, “Frank and Ruthann used the WHO acknowledgement as a vehicle to support BrooklineCAN’s mission to make the town a better place for all to live. The process called attention to the good features of the community that already exist and to ‘nudge’ town departments on issues and areas that could make things even better.

“Overall, BrooklineCAN’s effort has raised awareness about and engaged more people in the opportunities to age healthy in Brookline, has raised awareness about challenges to that goal, and engaged more members of the community in advocating for solutions to these challenges.”

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MCOA Executive Director David J. Stevens stated that the awards were presented at the MCOA Annual Meeting in Devens, Mass. MCOA is a statewide non-profit organization linking the councils on aging of all 351 Massachusetts towns and cities.

Affiliated with the Brookline Senior Center, BrooklineCAN is an all-volunteer organization which enables older residents to remain independent and fully engaged in the life of the community. The organization advocates on behalf of Brookline's older residents, works with town agencies on behalf of Brookline's seniors, provides ways for members to contribute to the community, and in general acts to make Brookline an even better place to live for people of all ages.

For additional information about Brookline Community Aging Network and to request a copy of BrooklineCAN's informative monthly newsletter, visit <http://www.brooklineCAN.org> or call 617-730-2777.

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