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July 1, 2025

Lee Paulsen Named 2025 Recipient of Mary Hawley Public Service Award

NEWTOWN, CT – The Mary Hawley Public Service Award Committee is proud to announce that Lee Paulsen has been named the 2025 recipient. The award, named in honor of Newtown's beloved benefactress, was established to promote volunteerism by recognizing an individual who, through lengthy and exceptional public service to Newtown, best represents the selfless commitment and spirit of its namesake.

Lee Paulsen, a resident of Newtown for over 20 years, epitomizes these values through her exceptional service to the community. As one of the founding members of F.A.I.T.H. Food Pantry, established in 1983, Paulsen has been a pillar of support for countless individuals and families in need. For 42 years, she has been the heart and soul of the food pantry, leading it as chairperson and president. Her tireless efforts have helped F.A.I.T.H. grow from a small initiative to an established community resource, serving nearly 93,000 meals in 2024.

In addition to her work with F.A.I.T.H., Lee Paulsen has served the Newtown community in various other capacities. From 1976 to 1979, she was a dedicated member and project co-chair of the Newtown Women Jaycees, contributing to a range of community service activities. Furthermore, she led the Newtown Fund as president from 2004 to 2006, providing emergency relief to residents in need.

Beyond her volunteer work, Paulsen is a special needs educator, devoted mother, grandmother, and wife of over 60 years. Her personal and professional life is a testament to her compassion and selflessness. As Father Robert Weiss eloquently put it at a F.A.I.T.H. dinner party celebration in 2023, "Every town needs a Lee Paulsen."

The selection committee will honor Lee Paulsen later this summer at Edmond Town Hall. During the ceremony, Paulsen will receive the award, have her name added to the plaque in the Mary Hawley Room, and select a beneficiary for the \$1,000 contribution provided by Newtown Savings Bank.

About Newtown Savings Bank

Newtown Savings Bank is a community bank headquartered in Newtown, Connecticut, with over \$1.8 billion in assets. The Bank has been deeply committed to its customers and the community since 1855. It has 15 branches located in Newtown, Bethel, Bridgeport, Brookfield, Danbury, Monroe, Oxford, Shelton, Southbury, Trumbull, and Woodbury, along with the New Haven Regional Lending Center in Hamden, CT. For more information and location details visit NSBonline.com or call 800.461.0672. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.