



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**New Jersey Advocates for Aging Well announces Recipient of
2023 Carl F. West Award**

HAMILTON, NJ, USA – June 7, 2023 - NJAAW (New Jersey Advocates for Aging Well)

New Jersey Advocates for Aging Well's Executive Director, Cathy Rowe, DrPH announces the 2023 recipient of the Carl F. West Award for Excellence in Aging. "We are pleased to present this year's award to Marilyn Mock, Policy Director for Wellness Services at Fair Share Support Services. Marilyn's work in improving services for residents in Fair Share Housing's Northgate II residence in Camden is exactly the type of progress our founder, Carl West, strove to achieve for New Jersey's older residents."

About Carl F. West:

Carl F. West, a New Jersey resident all his life, had a long, distinguished career in public service. As Director of the Mercer County Office on Aging from 1967 to 2004, and as a cabinet member for the Mercer County Executive, he worked tirelessly to bring the issues facing older adults to the attention of elected officials and policy makers. In 1998, he and County Directors from Middlesex, Hunterdon and Union counties stepped forward to form the NJ Foundation for Aging, now New Jersey Advocates for Aging Well.

While he was widely recognized as a staunch advocate for issues impacting NJ's aging adults, Carl also lent his talents to leadership positions with the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging and the National Caucus and Center on Black Aging. He was President of the National Caucus and an active Board member for more than three decades.

Established after his death in 2018, NJAAW's Carl F. West Award recognizes his legacy as founding trustee and his contributions to the field of aging. The award recognizes outstanding programs, organizations and individuals that provide extraordinary service in their work with older NJ residents.

The award will be represented on June 9th at NJAAW's conference, "The Future of Aging in New Jersey" held in New Brunswick. Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the organization, the conference is among the largest events focused on aging in New Jersey with 35 speakers and over 260 attendees. NJAAW Board President, Michele Kent stated "I believe conference attendees will be extremely impressed by this year's program. It clearly represents NJAAW's commitment toward securing the best quality of life for seniors in New Jersey. Marilyn Mock embodies our dedication to that same goal."

Conference details can be found at njaaw.org.

Rowe said that Marilyn Mock was an obvious choice for this year's award. "Marilyn has been a speaker at several NJAAW events. At our conference last year, her presentation "Thinking Outside the Roadblocks" really resonated with us. Looking at Marilyn's work in Camden, it inspires us to ask how and where can this be replicated? We hope that others in the field of aging will look at Marilyn's accomplishments and find ways to bring similar programs to their communities and clients."

When notified of the award, Mock stated "I am so humbled and overwhelmed by being chosen as this year's recipient of the Carl F. West Award as his extraordinary work on behalf of older adults exemplified what those of us in the field consistently strive toward emulating."

Charisse Smith, PhD, NJAAW Board Secretary and niece of Carl West stated "NJAAW sought to find an individual or an organization that exemplified Carl's drive and passion to make a difference in the lives of older New Jersey citizens, especially the minority community which was dear to his heart." Dr. Smith has served on the NJAAW Board of trustees since 2019 and oversees the selection of each year's award winner. In addition, Dr. Smith recalled that "Carl ensured that legislators, policymakers, philanthropists, advocacy groups, service organizations, thought leaders, and the public-at-large include minority seniors in their programs, policy and law making."

Previous award recipients include Elizabeth Davis, Executive Director of Brightside Family (2022) and Jespy House (2021).

About NJAAW

*NJ Advocates for Aging Well (NJAAW, njaaw.org), formerly NJ Foundation for Aging, has been on the forefront of revolutionizing the aging experience since 1998. It is the only statewide nonprofit focused solely on providing leadership in public policy and education to enable older adults to live with independence and dignity in their communities. NJAAW's social action issues include senior housing and hunger, the direct care workforce; older workers and caregiving. NJAAW also presents educational forums and an Annual Conference offering development opportunities and best practices for professionals entrusted with caring for older adults. NJAAW's award-winning monthly TV program, *Aging Insights* is available on NJAAW's YouTube channel at youtube.com/c/njadvocatesforagingwell, at njaaw.org and more than 70 public-access stations across NJ (check local listings for channels and times).*

About Fair Share Support Services

Fair Share Support Services (FSSS), the social services arm of FSHD, is at the forefront of a national movement to integrate housing with supportive wellness services in low-income settings as part of an innovative effort to contain healthcare costs. With the goal to allow the senior residents of their Northgate II complex to age in place in their own homes, surrounded by their treasured belongings and supported by an internal network of neighbors and staff who know them well, FSSS' wellness work helps to improve the health and functional ability of elderly tenants in order to avoid, minimize or forestall the likelihood of institutional placement in a nursing home. In addition, FSSS has also built a comprehensive support network for other residents (people with special needs and families with children) as they rise to overcome the many health challenges that are associated with the trauma of living in one of the poorest, most violent cities in the nation.