

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Association of Community Services Announces the Winners of the 2018 Audrey Robbins Humanitarian Awards**

COLUMBIA, MD-February 20, 2018-The Association of Community Services (ACS) presents the 44th Annual Audrey Robbins Humanitarian Awards honoring volunteers and staff in Howard County for exceptional service to their community on Friday, April 20 at The Great Room at Savage Mill (8600 Foundry Street, Savage, MD 20763). Guests will have the opportunity to network and meet the winners from 11 am-Noon; the awards presentation and lunch will be held from Noon-2pm.

Each year, a selection committee reviews nominations and selects winners in four categories. This year's Audrey Robbins Humanitarian Awards honorees are:

**Jackie Eng (Volunteer of the Year)** – Jackie Eng is a highly respected leader and volunteer who is recognized for her work with nonprofits and County government and her collaboration with diverse individuals and organizations. Since early 2000, Jackie has been a tireless champion for affordable housing and ending homelessness and other human service needs in Howard County through her involvement with nonprofit organizations including Bridges to Housing Stability, Inc. (formerly known as Congregations Concerned for the Homeless) and the Association of Community Services (ACS), and county initiatives, committees and commissions. Not only does Jackie give her own sweat, effort and time to the community, but “she is a wonderful mentor as well, volunteering her time to ensure that others can also take up the torch on the causes she cares so deeply about.”

**Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Iota Lambda Omega Chapter (Volunteer Team of the Year)** - The Iota Lambda Omega (ILO), the Howard County chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., fulfills the international service organization's mission locally through continuous programs of service in a variety of human service areas including legal services, food insecurity, clothing needs, and homelessness. In November 2017 ILO launched Howard County's first Homeless Resource Fair, a one-stop resource event for the homeless population so that they could learn about accessing services and resources to address to problems and challenges of homelessness. Since receiving its Howard County charter in 1972, ILO has reached out to children and families by going where the people are – in community rooms, churches and community centers.

**Joan Webb Scornaienchi (Employee of the Year)** – As Executive Director of Howard County's HC DrugFree since 2009, Joan Webb Scornaienchi has transformed the organization by building relationships, attracting new sources of funding, recruiting new partners and expanding services. Joan's vision, innovation and mentorship have earned her high praise and widespread recognition. Joan has been instrumental in educating residents and community leaders about the opioid epidemic and HC DrugFree's educational campaign in English, Spanish, Korean and Arabic gets opioid printed materials out to those in need. Between HC DrugFree's twice a year drive-thru medication and sharps collection (Drug Takeback Days) and

the four permanent medication collection boxes that have been placed at Howard County Police Departments as a result of HCDrugFree's efforts, more than 8,000 pounds of unwanted and expired prescription and over the counter medications have been collected and taken off the streets of Howard County during Joan's tenure.

**Humanim's Healthy Transitions Program (Employee Team of the Year)** – Humanim's Healthy Transitions program was founded in 2015 to address the need for services for 16-25 year-olds with mental health concerns in Howard County. Using three evidence based practices including supported education, supported employment and psychosocial family education, Transition Facilitators work to assist program participants in successfully accomplishing critical life goals and living full independent lives. Since its inception, The Healthy Transitions program has successfully served 82 Howard County youth by helping them to achieve successes and to improve their quality of life. Part of a national program model, Humanim's Healthy Transition program received notice in June 2017 that its program community is performing in the top 10% of all Healthy Transitions programs in the nation.

"The Audrey Robbins Humanitarian Awards are not only a celebration of these winners," says Joan Driessen, executive director of ACS, "but also a celebration of the good work all the service providers give in Howard County."

To purchase tickets, and for more information, visit [acshoco.org](http://acshoco.org) (or call 443-518-7702).

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Founded in 1963, the Association of Community Services of Howard County (ACS) is a network of nonprofit and human services providers in Howard County. The Audrey Robbins Humanitarian Awards are named after a former director of the county's Department of Social Services.