



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR  
Marriage & Family Therapy

## SERVICE TO THE ORGANIZATION AWARD 2014 Dorothy Timmermann, LMFT



I have been looking forward to this moment since joining the CTAMFT Board! I love to recognize unsung heroes—those people who quietly fix what is broken and tend their gardens dutifully. Heroes like this allow the needs, egos and dreams of others to take center stage, rather than dancing in the limelight. They are willing to courageously and patiently walk into places that are too dusty, forgotten and abandoned for the average person to even see! And if you think I'm exaggerating, I'll tell you about the stack of storage boxes that have traveled from CTAMFT Board member to Board member since the Association's inception.

This hero in particular, is generally undaunted with details such as this, or any detail large or small. One of her greatest contributions has been that she has helped CTAMFT to develop an organizational infrastructure that we hope many future Boards will benefit from for years to come.

Of course, I'm talking about my dear friend, and hero, Dorothy Timmermann, who is this year's recipient of CTAMFT's "Service to the Organization" Award. Dorothy has been a Clinical Member of AAMFT since 1992. She has been an Executive team Officer on the CTAMFT Board since 2008, when she began as Secretary through her Presidency, from 2010-2013.

Dorothy applied the same grace to taking minutes as she did to running the annual conference. During her tenure, she reorganized staffing structure, gently moved the CTAMFT Board to create and hold to a strategic plan, and she welcomed speakers and members to the organization in such a warm and characteristic way that any leader with the luck to learn from her could not help but be influenced for the better.

Dorothy came to the field of MFT in 1992 with experience as an LADC and has worked extensively with clients affected by addiction and HIV in addition to her work

with couples and families. She has taught adjunct courses, presented on ethics and given parenting workshops. In fact, I love and regularly steal her ideas on the “work and play” of parenting in my work with families. Most recently, she has been the Executive Director of Fairfield Counseling Services, a large outpatient non-profit agency serving individuals, couples and families for the past eight years.

On a personal level, her husband Bill, two grown children and grandchildren, as well as two approximately 70 pound German shepherd puppies have freely accepted her devotion to us, virtually without complaint – although the puppies did learn to open the refrigerator door in her absence. I think we should take responsibility for that.

Dorothy’s devotion also includes managing CTAMFT during the declining health and passing of both of her parents. I share this not knowing if it is really okay, but I feel this membership should recognize that Dorothy has given great time and energy to CTAMFT during a period when huge emotional, physical and mental tasks were required of her. She did this for all the right reasons – her Presidency and service to the organization has come out of compassion and a desire to contribute a lasting structure to hold the important work that MFTs do. And she has been just-so-matter-of-fact about it!

This is why it gives me such great joy to say “thank you” in a formal way, and to ask us all to bow and curtsy and embrace her now understanding the full extent of her value to this organization! Thank you Dorothy Timmermann, the 2014 recipient of the Service to the Organization Award.

*Presented by Denise Parent, LMFT  
President, CTAMFT*