



MAINE RIGHT TO
LIFE COMMITTEE



Alert

Donate

**Bruce and Jan Willson
of HOPE HOUSE
Receive 2019 Patricia DeGrinney LIFE Award**



(Left to Right:) Bruce Willson's mother, Lillian Willson, along with three of Bruce and Jan Willson's grandchildren: Zak, Olivia, and Emily, and Bruce Willson of Hope House

Bruce and Jan Willson of Hope House have been awarded the prestigious 2019 Patricia DeGrinney LIFE Award. The announcement was made at Maine Right to Life Committee's statewide annual convention held October 19 in Portland. A packed banquet hall responded enthusiastically to the announcement. Carolyn Mitchell, Patricia's DeGrinney's beloved daughter, and Patricia's beautiful granddaughter, Grace DeGrinney, were on hand for the announcement.

The statewide Life Award is presented to a Maine citizen aged 12-100 years old who has consistently demonstrated compassion, leadership, and service for Maine's unborn babies, their moms, and/or the elderly. The Award was instituted

in honor of Patricia DeGrinney, a founding member of Maine Right to Life who worked tirelessly for over 40 years to educate women and men concerning the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death.

Teresa McCann-Tumidajski, Executive Director of Maine Right to Life Committee, stated, *"The decision was a unanimous one made by Maine Right to Life Board of Directors, This year's winners are exemplary. It was as if Patricia DeGrinney herself guided us in selecting Bruce and Jan Willson. They are a cornerstone in Maine's pro-life movement."*

This year's statewide recipients of the LIFE AWARD reflect many of Patricia's exceptional traits. FOR INSTANCE....Bruce and Jan Willson of Hope House are fully committed to faith, family and community; with a strong focus on the unborn and their moms. Like Patricia DeGrinney, failure is never an outcome, because Patricia DeGrinney's work and Hope House's ministry is always Christ-centered. They love bringing diverse groups of people together...and making them feel loved and special. They don't listen to *'it can't be done.'* Both are pragmatists. They lovingly offer tangible resources for those pregnant mothers in need. They also are educators offering classes to pregnant and new moms.... Both are dreamers....Patricia's dream of a Catholic Radio station in Maine was manifest the year after she was called home. Bruce and Jan Willson had a dream and a hope of a home for pregnant women which came to fruition over 30 years ago when they opened Hope House, Maine's first licensed family foster home for pregnant and parenting teen mothers. **Since then, it has grown and grown, sowing seeds of life and love in our state, our nation, and across the world. Hope House's ministry and love for God's most vulnerable has no boundaries.**

In 2006, Hope House sent or supported workers in the Philippines, Korea, Thailand, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Nigeria, Germany, Uganda and China. Additionally, here in Maine they offer loving outreach to the Somali population. In 2008, Bruce and Jan Willson provided training to workers with pro-life Korea, which resulted in Korea's first and ONLY pregnancy center. That same year, their adult children hosted them on a tour throughout Northeast China, sharing a message of hope in a nation with a one-child policy and restrictions on religion.

Hope House, which Bruce and Jan Willson began as a dream in 1986, has become a legacy of life, hope and love across the world.

Congratulations, Bruce and Jan!

We love you!

Former winners of the prestigious statewide Patricia DeGrinney LIFE Award are:

2018 Sandy Faucher, President of the Rosetta Foundation

2017 Cyndi Broyer, Founder and Executive Director, Mother Seton House, Fryeburg

2016 Carroll & Terri Conley, Christian Civic League of Maine

2015 Christopher Coughlan of Randolph, Maine

2014 Barbara Ford, Executive Director of the Shepherd's Godparent Home and founder of Nikki's Hope in Bangor, ME

2013 Carl Maddaleni, Director of Maine Vitae Society, Cape Elizabeth, ME

2012 Dr. Ronald and Mrs. Mary Lou Carroll of New Harbor, ME

2011 Judy Cushing, Executive Director, ABBA, A Women's Resource Center, Portland, ME

2010 Margaret Yates, RN, of East Wilton, ME

2009 Patricia Truman of Hallowell, ME

Your Friends at Maine Right to Life Committee

