

For Immediate Release
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JOCELYN COOK NAMED AS AN “UNsung HEROINE” AT STATE HOUSE AWARDS CEREMONY

Jocelyn Cook of Marblehead was honored as a member of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women's 2015 class of Unsung Heroines at a State House ceremony on June 17. Representative Lori Ehrlich nominated Cook for this recognition because of her unwavering commitment to service to her community through her organization, SPUR.

"Jocelyn is one of those rare people who sees a problem and devotes all of her energy to solving it," said Representative Ehrlich, "It was an honor to nominate her for this prestigious award. Her service to the community is a great source of local pride and inspiration."

Drawing on her own educational experiences, Jocelyn created SPUR, whose mission is to “spur” youth and adults to participate in hands-on community service activities with the goal of strengthening communities and improving the lives of individuals within those communities. Jocelyn has organized a volunteer network that collaborates to create workshops for children 3-10 years old. SPUR has also implemented large-scale Days of Service events that include serving meals at local shelters, preparing personal hygiene kits, cleaning area parks and beaches, planting community gardens, and holding clothing drives. Additionally, SPUR offers interactive opportunities to engage with peers, have guided discussions on topics such as volunteerism and learn about other cultures through the arts.

"The Representatives nomination was a humbling and incredible honor, and the award truly speaks to the great generosity and passion of the Marblehead, Swampscott, Salem and neighboring communities - from which individuals, families and youth inspire good deeds, volunteer and connect in the community. What a wonderful place to live. Never before have I experienced such a thoughtful and generous group of people, who without, SPUR would not succeed. It has been an incredible 9 months since the inception of SPUR - here's to 90+ more”.

The Unsung Heroines are women who don't make the news, but make the difference. They are the women who use their time, talent and enthusiasm to enrich the lives of others and make a difference in their neighborhoods, cities and towns. They are mentors, volunteers and innovators who do what needs to be done without expectations of recognition or gratitude. These women are the glue that keeps a community together and every community is better because of their contribution.

The ceremony included a program emceed by MCSW Chair Victoria Budson acknowledging each of the 2015 Unsung Heroines followed by a group photograph on the Grand Staircase and a reception with legislators and guests. A complete list of this year's honorees is available by contacting the Commission; to request this list. For additional information please contact the MCSW at 617-626-6520 or mcsw@state.ma.us.

The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women is an independent state agency that was legislatively created in 1998 to advance women of the Commonwealth to full equality in all areas of life and to promote their rights and opportunities.

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