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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PHOTO CAPTION: Latimer Lane Elementary School Principal Mike Luzietti presents “The Pauline ‘Polly’ Eden Award” to be “Given for Outstanding Service to the Latimer Lane Community,” established in honor of the long-time volunteer.

Latimer Lane School Honors Volunteer for Outstanding Service to the School Community

SIMSBURY, CT—On Friday, December 16th at Latimer Lane School’s monthly character assembly, the school community honored long-time volunteer Pauline "Polly" Eden. To the

delight of the staff and students, the 93-year-old had no idea she was about to be such a center of attention, as well as the recipient of “The Pauline ‘Polly’ Eden Award” established in her honor and to be “Given for Outstanding Service to the Latimer Lane Community.”

Polly began her volunteer work in 1998, assisting students with their writing and word study and, starting in 2000, becoming first grade teacher Maryanne Lindquist’s “right-hand gal” every Tuesday. Said Lindquist, “The children always look forward to the days when Mrs. Eden is here, and those who have long since graduated still remember her and ask about her.”

Added Principal Mike Luzietti, “Polly has helped to instill a passion and love of learning in the first graders in Mrs. Lindquist's room. While Mrs. Eden has never had a child attend Latimer Lane, she sought to be involved and supportive of her new community when she arrived in town nearly 20 years ago. Since then, she has set an example of the positive effect that volunteers can have in their communities.”

Simsbury First Selectwoman Lisa Heavner attended the school-wide assembly. Setting the stage for what she was about to do, she asked the children, “Do you know what a proclamation is?” Receiving a few puzzled looks, she explained, “It’s like in the *Wizard of Oz* when the Munchkin City Major unrolls that really long piece of paper!”

Heavner then read the proclamation, declaring December 16th Pauline "Polly" Eden Day for the entire town of Simsbury.

Other special guests included Superintendent Matt Curtis and retired teacher Jan Olsen, in whose classroom Eden originally volunteered. The Latimer Lane Student Council led the assembly, which included first graders holding up hand-lettered signs that spelled out “We Love You Mrs. Eden!” Lindquist delivered an emotional speech, including a reading from 6th grader Haylie Krinsky, who could not make it to the assembly that day but reflected Eden’s impact on her students throughout her many years of volunteering.

Wrote Kinsky, “Heroes don’t need capes.”

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