



Office of
Representative Hannah E. Kane
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

For Immediate Release

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June 28, 2016

**MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF
WOMEN ANNOUNCED UNSUNG HEROINE OF 2016**

Elaine LeBlanc of Shrewsbury named as an Unsung Heroine

Elaine LeBlanc was honored as a member of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women's 2016 class of Unsung Heroines. **Representative Hannah E. Kane** (R-Shrewsbury) recommended Ms. LeBlanc for this recognition because of her lifelong commitment to serving those in her community. Ms. LeBlanc was honored with the other Unsung Heroines for her outstanding contributions to her community and leadership in many local organizations in a ceremony on Wednesday, June 22nd, 2016 in the Great Hall at the State House in Boston.

As one of the founding members of St. Anne's Thrift Shop, in 1969, Elaine LeBlanc has contributed significantly to the growth of the Thrift Shop and ministry which now includes countless services for those in need of clothing, food and support. Ms. LeBlanc works tirelessly with families to educate them on to how to provide and better advocate for themselves. A true leader and spirit of the community Elaine has touched the lives of so many families and individuals in Massachusetts and across the world.

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.

"I am honored to have had the opportunity to nominate Elaine LeBlanc as an Unsung Heroine and am not surprised that she was selected as one of the honorees," said Representative Kane. "Elaine has made it her life's work to improve the lives of anyone that comes to her seeking help; she is the true definition of an Unsung Heroine, never wanting or expecting recognition for all that she does to help individuals down a better path. Elaine is a role model for our community, and a constant reminder of how we can all make this world a better place, I am privileged to have had the opportunity to share her accomplishments and contributions with Commonwealth."

The ceremony included a program emceed by the MCSW Chair, Victoria A. Budson, acknowledging each of the 2016 Unsung Heroines followed by a group photograph and a Just Desserts reception.

A complete list of this year's honorees is available by contacting the Commission; to request this list or for additional information please contact the MCSW at 617-626-6520 or mcsw@state.ma.us.

This event is made possible with the support of the following community sponsors: John W. Medbury & Linda A. Cavaoli, Kerry Goodwin Photography, Polar Beverages, Jacqueline's Gourmet Cookies, My Grandma's of New England, Market Basket and Tropical Foods Supermarket.

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. The MCSW provides a permanent, effective voice for the women of Massachusetts.

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