

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JENNIE SHAW AND PAUL SHORTHOSE TO RECEIVE WALKER DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS

19th Annual Lives in Bloom Gala Saturday, May 11, 2019

NEEDHAM — On Saturday, May 11, Walker will present the 2019 Distinguished Community Leadership Award to two honorees at the non-profit's Lives in Bloom Gala to benefit mental health, academic, therapeutic, and community-based programs for children and families. This award is given annually to recipients who have demonstrated a commitment to transforming the lives of children, youth, and families. This year, Walker will honor Jennie Shaw and Paul Shorthose for their outstanding dedication and commitment to Walker's mission.

An accomplished professional serving youth and families, Jennie Shaw, LICSW of Needham has worked for Walker for the past 24 years. Jennie has held several positions during her time at the organization and currently serves as Walker's Senior Clinical Trainer directing the clinical internship program. In addition to her work, Jennie and her family have been involved with the agency through volunteerism, support, and advocacy.

Paul Shorthose, a former 25-year resident of Needham, recently concluded his service on Walker's Board of Directors after 15 years of leadership. Among his many contributions during his tenure on the Board, Paul served as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, was a long-time member of Walker's Human Resources Committee and annual Golf Tournament Committee and was a dedicated volunteer for the Walk for Walker which was founded by his friends and family. In addition to his committed leadership, Paul and his family have helped to engage the greater community to raise awareness for Walker's mission.

"I am excited that we have two wonderful honorees who will receive our Distinguished Community Leadership Award at this year's Gala," said Gene Takahashi, Walker's President and CEO. "Paul and his family have been connected to Walker for many years and their unwavering commitment to our mission has made a lasting impact throughout our organization. Jennie personifies advocacy for children and families, and it is a privilege to partner with her in our work. We are so pleased to recognize Jennie and Paul and their families in this meaningful way."

Walker provides an array of academic, therapeutic, and community-based services for children, youth, and families facing significant mental health, emotional, behavioral, and learning challenges. Founded in 1961, Walker's programs positively impact 1,000 children and families from more than 160 communities in Massachusetts each year. Walker provides services through campuses in Needham and Watertown, community-based clinical and youth development programs, professional seminars, training, and consultation services.

Taking place during National Mental Health Awareness Month, Walker's 19th Annual Lives in Bloom Gala will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2019 at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel. This event benefits the children, youth, and families Walker serves through an array of academic and therapeutic programs. Individual tickets start at \$250. For more information, please visit www.WalkerCares.org/LivesinBloom.

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