

Award: Harry J. Baker Community Service Award
Recipient: Jude Love
Presenter: Nick Quealy-Gainer & Paulette Colemon

Nick Quealy-Gainer:

Hello, again. Now I have the pleasure to present the Harry J. Baker Community Service Award. This award is intended to honor community members or organizations whose dedication and work toward health care justice stands out and makes a concrete difference in our work and in the lives of people in the community.

This year's recipient is Jude Love. Jude is a member of our Medicare Task Force and someone who always stands out at our meetings for her passion and strong desire for social justice. But we at Health Care Consumers also know and love Jude for her kind heart and dedication to our organization and the community we serve.

I will never forget the times when Jude would get so fired up during our Medicare Task Force discussions of how we should fight against attacks on programs for seniors, such as Social Security, Circuit Breaker, and Illinois Cares Rx, that she was ready to lead everyone out into the streets that day and start a protest. In fact, I have no doubt that if it wasn't so late tonight, Jude would be ready to march all of you down to Springfield right now and stand up against threats to the very same programs again this year.

Even though we never did have that protest, sorry Jude, she was instrumental in the Medicare Task Force campaigns last year to save Circuit Breaker and Illinois Cares Rx from elimination and protect Social Security from deep cuts in benefits. Jude spoke out passionately and shared her story at several of our press conferences last year, and anyone who heard her speak knew it was from the heart when she said she was truly concerned for the people who would be impacted by cuts to benefits and enraged that politicians in Springfield and Washington were threatening these programs. Some of you may also remember Jude's story and shining face from one of CCHCC's mailings last May, helping us raise much needed funds to support services like our Medicare 100/Plus program that she turned to in a time of need.

Paulette Colemon:

Hello, I am Paulette Colemon and I had the pleasure of training Jude as our receptionist at CCHCC. It was one of the most intense trainings ever because she wanted to know everything about being a CCHCC receptionist. She took more notes than any one I ever trained. She understood that being a receptionist for CCHCC is the first step in getting to the Hotline to get the help that a consumer needs and she embraced callers by asking the needed questions that would get them to the right staff person who could best help them.

Jude Love is inspiring, understanding and dedicated. That is what comes to my mind whenever Jude's name comes up at our office. To close, we can't wait until she returns to her position because We Love Jude Love!

So, for all of her passion for social justice and service to our organization and the community, I am very proud to present Jude Love with the Harry J. Baker Community Service Award.