

**Award:** The Harry J. Baker Community Service Award  
**Recipient:** Libeth Rosas  
**Presenter:** Chris Garcia

Hello, everyone. My name is Chris Garcia and I am a Community Health Worker with Health Care Consumers.

I have the pleasure to present the Harry J. Baker Community Service Award. The Harry J. Baker Award honors community members or organizations whose dedication and work toward improving the lives of people in our community exemplifies community service of the highest level.

This year's recipient is Libeth Rosas. Libeth came to us as an intern during the first semester of her Masters program and was such a great fit for us and we're glad she felt the same because she decided to continue to come in and help around the office in any way she could even after she'd met her class requirement. She worked not just on her project but also worked with the rest of staff to enhance our organization. She worked with Paulette on Medicare 100/+, assisted Adani, Claudia, and myself with research that we needed and of course answered the phones which anyone who's volunteered knows can be a tremendous commitment.

One of the first things that she was involved in was with our efforts to prevent the sale of the Champaign County Nursing Home to the prospective buyer, William Rothner.

Libeth was researching the quality of care at the nursing homes that Rothner owned, which was atrocious, and we felt that the community needed to know.

The research she provided was crucial to having information to present during our press conferences as well as to share with consumers in our mailings and emails. Which brings me to one of the first events she was asked to participate in.

It was her first week at CCHCC and Libeth was being asked to be in front of the cameras and present the research she'd been working on. We got to see a different side of Libeth that day. Partly due to the kind of information she was presenting but primarily because she provided the human factor that was being left out of the conversation. It wasn't just about statistics and numbers to her as she read and recounted the public health violations at the Rothner nursing homes that she was presenting to the media. We could all tell that she would be doing great things in the future and not just that, but she would be doing them with consumers in mind and carrying on with the mission we strive for as well.

I have to add that this isn't the only award Libeth is being recognized with this year. Earlier this year Claudia and I were able to attend an award ceremony where Libeth would be receiving the William H. Creswell Jr. Graduate Student Award from the (Applied Sciences Dep.) Department of Kinesiology and Community Health at the

University of Illinois. Not only is this a distinguishable award due to the high prestige of this department and college but also it meant a lot to us at CCHCC because Bill Creswell was part of our organization for many years, and he was instrumental in our campaign to create the county wide public health department in the late 1990s. It was a very proud moment not just personally but for us as an organization to have Libeth be recognized and hear the great things that her department staff had to say about her which only mirrored how we feel at CCHCC.

Libeth, I hope you know that you've made a lasting impression with us and that we wish you the best and we know you'll go on to do great things. For all your hard work, dedication, and compassion I am very proud to present you the Harry J. Baker Community Service Award.