Scholarship Recipients

Tony Lenzer, Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition
Gerontology has been Tony Lenzer’s life-long interest and career. While pursuing doctoral studies in Sociology at The University of Michigan, he obtained his first gerontological job in 1956 as Executive Secretary for the Michigan Legislative Council on Problems of the Aging. In the following years, Lenzer served in varied roles including: research associate at the University of Miami medical school, lecturer at the University of Michigan School of Public Health, and creator of the University of Hawaii’s School of Public Health gerontology program. He also served as the first Director of the University of Hawaii’s Center on Aging. Since retiring in 1994, he has been an active advocate for Hawaii’s elders and their families. He is currently a member of the Board of the Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of those who give and receive care in Hawaii.

Veva Arroyo, San Diego Caregiver Coalition
Veva Arroyo has been with Sharp HealthCare for 15 ½ years, and worked in Healthcare for 30+ years in the San Diego community. She is part of the Business Development team for Sharp HospiceCare which is responsible for the Advance Care Planning program, Transitions: Outpatient Palliative Care program as well as End-of-Life HospiceCare. She also sits on several community boards such as San Diego County Coalition for Improving End-of-Life Care-Chair, Caregiver Coalition of San Diego-Chair 2015-2016 and current board member, San Diego Hospice Veterans Partnership-Member, San Diego POLST Coalition, and other health- and aging-focused organizations.

Eric Joice, Family Resource Network (New Jersey)
Eric M. Joice has been Chief Executive Officer of the Family Resource Network since 1983. The Family Resource Network (FRN) is a private, non-profit, statewide organization. Prior to that, Eric was Associate Director of the Mental Health Association of NJ. He also served as a Legislative Aide to three NJ state senators and four state assemblymen. Eric has received gubernatorial appointments to the Governor’s Advisory Task Force on Volunteerism, the NJ State Rehabilitation Council, the Governor’s Task Force on the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities and the NJ Task Force on Epilepsy. Eric is the current chair of the NJ Lifespan Respite Coalition.

Toula Wootan, Caregiver Coalition of Northeast Florida
Toula Wootan is a dynamic pioneer, dedicated to the mission of “caring for the caregiver” in Northeast Florida. Toula is in the forefront of caregiver issues. In 2008 she founded the Caregiver Coalition of Northeast Florida. The Caregiver Coalition is now comprised of fifteen non-profits who combine resources to provide free “Caring for the Caregiver “ conferences, an annual Caregiver Expo, “Caregiver Connections newsletter” a robust website and more. She works closely with local, state and national organizations and with elder care professionals to continue this important work. The mission of the Caregiver Coalition is to collectively elevate caregiving and improve the quality of life for caregivers in Northeast Florida. The motto is “You are not alone!”

Anne Ellermets, Caregiver Resource Network (Michigan)
Anne Ellermets is the Director of Contract Services & Program Development at the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan. The Caregiver Resource Network is a collaboration of 150 West Michigan organizations dedicated to providing for the needs and welfare of family and professional caregivers within the community that will improve the quality of life for caregivers and their care recipients. Anne has a B.S. Social Work from Evangel University and an MPA from Western Michigan University.