

# FRANCES PERKINS CENTER



*L to R: Dr. Christopher Breiseth, Bill Nemitz, Elisa Walker, Hon. Leah Sprague.  
Photo by Jym St. Pierre.*

We were privileged to present the 2015 *Intelligence & Courage Award* to Portland Press Herald reporter Bill Nemitz and the 2015 *Open Door Award* to Elisa Walker of the Social Security Administration at the 7th Frances Perkins Center Garden Party held on August 14, 2015, the 80th anniversary of the signing of the Social Security Act. Bill and Elisa are pictured here with Frances Perkins Center board chair Christopher Breiseth and board treasurer Leah Sprague.

## We seek your nominations for two of our three annual awards in 2016.

The following descriptions highlight the inspiration behind the awards which embody different facets of Perkins' life:

The name for the **Intelligence & Courage Award** comes from a speech given by Frances Perkins in 1929 when she was New York State Industrial Commissioner, in which she pledged, "I promise to use what brains I have to meet problems with intelligence and courage. I promise that I will be candid about what I know. I promise to all of you who have the right to know, the whole truth so far as I can speak it." The award is given to an individual who epitomizes the intelligence and courage of Frances Perkins. This recipient is usually a person who has taken a strong stand based on their convictions. Past recipients include Portland Press Herald reporter Bill Nemitz, former Congressman Barney Frank, and Brooksley Born, former chair of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The **Steadfast Award** gets its name from the motto of Frances Perkins' Mount Holyoke class of 1902, "Be ye steadfast." This award is given to someone who is doing the work of Frances Perkins, sometimes without broad public recognition. Traditionally, this award has been given to someone who works tirelessly and without public recognition in one of the areas to which Frances Perkins dedicated her career.

Past honorees include Senator Barbara Mikulski, Christine Hastedt, Public Policy Director at Maine Equal Justice where she has been a legal advocate for low income people for more than 35 years, and Nancy Altman, a founder of the National Academy of Social Insurance and author of *Social Security Works!*

If you have people you would like to put forward please share your ideas with Frances Perkins Center Executive Director Michael Chaney by email at [mchaney@francesperkinscenter.org](mailto:mchaney@francesperkinscenter.org), by phone at 207-563-3374, or by mail at PO Box 281, Newcastle, ME 04553, by March 1st. The awards are presented at Frances Perkins Center events during the summer.

Nominate Your Candidate  
Now

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