



Women's Educational and Industrial Union

Founded in 1877 to "Promote the Social, Educational, and Industrial Opportunities for Women"

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Flora Howard, South End Resident, Wins Women's Educational and Industrial Union Homemaker/Home Health Aide of the Year Award

The Women's Educational and Industrial Union (WEIU), a 119 year-old nonprofit organization in Boston, recently presented its **1995 Louisa Pascucci Achievement Award** to **Flora Howard** for her outstanding work as a home health care aide and homemaker.

The award is named in honor of Louisa Pascucci, a homemaker who worked at WEIU for eight years and was killed while traveling to a client's home in 1981. Ms. Pascucci's past excellence in skilled care, service, commitment and dedication serves as the standard upon which the supervisors of WEIU's Home Health Care Department base their considerations for the award on. Mary Lassen, Executive Director of the WEIU, said: "the award represents a small token of the great respect and appreciation which homemakers and health aides merit. They are the unsung heroes of a time when fewer and fewer resources are being allotted to a growing population of elders and adults with disabilities who want only to live in their own homes and be as independent as possible. These workers provide the basic care and emotional support necessary to achieve this end."

Howard, a South End resident, was chosen for this year's award after working for twenty years as a certified home health care aide with WEIU's elderly and disabled clients. Her consistent dependability, committed caretaking and great sense of empathy has made enough of an impact on both her clients and co-workers, that her supervisors Vivian West and Dorothy Rogers felt Howard deserved special recognition for her efforts. In a speech given at the Union's annual holiday party on December 28, Rogers noted that Howard's clients frequently praise her "good nature," and said: "the WEIU staff greatly appreciates Flora's dedication to her clients' well-being."

Upon receiving the award, Howard, who is one of 67 home health care aides who work for the Union, said she was "thrilled" to receive this respected award, and appreciated "being recognized" for her dedication.

Besides maintaining a high level of integrity at work, Howard has been a visible member of the South End Community for many years. She is active with her union, Local 285 of the Employees International Union, and attends services at the Cathedral Church. She has several sisters who also live in Boston, and a son in the Armed Services. Coincidentally, Howard's cousin, Rose Morgan, a former employee of WEIU, received the **Louisa Pascucci Award** in 1992.