

CARLETON-WILLARD VILLAGE

World War II Memories program wins award

Each year, members of LeadingAge Massachusetts, a not-for-profit association of aging services providers in Massachusetts, carefully select a program that distinguishes itself among others. The 2013 Program Innovation award has been given to Carleton-Willard Village for its World War II Memories program.

For almost three years, a group of Carleton-Willard residents professionally videotaped their reminiscences of World War II, sharing the results with their community both inside and outside the Village.

Conceived and developed by the residents, and the program's creative approach to recording memories, moments and experiences of World War II has led to a well-received body of work. For the project, residents interviewed each other about their experiences in World War II, with professional videographers and Bedford residents Leslie Wittman and Jan van Steenwijk filming and editing each interview.

The project's focus was broader than a retelling of battle stories: the group recognized the value of personal accounts encompassing all aspects of the



Carleton-Willard residents Esther Braun and Allan Sloan received the 2013 Innovative Program Award from LeadingAge Massachusetts president Elissa Sherman and board member Paul Hollings. COURTESY PHOTO / ARAM O. PHOTOGRAPHY

war – from those on the front lines, to those living in occupied Europe as well as those on the home front. The project had a particular focus on what it felt like during those years and how the war experience changed the lives of all involved.

The residents have been showing the videos at Carleton-Willard each month, and they plan to donate sets to several community organizations.

“Carleton-Willard’s World War II Memories program was selected as the recipient of our Program Innovation award for the development of an outstanding, innovative program that has provided tremendous benefit

not only to current residents of Carleton-Willard, but to family, friends and future generations,” said Elissa Sherman, president of LeadingAge Massachusetts.

Carleton-Willard Village served as host to the 59th Annual Meeting of the MassAging membership on Thursday, Oct. 10, where the 2013 Achievement Awards were presented.

LeadingAge Massachusetts is an association comprised of not for profit providers of eldercare services to more than 25,000 people in Massachusetts. Services span a continuum from nursing facilities, assisted living residences, retirement communities and housing providers. Members work together to advance eldercare and collaborate to successfully improve the living qualities of the elderly. For more on LeadingAgeMA, please visit www.LeadingAgeMA.org.

Carleton-Willard Village is a continuing care retirement community in Bedford, MA, providing high quality senior living services since 1884. For more information on Carleton-Willard Village, please visit www.cwvillage.org.