

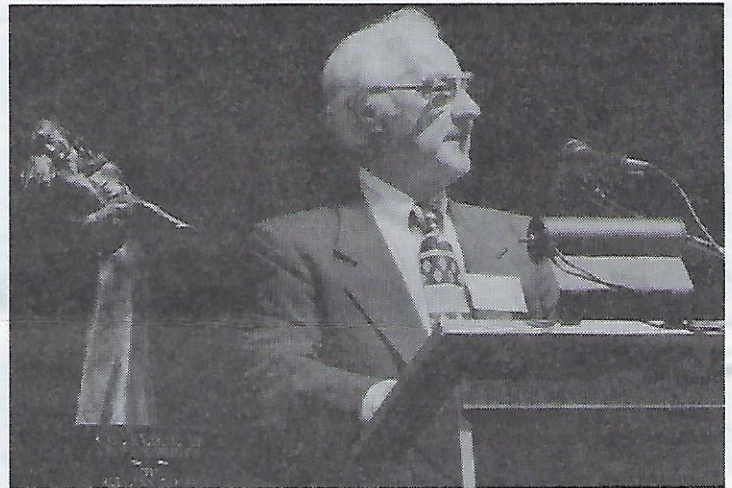
RONALD SUNDERLAND 1997 ROSALYNN CARTER CAREGIVING AWARD RECIPIENT

When Brent Sunderland, MD, walked on the stage during the ceremonies for the 1997 Rosalynn Carter Caregiving Award, he gave accounts of childhood memories of his father's caregiving which had a profound effect on his own life as a future professional caregiver. He described Ronald Sunderland as "being there" for the families he served in his pastoral ministry and for sharing a sense of hopefulness with others in times of despair and trouble. He described his father's attitude of caring concern as a "gift" passed on to him and his brother and sister (also physicians).

A native of Australia, Ronald Sunderland, EdD, is now Vice President of The Foundation for Interfaith Research and Ministry in Houston, Texas. In 1974, Dr. Sunderland developed an innovative program to equip lay people to share in the pastoral care of their congregations. In 1985, he and a colleague developed the "Care Team" model as a way of utilizing volunteers in providing caregiving assistance to families so that no individual is overburdened. As Dr. Sunderland stated in his acceptance remarks, "When it comes to helping a family care for somebody who is chronically, critically ill or dying, or very disabled, the one-to-one pastoral ministry we associate with the congregation is overwhelmed immediately. The care team model introduces a group of members of the congregation acting as a team." According to Dr. Sunderland, each care team member provides a small share of the help and the family has an opportunity for respite. Since 1985, the care team model has involved more than 4,300 volunteers in assisting over 2,000 families who were caring for persons with HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer's disease or other long-term, critical illnesses or disabilities.

Ronald Sunderland became the fifth recipient of the coveted Rosalynn Carter Caregiving Award in a ceremony held during the 1997 Annual Conference of the Rosalynn Carter Institute. Rosalynn Carter presented Dr. Sunderland with a bronze statuette designed by the renowned sculptor, Frank Eliscue and a check for \$2,500. The award ceremony was hosted by Americus Mayor and RCI Board Co-chairperson, Russell Thomas, Jr. Comments regarding the 1997 award recipient were made by Earl Shelp, PhD, President of The Foundation for Interfaith Research and Ministry, who nominated Dr. Sunderland for the award, and Dr. Brent Sunderland, son of Ronald Sunderland, who, along with other family members, surprised him with their attendance. Other award nominees who were among the five "finalists" were introduced by Jenny Jackson-Adams, MDiv, member of the Award Committee, RCI Board of Directors.

The Rosalynn Carter Caregiving Award is presented each year to recognize an individual for leadership and innovation in caregiving. The award is funded by the Foundation for Hospice and Homecare, Washington, D.C., and by donations received from supporters of Rosalynn Carter for her work in the caregiving field. Members of the 1997 Award Review Committee were Elaine Johnson, PhD, RCI Board member, Baltimore; Kathryn Cade, RCI Board Member, Boston; Greg Foster, MD, CARE-NET Leadership Council member, Columbus; Joyce Ringer, Executive Director, Georgia Advocacy Council, Atlanta; and Jane Sullivan, CARE-NET Leadership Council member, Americus.



Ronald Sunderland accepts Caregiving Award

If you know of someone who would like to be added to the RCI mailing list or if you have a change of address, please send the name and address to:

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