NEWS RELEASE

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Phillips Honored with 2005 I. DeQuincey Newman Champions of Social Justice Award

Columbia, SC - Lyn Phillips, LMSW, Research Associate in the Institute for Families in Society at the University of South Carolina, was awarded the 2005 I. DeQuincey Newman Champions of Social Justice Award, which is given annually by the I. DeQuincey Newman Institute for Peace and Social Change of the USC College of Social Work.

Ms. Phillips was nominated by South Carolina Hispanic Outreach/Acercamiento Hispano de Carolina del Sur where she serves as a board member and volunteer. Named in honor of Reverend Newman, a great humanitarian and civil rights leader, the Institute seeks to continue his mission of promoting the causes of social justice through education, service and research at the community, state, national and international levels. She was chosen because of her “28 years of service to the poor and underserved in South Carolina” and her commitment and activism for social change.

As a social worker in nonprofit, local and state agency settings, Phillips has served the mentally ill, survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence, maternal and child health clients, migrant farm workers, survivors of brain injury and their families and others. The award recognizes her accomplishments and dedication over the years. These include founding and directing Rape Crisis Network (now Sexual Trauma Services); creation of the SCDHEC “CareLine” advocacy hotline for mothers and families encountering barriers to accessing health care; mentoring social work students and others to empower and proactively advocate for oppressed and vulnerable populations; creating the first “farm-site” bilingual migrant farm worker health clinic at Granny Apple Farms in Laurens, SC; and long-term volunteerism on behalf of Latino families in the state. Ms. Phillips comments, “This award is truly special to me because I had the great fortune to work with Reverend Newman when he served in the Senate. He was a brilliant, gentle, courageous spirit—a human rights hero. I’m very grateful to the I. DeQuincey Newman Institute for this honor.”

At the Institute for Families in Society, she has worked on projects related to Tuberculosis and African Americans, research on racial disparities, and planning/implementation of the first statewide “count” of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons in January 2005. “The Institute for Families in Society salutes Lyn Phillips and congratulates her on this well deserved accolade,” says IFS Director Arlene Bowers Andrews.

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