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## **Area Drug Treatment Agency to Honor Jayme Stevenson in June Benefit at Woodway**

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Liberation Programs, a Stamford-based drug-treatment agency, will recognize Darien First Selectman Jayme Stevenson "for her extraordinary commitment to the agency's mission and programs" on June 7 at a benefit at Woodway Country Club.

In an announcement from the organization, Stevenson was praised for her "thoughtful approach to ending the opioid epidemic." Alan Mathis, Liberation Programs' president and chief executive officer, said, "Jayme understands that what Liberation does saves lives."

"I'm honored to be included among the recipients of Liberation's Spirit of Hope award this year because it gives me the chance to emphasize how vitally important it is for us to provide the best addiction treatment possible to ensure people have the greatest chance for a sustainable life in recovery," Stevenson said in the news release.

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Stevenson is now running for the GOP nomination for lieutenant governor.

According to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, there were a record-breaking 1,038 overdose deaths in Connecticut in 2017.

Funds raised during the 11th annual "Spirit of Hope" benefit will be used to support Liberation Program's new Health & Wellness Center in Bridgeport.

"The Center will allow the organization the ability to holistically bring together an expanded array of mental health services, substance abuse treatment and wrap-around services to a larger number of people in the greater Bridgeport area," the organization said in the announcement.

Other honorees at the "[Spirit of Hope](#)" benefit, which begins with a 6 p.m. reception, followed by dinner and a live auction at 7:15 p.m., Thursday, June 7, are Reyno A. Giallongo Jr., chairman and CEO of First County Bank, and Michael Askew, manager of the Bridgeport Recovery Community Center.

For more information on the event, call 203.604.1144 or email [elaine.osowski@liberationprograms.org](mailto:elaine.osowski@liberationprograms.org).