

131 County Circle
Hampshire House
Amherst, MA 01003
413.545.0100



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For further information, contact:
Helen Barrington, Program Director
413.577.0541

88.5FM WFCR reporter wins two national awards

April 12, 2007, Amherst, MA - 88.5FM WFCR, NPR News and Music for Western New England, announced today that reporter Karen Brown's radio documentary, "A Burden to be Well: Sisters and Brothers of the Mentally Ill," has won two awards. The first, a 2007 Gracie Allen Award, is from the Association of Women in Radio and Television. The documentary explores the effects of severe mental illness on "well" siblings - including survivor guilt, secondary trauma, and a strong sense of protectiveness. The Gracie Allen Award recognizes "exemplary programming created for women, by women, and about women." WFCR is being recognized in the local category. National winners this year include CNN's Soledad O'Brien, NBC's Tina Fey, and "Democracy Now's" Amy Goodman.



Brown has also won first place honors from the Association of Health Care Journalists (AHCJ) in the radio category. These awards recognize the best health reporting in nine categories covering print, broadcast and online media. In only its third year, the contest drew nearly 400 entries. The other two winners, who shared second place in the radio category, are reporters from National Public Radio. "Across all categories, the entries were outstanding," said Julie Appleby, co-chair of the contest and a *USA Today* health writer. "This year's winners clearly explained topics that touch so many, from concerns about medical quality and privacy to the heartbreak and confusion surrounding a cancer diagnosis."

AHCJ is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing public understanding of health care issues. Its mission is to improve the quality, accuracy and visibility of health care reporting, writing and editing.

"We are so proud of Karen's achievements," said WFCR Program Director, Helen Barrington. "She has demonstrated her reporting skill and compassion by winning both of these awards."

Brown will collect her Gracie Allen Award on June 19th in New York City. You can hear "A Burden to be Well" online at www.wfcr.org/features/burden.php.

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88.5FM WFCR, NPR News and Music for Western New England, is an affiliate of National Public Radio, American Public Media, and Public Radio International serving over 170,000 listeners in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, and New York with regional news and information programming, and locally produced classical, jazz, Latino, and world music programming at 88.5FM, 101.1FM North Adams, 96.3 Williamstown, HD2 at 88.5FM, and on 640AM WNNZ. The University of Massachusetts is the license holder for 88.5FM WFCR, which operates with the advice and support of Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith Colleges, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. For more information about 88.5FM WFCR's programs and services, call 413-545-0100 or visit our website at www.wfcr.org.

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