(*Hartford*) – Today **Congressman John B. Larson** presented The Nancy Pilver Breast Cancer Survivor Award to **The Team Towanda Foundation** of Wethersfield for their efforts to raise breast cancer awareness and to support those affected by breast cancer.

In 2011, Judith Melchreit underwent treatment for breast cancer. While undergoing six months of chemotherapy and radiation, her friends came together to help deliver meals to her young family in what they called the "Casserole Cavalry". Following her treatment, Judith and her group of friends decided to create and sell a cookbook to raise money for a local breast cancer walk. Since then, the all volunteer non-profit has created and sold an additional cookbook and has raised $250,000 towards breast cancer awareness and support for those affected.

"In little over a decade the volunteers at The Team Towanda Foundation have established themselves as one of the most committed and innovative groups fighting against breast cancer," said Congressman Larson. "Their contributions to those affected by breast cancer and their work to raise breast cancer awareness should serve as a model here in Connecticut. I am very proud to present them with this award and look forward to seeing them continue their important work in our communities."

"We are so honored to be selected to receive this year's Nancy Pilver Breast Cancer Survivor Award. Although The Team Towanda Foundation was named as the recipient, we accept it in honor of all of our wonderful supporters who enable us to pursue the foundation's mission to promote breast cancer awareness and the importance of early detection," said members of The Team Towanda Foundation in a joint statement. "By raising funds to pay for mammograms and breast services for underserved and uninsured women in the Greater Hartford area, we strive to ensure that all women in our community have access to these basic services. As we work toward these goals, Team Towanda also encourages all Pink Ribbon Warriors and the people who love them to tap into the power of laughter and the friendship of their Bosom Buddies in the fight against breast cancer."

The Nancy Pilver Award goes to those who have shown extraordinary commitment to combating breast cancer through education, prevention, treatment, and awareness. Nancy Pilver, a former Manchester resident and long-time breast cancer activist who served as the State Legislative Chair of the Connecticut Breast Cancer Coalition Foundation, was the first recipient of the award in 1999. Congressman Larson was so inspired by her story that he renamed this award after her in 2000, and has continued to award it each year in the first district. Pilver passed away in May of 2003.

###