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By [Claire Bessette](#)

Published on 12/3/2008 in [Home](#) » [Region](#) » [Region News](#)

Norwich - Human Resources Director Beverly Goulet remembers the day more than 20 years ago when Carol Croteau came into her office and pitched an idea about creating a home and services for homeless women.

Goulet was delighted at the concept and over the years, social workers from her staff have worked closely with Bethsaida Community, Inc. and the Katie Blair House.

On Tuesday, Bethsaida recognized Goulet's contribution by naming her the inaugural recipient of the Carol Croteau Humanitarian Award. She will receive the award Feb. 6 at the second Biannual Gala at the Holiday Inn.

Croteau founded Bethsaida Community, Inc. and directed it until her retirement in January 2007.

"I am completely honored to be the first recipient of this award," Goulet said. "Carol has done unbelievable things."

Goulet said she was "absolutely surprised" when current Bethsaida Executive Director Claire Silva told her about the award Tuesday.

"I have great staff," Goulet said. "I owe it all to the great staff we have."

In retirement, Croteau is working, with Goulet's staff, on a proposed leadership training program for women and teenagers.

"For over 23 years, Bev Goulet has supported Bethsaida's efforts and has worked tirelessly to help children, families, adults and senior citizens lead safe and healthy lives," the press release said. "Her leadership has enabled over 5,000 Norwich residents per year to receive various supports and services."

Norwich