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**I KNOW EXPO FOUNDER GALE REECE HONORED WITH
2014 LEXINGTON FORUM SPIRIT AWARD.**

Lexington, KY, January 21, 2014— Gale Reece was presented the Lexington Spirit Award by the Lexington Forum at the Mayor’s annual State of the City Address and Luncheon hosted by that organization earlier today. The award recognizes an individual or organization that has created meaningful change in the Bluegrass by giving back to the community through volunteerism. Ms. Reece, the unanimous choice of the 2013 selection committee, joins a prestigious list of past recipients, including Smiley Pete Publishing (Good Giving), Alan Stein, Cornelia “Neal” Vaughn, Ginny Ramsey, Dr. David Stephens and Isabel Yates.

For many years, Gale Reece has tirelessly applied her entrepreneurial leadership skills to address the growing needs of seniors, the disabled and the expanding number of people who care for them.

In 2006, noting a need in the community for safe, reliable, dignified transportation for seniors and those with disabilities, Gale applied for affiliation with the national Independent Transportation Network organization, establishing the fourth active affiliate in the country and changing legislation to enable the service to work in Kentucky. Today, ITN*Bluegrass* serves the community by coordinating a network of volunteer drivers to deliver over 700 rides per month to a variety of venues for a variety of reasons. The non-profit organization of which Gale is the founding director, recently celebrated its 30,000th ride.

In 2012, Gale conceived the idea of the **i know expo**, a free one-day event devised to fill another community need – for convenient, centralized information about services and resources available to seniors, people living with disabilities or caring for loved ones. The event, which attracted scores of exhibitors, expert speakers and over 1000 attendees, garnered rave reviews in its first year. The 2014, **i know expo** is scheduled for April 27, 12p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Lexington Center (iknowexpo.org).

Gale is also the chair of the LFUCG Senior Service Commission and appointed to the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s Institute for Aging statewide ten-member board.

She lives in Lexington with her husband Merrill and is actively involved in the lives of their 9 grandchildren and Second Presbyterian Church.