

## VALLEY PEOPLE

**A MENTORING MENSCH:** State Sen. Stanley Rosenberg, the Amherst Democrat, was recently saluted for a contribution to the welfare of young people in Massachusetts at the Third Annual Youth Mentoring Day at the Statehouse.

Rosenberg was one of the original supporters of a \$1 million budget item created in 1999 by the Massachusetts Service Alliance to raise funding for state mentoring programs.

Kay Johnson, executive director for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Franklin County, presented the award recently to the senator, who was one of seven state legislators recognized before a 150-person crowd.

The event aimed to raise public awareness on the impact of youth mentoring and the need for mentors, since funding for such programs may be eliminated in the state's fiscal 2010 budget.

The event was hosted by Mass Mentoring Partnership and the AmeriCorps Ambassadors of Mentoring, along with the alliance.

The partnership is the only statewide group dedicated to expanding quality mentoring to meet the needs of youth across Massachusetts through more than 165 different programs.

— MATT ROCHELEAU

