



News Release

Media Contact: Tina Clark, APR
Director of Development & Community Relations
207-783-4663 x 158
207-468-4766 (cell)
tclark@tcmhs.org

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Tri-County Mental Health Services Celebrates 60 Years, Gives Awards

"We've never been more excited about the future..."

AUBURN, MAINE – More than 150 people attended the Annual Meeting and 60th Anniversary Celebration for Tri-County Mental Health Services on Tuesday, October 18. The event featured an address by Charlie Clements, MD, Executive Director of the Carr Center for Human Rights at the Harvard Kennedy School, on the topic of Veteran's Issues and Mental Health, presentation of awards, and a review of the legacy and recent accomplishments of the agency.

Catherine Ryder, Executive Director of TCMHS, expressed the pride and optimism shared by agency's friends and staff in her opening remarks: *"We've never been more excited about the future and the opportunities before us that promise to have a real and lasting impact. Our hope is that in the **next** 60 years and beyond we realize a system that includes care for the mind as well as the body, that eliminates the fear and stigma that keep people from getting help, and above all - that we address the violence and trauma at the core of so much physical and emotional distress."* Board Treasurer Chris DeMerchant noted the agency's strong financial performance with its third straight year of achieving an operating surplus and largest surplus in nine years.

Rose Lacasse is the recipient of the 2011 Giving Voice Award. She has volunteered hundreds of hours working with adults with intellectual disabilities at the agency's Social Learning Center, sharing the wisdom and joy of Native American drumming. Last June, her group performed from the stage before nearly 400 people at the agency's Inspired Voices benefit concert. The Inspiration Award is given to an agency employee for extraordinary work, and this year **Mary Verrill** is the recipient. Mary is a Children's Case Manager and is being recognized for her commitment to the families with whom she works, as well as to her co-workers and to the agency. Visit www.tcmhs.org to view more photos from the event and a video of Rose Lacasse and her drummers.

The Board and Corporators of the agency also held their business meeting to elect officers and members for 2011-2012. They are: Peter Letourneau, Board President, John Geismar, First Vice President, Paul Gauvreau, Second Vice President, Deborah Simpson, Third Vice President Christopher DeMerchant, Treasurer, Jolene Lovejoy, Secretary. Dort S. Bigg III, Mary Ellen Davis, Elaine Jacques, William Lundy, Melinda MacKenzie, Dan Moreno, Doug Rawlings.

Event Underwriters were Anthoine Financial Group, Co-Sponsors Healey & Associates/Health Plans, and table sponsors Maine Veterans for Peace.

Tri-County Mental Health Services is Maine's most comprehensive agency dealing with the psychological and social well-being of children, adults, and elders, serving more than 10,000 people each year in Androscoggin, Northern Cumberland, Franklin, Oxford and York counties. For more information, visit www.tcmhs.org or call the referral line at 1-888-304-HOPE(4673).

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Peter Letourneau, TCMHS Board President, Karen Staples, Representing Senator Olympia Snowe, Rose LaCasse, Recipient of the Giving Voice Award, Jonathan Shute, Representing Congressman Mike Michaud, Catherine Ryder, TCMHS Executive Director, Mary Verrill, Recipient of the Inspiration Award, and Chiara Ferrante, Representing Senator Susan Collins.



Christine Bosse, Bangor Savings Bank, Chris DeMerchant, TCMHS Board President, Chip Morrison, Corporator.



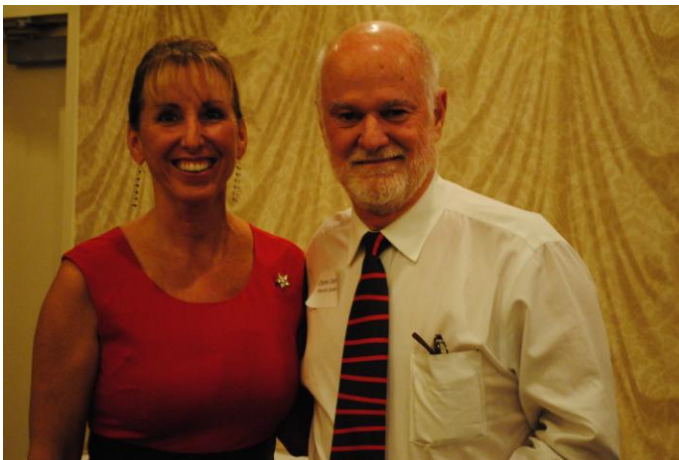
N. Paul Gauvreau, Board Vice President with Mike Williams, Corporator and former Board Treasurer



Executive Director Catherine Ryder, Inspiration Award Winner Mary Verrill, Board President Peter Letourneau.



Peter Letourneau, Board President, Rose LaCasse, Recipient of the Giving Voice Award, Catherine Ryder, TCMHS Executive Director.



Executive Director Catherine Ryder with Keynote Speaker Charlie Clements, MD.