



The Director's Corner

Dr. Keith Schafer

Seeking Mental Health Champions

It may seem very early to be thinking about the 2009 Mental Health Champions recognition, but nominations are needed by October 30, 2008. This is to allow time for judging of the nominations and production of the video tributes of the winners.

The Missouri Mental Health Foundation and the Department of Mental Health are accepting nominations for the Second Annual Mental Health Champions Recognition.

Three persons will be selected as Mental Health Champions - an individual with a diagnosed mental illness; an individual with a developmental disability; and an individual in recovery from substance or gambling addiction. Nominations will be accepted until October 30, 2008. The winners will receive a \$1,000 cash award and will be honored at the 2009 Mental Health Champions Banquet, April 15, 2009, in Jefferson City.

Mental Health Champions are individuals who have overcome their personal challenges to make life better for others and their communities. The 2008 winners provided inspiring stories of persistence and triumph in the face of challenge and adversity. Video tributes to the 2008 champions can be viewed by going to the Department of Mental Health website, www.dmh.mo.gov.

The 2009 nomination form is available on line at www.dmh.mo.gov or by calling the Department of Mental Health, Office of Public Affairs, at 573-751-4423. A signed release of information form must also be provided for each nominee. **The release form** is also available at www.dmh.mo.gov

Nominations can be returned on-line by emailing opamail@dmh.mo.gov. The signed release form and the nomination can be FAXED to 573/526-7926, or mailed to Department of Mental Health, Office of Public Affairs, 1706 E. Elm Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

Campaign Season for Charities



The 2009 Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign (MSECC) is officially underway, providing state employees with one unified fundraising campaign to contribute to charitable organizations.

Governor Matt Blunt announced the official state kickoff on August 27. The DMH Central Office kickoff was held Sept. 3. In its 23 year history, the MSECC has raised over \$19.5 million benefiting local, state and national charitable organizations.

"Missouri state employees have continuously demonstrated their willingness to help worthy causes through the state's charitable campaign program," Governor Blunt said. "Missouri is blessed with dedicated state employees who work each and every day to make our state a great place to call home."

The state employees' campaign is organized and administered by the Office of Administration and directed by a six-member Executive Committee, as well as a

MSECC Steering Committee which is comprised of representatives from each department of state government and the offices of elected officials.

The 2008 campaign saw more than 9,600 state employees pledge donations to 1,177 charitable organizations through the MSECC. Statewide, employee donations totaled \$1,117,333, the second highest total in the 23-year history of the MSECC. The amount represented a 7 percent increase over 2007.



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View the department's news releases at
dmh.mo.gov/news

The Watercooler

Your brief monthly update on what's happening across DMH. For a full update on all DMH organizations and news visit DMH Online or visit the blog, [Missouri DMH Connections](#).

Department of Mental Health reaches out at the State Fair

This year's Department of Mental Health booth at the State Fair provided fairgoers with a way to better understand the importance of mental health. The booth featured "The Path to Good Mental Health: Connect the Dots", a contest featuring brain teasers. The contest attracted over 500 contestants who put their name in a drawing to win a DMH business pad folio.

There were 24 winners – their prizes were mailed out the week of August 18th. Also, approximately 380 "Positive Paul" heads were handed out at the fair. These little squeezable, stress balls were a hit with the crowds. Many visitors to the booth took advantage of the available DMH informational handouts and many had questions for the volunteers who staffed the booth each day during the Fair. The State Fair website reported attendance for the Fair at approximately 320,000 people, up 20 percent from last year.

AIDS CONFERENCE

Latino AIDS Institute

The Department of Health and Senior Services is co-hosting the Latino AIDS Institute in Kansas City on October 9-10 at then Holiday Inn Plaza Hotel. The event brings together various experts from across the country in one place to provide training and workshops for community-based organizations and county and state health agencies serving Latinos in the Midwest region.

For more information, or to register visit:
http://proyectoideas.jsi.com/LAI_MO_registration.html

To see news about your organization in The Watercooler, email your stories to:
opamail@dmh.mo.gov
by the 1st of each month. Let everyone know about the good work you're doing!

Meet your Employee of the Month



JULY 2008

Robert Burns

Developmental Aide I
Marshall Habilitation Center

Why Robert is the EOM?

Robert Burns has been employed at Marshall Habilitation Center for a year and three months, and in a relatively short period of time his impact on the lives of the consumers he serves has been noticeable and significant. He utilizes every opportunity for learning as well as implementing programs and behavioral objectives. His calm demeanor assists the consumers in relating to his instructions, requests, and training.

Burns supervises consumers in daily completion of self-help and domestic skills, encouraging independence, following schedules, completing assigned chores, working on objectives and being as independent as possible. Through his actions, he is encouraging consumers to reach their fullest potential in all activities, and as a result they are reaching a level of independence not previously achieved.

Thoughts about Robert from his coworkers:

"Roberts' efforts and willingness to assist in any way benefits staff as well as consumers and enriches the facility as a whole."

Congratulations, Robert, thanks for your dedication in the workplace!

DON'T FORGET!



October 3-5 – Missouri Addiction Counselors Association Conference, Osage Beach

October 30 – Deadline for 2009 Mental Health Champion Nominations

October 16-17 – Committed Caring Faith Community Faith-Based Substance Abuse Conference, St. Louis