



National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery

2010 Judi Chamberlin Joy in Advocacy Award Winners

Mike Finkel, Executive Director, OOO-MD and Harvey Rosenthal, CEO, NYAPRS

Thank you from Mike Finkel:

Dear Steering Committee of the National Coalition:

I want to express my deep gratitude to you for presenting me with the 2010 Judi Chamberlin, Joy in Advocacy Award.

I received the award yesterday from Patrice O'Toole who was at the Alternatives Conference last week who accepted this wonderful award on my behalf. I regret not attending this year's conference and did not have a clue that I was even nominated. It was truly a joyful surprise. Patrice is on the board of On Our Own of Maryland, Inc. and is the Executive Director of On Our Own of Anne Arundel County and was one of the folks who we sponsored to attend this year's conference. Patrice came to our office yesterday and presented me with the award and the bag of chocolates (yum) – thank you all very much.

This award is very special to me, in that our organization was named after Judi's book, but also due to the fact that Judi came to Maryland in the early 1980's to meet with consumers who were interested in starting a peer-run self-help group and that is when the name On Our Own was chosen.

On Our Own officially became incorporated in 1982 with Peg Sullivan at the helm. This same year, we held our first statewide mental health consumer/survivor conference with Judi as the keynote speaker. We had over 200 people from around our state attend and this was the real start of our movement in Maryland.

Judi was a true mentor and inspiration to us here in Maryland. Judi and Joe Rogers helped us host the first National Alternatives Conference for the country in Baltimore in June of 1985. Judi, Joe, Sally Zinman and Rae Unzicker were part of the first National Alternatives Conference, along with several others including Sue Budd, and Howie the Harp. This conference had a focus of trying to start a national consumer/survivor advocacy organization. It has taken many years but we finally do have a national voice in Washington with the National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery thanks to all of your hard work – with special thanks to Dan and Lauren.

Again thank you all very much – I will cherish this award!

Very best wishes,

Mike Finkle

Executive Director

On Our Own of Maryland, Inc.

Nomination submitted for Mike Finkle :

I must emphasize that it is my profound pleasure to nominate Mike Finkle of On Our Own of Maryland, Inc for the Judi Award. I have only lived in Western Maryland for a few years; however, it is evident that our commander and chief is very comfortable at the wheel. He leads our organization with the utmost wisdom and humiliation. I am proud of Mike for his relentless passion for enhancing mental health consumer's quality of life. Mike genuinely cares about people like me, people who were dealt a trying hand. Mike has been instrumental in making Maryland a forerunner in the consumer recovery movement. If I were in a boat and was caught in precarious weather, Mike would calm the chaos. Not with harsh words or superior physical strength. Mike's power originates from his heart and his real-life experiences. His fortitude manifests with persistence and the ability to stay current with the changing needs of consumers, and his community. I am thankful to Mike for supporting WRAP, the Anti-Stigma Project, and so on. As Mike grows old, his body will incur changes which are inevitable. In contrast, I believe Mike's fervor to improve consumer's lives will never deteriorate. As you ponder your countless nominations, please remember that extraordinary things are happening in Maryland. Mike has assisted, in a significant way, in making these accomplishments come to pass.

Harvey Rosenthal wrote:

Friends,

I can't really tell you how much the Joy in Advocacy Award means to me.

Coming from an organization and mission I treasure, from people I deeply respect and offering it in Judi's name and memory makes it the most special acknowledgement I have ever received. I look forward to taking our work together many more great steps forward....this is our time!

Thanks again, Harvey

Nomination submitted for Harvey Rosenthal:

Harvey Rosenthal has been the CEO of the New York Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services 's (NYAPRS) since 1991. His joy for advocacy runs deep into his soul and is a prime moving force in his life. In the 1980's, during an era when only a few people, such as Judi Chamberlin, were speaking out about our experience with the mental health system, Harvey Rosenthal envisioned that we could forge a powerful and diverse legislative advocacy community in New York State that would lead to real change in our communities.

Unified by his ability to articulate a vision for recovery, rehabilitation and rights and an unrelenting vision for meaningful relationships and impact with state government, people in mental health recovery and providers of mental health services from every corner of NYS came together as one community, led by those of us with psychiatric disabilities, to revolutionize what people understood about mental health recovery and what was needed to achieve meaningful life in our communities beyond mental health services and systems. Successful state advocacy campaigns in the past 25 years included but are not limited to: Reducing seclusion and restraint, Increasing community mental health services funding, Local consumer advocacy initiatives, Opposing forced treatment,

Workforce Cost of Living Adjustments, Access to Housing, Employment and Transportation, Medicaid Buy-In for Working People with Disabilities, Eliminating Solitary Confinement for Prisoners with Psychiatric Disabilities, Centers for Excellence in Cultural Competence, Community Reinvestment Act of 1994, Increased Oversight of electroconvulsive treatments (ECT), Access to Housing, Employment and Transportation, MTA Half fare Fairness Act, Most Integrated Settings Coordinating Council, Adult Home residents advocacy, and more.

NYAPRS has a e-newsletter which reaches over 10,000 people and their annual conference is a potpourri of leading edge mental health work done across the United States. At the 2009 NYAPRS conference with 800 people in the audience he had Judi Chamberlin on the phone addressing the crowd. You could hear a pin drop in the room we were all so deeply moved at this thoughtful and loving and joyful way of bringing Judi to us and us to her in the last months of her life.

His impact is felt in the cross disability community as he also works with the Justice for All Action Network to advocate for federal disability policy. Harvey limits his travel outside NY so he can be present for his partner and his 3 daughters. He did however, attend the inauguration of President Obama. His joy of advocacy includes a deep appreciation for the history that was being made that day and of course it didn't hurt to witness Aretha Franklin singing on the steps of the capitol. Harvey takes time to celebrate giant steps forward of other liberation movements.