



July 1, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EAST HOUSE EMPLOYEE RECEIVES CECILIA COULTER AWARD

Jerry Barrick, Job Coach in East House's Career Services Program, has received an award from the Rochester Area Employment Network (RAEN.) Barrick is the recipient of the 2008 Cecilia Coulter Employment Specialist Excellence Award. Barrick received the award at the Network's 25th Anniversary Conference and Peer Awards Ceremony, held June 26th at the Lodge at Buckland Park.

Barrick was nominated by his colleagues for his commitment to improving the lives of clients in the SET (Supported Employment Program). Jerry recruits, hires, trains and supervises client workers, who, in turn, provide needed services to East House. He hires facility maintenance trainees who clean group homes and offices, assist with clients' moves, maintain the agency's vehicles, and carry out groundskeeping and painting, inside and out of the buildings. He also coordinates an Adopt-a-Block program with the Southeast Area Coalition, which gives clients employment opportunities, as well as keeps the streets of Rochester clean.

Jerry is considered a supportive supervisor, who is fair but firm. Once his trainees make the transition from the program to other employment, Jerry advocates for them in their new role and acts as mentor. Overall, Jerry is committed to assisting individuals recovering from mental illness and chemical dependency to lead productive and meaningful lives. In fourteen years with East House, he has significantly improved the lives of more than 800 clients. "To me, it's enough that I have a job that I love and am paid to do it. To be recognized for it is an overwhelming honor," said Jerry. Barrick lives in the City of Rochester.

Founded in 1966, East House is a private, nonprofit agency that provides rehabilitation, residential and career services to individuals recovering from mental illness and/or chemical dependency. East House serves more than 1,300 clients and their families each year and is funded by New York State, Monroe County, United Way, client fees and donations. For more information, call 585-256-3800, ext. 213.

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