



Over 40 Years of Caring

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**FIVE LOCAL INDIVIDUALS AND THE RPO TO BE HONORED
AT EAST HOUSE CELEBRATION; AUTHOR PETE EARLEY TO
SPEAK ON MENTAL HEALTH**

Five local individuals and the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra will be honored next Thursday, October 1st, for something they all have in common...their efforts to improve the quality of life for individuals recovering from mental illness and chemical dependency. Each will receive the East House 2009 "Partner In Hope" award at the agency's Celebration of Hope and Recovery luncheon at the Double Tree Inn on Thursday, October 1st.

Douglas Burkhardt, Owner of First Realty Co., Cheryl McLean, Senior Staff Assistant at RIT, Dr. Leslie Tomek, Psychiatrist at Strong Ties, Tony Klein, MPA, CASAC, NCAC II, Tobacco Treatment Specialist at Unity Behavioral Health, and the RPO, have all gone above and beyond to work as caring partners with East House, contributing to the quality care the agency strives to provide clients. In addition, a new award named in honor of the late humanitarian and Assemblywoman, Pinny Cooke, "The Pinny Cooke Lifetime Giving Award" will be presented to James Papero, of Pittsford, a distinguished RIT retiree, for his contributions as a long-time Board member, volunteer and donor. In 1995, Papero initiated a collaborative Enrichment Program for East House and RIT, that is beneficial to East House clients to this day.

The first event of its kind, the East House Celebration of Hope and Recovery will be a community lecture and luncheon, that focuses on contemporary issues in mental health and addiction. Pete Early, author and investigative reporter, will speak about his book, "Crazy, A Father's Search Through America's Mental Health Madness."

Earley is a former reporter for the Washington Post, and the author of nine non-fiction books and three novels. His book, “Crazy, A Father’s Search Through America’s Mental Health Madness,” tells of Earley’s attempts to help his son, Mike, after he becomes ill with bi-polar disorder and is arrested. The book was one of two finalists for the Pulitzer Prize in 2007 and has won awards from Mental Health America and the American Psychiatric Association.

“We are launching this luncheon and lecture as part of our mission to inform our community on contemporary issues affecting those who suffer from mental illness or addiction”, said Gregory Soehner, President of East House. “We will also honor five individuals and one organization who work closely with us as we provide hope to the people that we serve.”

To date, Alesco Advisors, LLC, Colonial Voluntary Benefits, Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Financial Architects, First Niagara Risk Management, Harris Beach, LLC, Nixon Peabody, St. John Fisher College and Weinstein-Murphy, LLP, are sponsors of the event. Don Alhart of WHAM-TV 13 will serve as emcee. **Individual tickets** to the event are **\$25; tables of ten are \$250.** (Certificates of attendance will be provided on request.)

Founded in 1966, East House is a private, non-profit rehabilitation agency that provides residential, rehabilitation and support services to individuals recovering from mental illness and/or chemical dependency. East House serves more than 1,000 clients and their families each year and is funded by New York State, Monroe County, United Way, client fees and private donations. **For reservations or more information, call (585) 256-3800, ext. 231; or go online at www.easthouse.org.**

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