

NMHA News Release

June 12, 2006

NMHA Recognizes Leading Mental Health Advocates Two Women Connected by Tragedy, Maternal Depression Expert and Dedicated Researcher Are Among Honorees

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ALEXANDRIA, Va. (June 12, 2006)—Six mental health leaders and advocates were honored today at the National Mental Health Association's Annual Meeting, Building the Movement, in Washington, D.C. Award winners represent a broad spectrum of mental health professionals, experts, consumers, organizations and projects whose work exemplifies their dedication to improve mental health of all Americans.

"These honorees are models of outspoken advocacy that break down stigma and disparities to cultural, economic and social barriers to mental health care one project, article and interview at a time," said David Shern, Ph.D., president and CEO of NMHA. "Award winners are husbands, wives, sons, daughters, authors and tireless volunteers-and all of them strive to raise awareness and enact real change throughout the mental health movement."

NMHA Awards presented are as follows:

Betty Humphrey Cultural Competency Award: Mental Health Association in New Jersey (Verona, N.J.)

This year's Betty Humphrey Cultural Competency Award was given to the Mental Health Association in New Jersey's African-American Outreach Program, which combines a faith-based approach to mental health outreach with culturally competent education, training and mental health services.

Innovation in Programming Award: Mental Health Association of San Francisco (San Francisco, Calif.)

The Mental Health Association of San Francisco's Compulsive Hoarding and Cluttering Project received NMHA's Innovation in Programming Award for its outstanding work on behalf of people who live with compulsive hoarding disorder and its related effects and mental health issues.

Lela Rowland Prevention Award—William R. Beardslee, M.D. (Boston, Mass.)

Dr. William Beardslee, published author, researcher and physician, is this year's Lela Rowland Prevention Award winner. Dr. Beardslee has spent more than 20 years researching and implementing evidence-based practices and strategies for early intervention and prevention of mental disorders in children, particularly as it relates to maternal depression.

Sandy Brant Volunteer Service Award—Linda Gregory and Alice Petree (Jacksonville, Fla.)

NMHA named Linda Gregory and Alice Petree the 2006 Sandy Brant Volunteer Service Award winners. Gregory and Petree first met after Petree's brother, Alan, who has a mental illness, shot and killed Gregory's husband, Eugene, a police officer. Both Gregory

and Petree have since volunteered to enact change in their state and local communities as well as nationally, addressing the unmet needs of individuals with mental illnesses.

Tipper Gore “Remember the Children” Award—Gail Griffith (Washington, D.C.)

Gail Griffith, author of *Will's Choice: A Suicidal Teen, a Desperate Mother, and a Chronicle of Recovery*, is the 2006 Tipper Gore “Remember the Children” Award winner. Following the attempted suicide of her son, Will, Griffith has dedicated herself to improving mental health services for children and adolescents.

The National Mental Health Association is the country's oldest and largest nonprofit organization addressing all aspects of mental health and mental illness. With more than 340 affiliates nationwide, NMHA works to improve the mental health of all Americans through advocacy, education, research and service.

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