



Southwest Solutions

Answers for a healthy community

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—FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—

**SHIRLEY COCKRELL NAMED “CONSUMER OF THE YEAR”
FOR HER MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY WORK
Go-Getters’ Director Recognized by BHPi and CareLink**

DETROIT, May 6, 2009 — Shirley Cockrell, director of the Go-Getters’ Homeless Drop-in Center at Southwest Counseling Solutions, has been named “Consumer of the Year” by Behavioral Health Professionals, Inc. (BHPi).

“The award recognizes Shirley’s leadership of Go-Getters, her dedication to the folks she serves, her ongoing support for the consumer movement, her passion for social justice and her commitment to the southwest Detroit community,” said Joseph Tardella, executive director of Southwest Counseling Solutions. “Shirley is truly deserving of the award and we are fortunate that she is part of the Southwest Solutions family.”

For the past 15 years, Shirley has dealt with her mental illness by helping and advocating for others. Go-Getters serves persons with mental illness who are often homeless. It attends to basic human needs, including food, clothing, hygiene and social support opportunities. Shirley oversees the daily lunch program that serves about 65 consumers five days a week. She also works with consumers to help them obtain identification and other necessary documentation so they can receive housing, counseling, and government benefits. This year, Go-Getters expects to serve more than 500 individuals.

“I am honored, humbled and surprised to receive this award,” said Shirley. “I didn’t know I had been nominated, and when I learned about the award, I was speechless for an hour. I want to thank all the consumers, staff and volunteers who make Go-Getters a warm and welcoming place that is conducive to recovery.”

The award will be presented at the sixth annual Mental Health Matters! event on Thursday evening, May 14, 2009 at The Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft Rd. Livonia, MI 48150. For more information about the event, call (313) 656-0000.

Southwest Solutions (<http://www.swsol.org>) is the holding company of Southwest Counseling Solutions and Southwest Housing Solutions. The family of corporations offers a wide range of services to create a stronger and healthier southwest Detroit community, including mental

health and early childhood services, affordable housing, homeownership counseling, employment opportunities and innovative economic development projects.

Behavioral Health Professionals, Inc. (BHPi) (<http://www.bhpnet.org>) is a collaborative partnership created by eight of Wayne County's premier providers of service to mentally ill and developmentally disabled children, adults, and families. Its mission is to bring its experience, spirit and professional skills as a premier healthcare delivery system to improve communities and the health and welfare of the people it serves. BHPi is the parent company to CareLink and ConsumerLink Networks.

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