



Joseph Tardella

Joseph Tardella, Executive Director of Southwest Counseling Solutions, has been honored by the Michigan Campaign to End Homelessness with the 2007 Carla Javits Leadership Award. Carla Javits has been a strong advocate for the homeless for decades. She was CEO of REDF, formerly known as The Roberts Enterprise Development Fund, and was the previous national President of the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH). The annual award in her name recognizes a current or emerging leader in Michigan who is making a significant difference in addressing homelessness.

Joseph was voted the winner of the award at the Second Annual "Summit on Ending Homelessness" attended by over 500 experts in the

Joseph Tardella Wins Prestigious Award

field. The award was presented by Michael DeVos, the Executive Director of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA).

Joseph played a vital role in developing Detroit's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness and establishing the action steps for the first three years of the plan. He is an active member of the Homeless Action Network of Detroit (HAND) and the Detroit Team to End Chronic Homelessness (D-TECH), of which he is chairperson. D-TECH is the inter-agency service team for all four MSHDA initiatives in Detroit. As leader of Southwest Counseling Solutions, Joseph established our Housing Resource Center and secured almost \$4 million dollars in new funding for the organization's permanent supportive housing program. SWCS currently provides permanent supportive housing to over 400 individuals with serious mental illness or substance abuse disorders who are homeless. Additionally, Joseph created a peer counselor program at Southwest and has

mentored peer leadership at SWCS's Go-Getters consumer run drop-in center. The peer counselors have been central to our efforts to reach out to the homeless.

"I think Joseph is a great winner of the Javits leadership award because he is a true visionary who works to end homelessness in Detroit," said Lisa Chapman, Michigan Program Director for the Corporation for Supportive Housing. "Joseph has served and lent his expertise to HAND, a variety of state level committees and workgroups, and always tries to find a way to make things work for the betterment of the folks he is serving. I have enjoyed working with him and am proud to call him my colleague."

"I'm deeply honored to receive the award," Joseph stated. "It reflects the commitment of hundreds of individuals and organizations that have been part of Michigan's plan to end homelessness. Most importantly, I accept the award on behalf of the thousands of individuals and families who ask nothing more of us than a decent, safe and affordable place to call home."