

Outstanding Residential Rehabilitation Program Award—

The Writers' Guild, May 22, 2006

The GUIDE Independence Program was honored by Prince George's County's Department of Family Services with the "Outstanding Residential Rehabilitation Program Award," at the 2006, Twelfth Annual Mental Health Provider Appreciation Luncheon on Thursday, May 18th, 2006. This affair, which is hosted annually by the Department's Mental Health and Disabilities Administration was presided over by Ms. Adrienne L. Bennett, the Director of the County's Department of Family Services. The Provider Appreciation Luncheon was one of the events in Prince George's County marking May as *Mental Health Month*. Dr. Jacqueline Brown, the County's Chief Administrative Officer read a proclamation from the County Executive recognizing Mental Health Month in the County, and Dr. James Dula, the County's Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Health and Human Services read a similar proclamation by the County Council. This year's keynote speaker for the event was Mr. Oscar Morgan, the Executive Director of the National Mental Health Association.

This year's award for the "Outstanding Residential Rehabilitation Program" was presented to Ms. Stefanie Rupertus, the Director of GUIDE Independence by Ms. Christina Waddler, the Administrator of the Mental Health and Disabilities Administration. In her presentation Ms. Waddler indicated that "among their many accomplishments during FY 2006, GUIDE Independence has maintained a zero vacancy rate for



GUIDE Independence Staff Members after receiving Outstanding Residential Rehabilitation Program Award.

six months and has had only one psychiatric hospitalization." Additionally, Ms. Waddler noted that 79% of GUIDE's supported housing participants and 31% of their residential rehabilitation consumers are employed, and 13% of the organization's residential rehabilitation clients have been enrolled in college or a vocational training program. Additionally, the agency has also "maintained . . . low staff turnover."

GUIDE's Independence Program provides psychiatric and residential rehabilitation services to clients of the public mental health system in Prince George's County. The organization provides supportive apartment and group home residences and also operates a supported employment program for participants. In addition to these services in Prince George's County, GUIDE Independence provides a similar program for transitional age young adults in Montgomery County. The Independence Program is part of the GUIDE Program, Inc., a regional behavioral health, juvenile justice, and social services agency that provided services to 2,638 individuals during last fiscal year. The agency's historical roots

are in Prince George's County where it began in 1968. In addition to the Maryland suburbs around the District of Columbia, GUIDE also provides services in Baltimore County and

Baltimore City. Additional information about GUIDE can be found on its website at www.GuideProgram.org or by email to information@GuideProgram.org.