



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE HONORS FIRST-EVER W. CARY EDWARDS STATE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR *County Volunteers of the Year Also Recognized*

Trenton (October 11, 2011) ... The Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse honored the first-ever recipient of the W. Cary Edwards State Volunteer of the Year Award, Laurie K. Smith from Atlantic County, at its 20th Annual Summit held last month in Princeton. Cary Edwards' wife, Lynn Edwards, presented the Award.

Smith, from Hamilton Township, has been working in the prevention field for nearly fifteen years and served as Co-Chairperson of the Egg Harbor Township Alliance from 2002 to 2011 before her recent move to Hamilton Township. While on the Egg Harbor Township Alliance, Smith arranged, promoted and worked it's National Night Out making it the biggest and best in the County with a combination of fun and informative anti-drug activities for children and adults. Smith has also organized a county-wide Conference on preventing substance abuse. Since moving to Hamilton Township, Smith also became active on the Hamilton Township/Estell Manor Municipal Alliance continuing her long-standing commitment to the community-based prevention.

In presenting the Award, Lynn Edwards noted Cary Edwards' long-standing interest in addressing alcoholism and drug abuse and stated how Smith exemplified Edwards' dedication to public service. Edwards, who passed away last year, played an important role in the Council's enactment in 1989 while Attorney General in the Governor Thomas Kean Administration. It was also Edwards' vision to create a network of community-based efforts to address alcoholism and drug abuse, the Alliance to Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Program, and a dedicated fund for it, the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund. His vision has been replicated throughout the United States and resulted in 402 Municipal Alliances being currently active in the State, the largest network of anti-drug coalitions in the country.

The Council also recognized County Volunteers of the Year from all twenty-one Counties at the 20th Annual Summit. Acting Executive Director John Hulick stated, "Community-based responses to alcoholism and drug abuse remain a critical ingredient to addressing this pressing public health concern. It's important to take time to thank the Volunteers of the Year, and the thousands of other Alliance volunteers, who day in and day out are working to keep New Jersey's families and communities healthy and safe."

To view complete Council Volunteer of the Year backgrounds and photographs visit the Council's Facebook page, facebook.com/gcada.newjersey. For additional information, contact John Hulick, 609-777-0526.

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The Council leads efforts to plan for and coordinate New Jersey's addiction prevention, treatment and prevention policy and services. It also administers the State's \$10 million Municipal Alliance Program, the largest network of community-based anti-drug coalitions in the nation with 7,000 volunteers serving on 402 Alliances encompassing 529 municipalities statewide which provided more than 3,500 anti-drug programs in 2010.