

LOOKING UPWARDS BESTOWS AWARDS

Looking Upwards recently presented The Awards for Excellence in recognition of inspirational individuals who have shown dedication, perseverance and commitment towards creating vibrant, satisfying lives for people with disabilities. We are proud to honor the following individuals:

Vanessa Wurman, a resident of Jamestown, was recognized with a Community Volunteer Award for her enthusiasm in supporting Looking Upwards' mission through consistently volunteering her time and energy on behalf of the agency's fundraising efforts.

The Community Partner Award was presented to Chris Reck and Tammy Stenfanich, two baristas at Starbucks in Middletown, for their outstanding interest in making connections with people with disabilities who are patrons of Starbucks.

Janet Grummer, a social worker for Rhode Island State Division of Developmental Disabilities, received the Governmental Service Award for her commitment and exceptional efforts on behalf of the people she serves.

Monsignor Gerard O. Sabourin, a visiting celebrant at St. Teresa's Church in Tiverton, was recognized with the Excellence in Action Award for his lively and genuine inclusion of and engagement with people with disabilities.

Additionally, Frank P. Mello, outgoing president of the Looking Upwards board of directors and a longtime board member, was honored for his years of service and support of the agency's mission.

Other awards recipients included: Ryan Archambault, Personal Growth Award; Ryan Faucher, Youth Achievement Award; Ginger Seekell, the Linda Brandao Award for Self-Advocacy; Eileen Echevarria and Tanya Howard, Exceptional Professional Award; Karen McGee-Brown, Team Leader Award; Jasmine Desmarais, Hidden Star Award and the Specialized Assignment team (SAS), the Team Accomplishment Award. Angela Semonelli received a Special Recognition Award for her long term commitment to the agency.

Recipients of Direct Support Professional Awards were: Antone Carpenter, Tina Furtado, Tanya Hayes, Rhanah LeSueur, Kim Payne, Tina Vieira, Kim Longmire, Michael Andrade, Sylvia Torres, Catia Soares, Marquise Rivon, Lisa Silvia, Carol Bennett, Kirsten Leeder, Saroeuth Chhot, Deb Guilbault, Helene Page, Bob Young, Simone Long, Megan Raposa, Matt Borges, Fern Acain and Dee Moniz.

Additionally, Tanya Hayes has been selected as Looking Upwards' Direct Support Professional of the Year. Tanya's humor, dedication, advocacy, organizational abilities and willingness to take on leadership roles have been outstanding in providing the support for people to flourish.

As Looking Upwards' Direct Support Professional of the year, Tanya also received statewide recognition for the quality of her work through the Community Provider Network of Rhode Island (CPNRI), receiving a CPNRI Direct Support Professional Award.