
PRESS RELEASE

Morristown Therapist Named Social Worker of the Year

Morristown psychotherapist, Maureen Underwood, was named 2006 Social Worker of the Year by the New Jersey Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW-NJ). Underwood, a psychotherapist with 35 years of experience, was recognized for her extensive work with the victims of trauma and suicide.

Maureen Underwood is one of the creators of a program called GOALs (Going on After Loss). This program was developed in response to the events of September 11. GOALs provides counseling support services to families and young children who lost a parent in the attacks. From these early efforts nearly five years ago, GOALs has since developed into a comprehensive network of counseling support services. The continued demand for services has led Underwood to form a non-profit organization called The GOALs Center for Families. The GOALs Center provides counseling support groups and special events throughout the year to families and young children grieving the death of a parent (due to any circumstances) while also offering training and consultation services to educators and fellow mental health providers in the GOALs model.

Underwood was recently invited to present the GOALs model at the American Group Psychotherapy Association's (AGPA) National Conference in Austin, Texas. She has been a presenter at the AGPA Conference since 2003.

“Maureen is an exceptional social worker and a shining example of why social work is such a vital and expanding profession,” said Walter X. Kalman, Executive Director of the New Jersey Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. “She embodies the zeal and dedication to serving others that enable social workers to help people overcome such challenges as poverty, discrimination, abuse, addiction, physical illness, divorce, loss, unemployment, educational problems, disability, and mental illness.”

“We selected Maureen as our Social Worker of the Year for her outstanding work with suicide prevention and working with families who have experienced traumatic loss and because she exemplifies the work so many thousands of social workers across New Jersey offer to individuals, families, and communities,” added Kalman.

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is the largest and most recognized membership organization of professional social workers in the world. Representing 150,000 members from 56 chapters in the United States and abroad, the association promotes, develops and protects the practice of social work and social workers. NASW also seeks to enhance the well-being of individuals, families, and communities through its work and advocacy.

For more information about The GOALs Center for Families or to schedule an interview with Maureen, please contact Kevin Duffy at (973) 800-9661 or via email at kevin@goalscenter.org.