

May 2008



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# Touchstone Recognized For IT Utilization

*“Secure EMR for Remote Providers”*

*Cited as “Best Practice” in Annual Ceremony*

Touchstone Behavioral Health is to be recognized at the Computerworld Honors Programs’ 20th Anniversary celebration of their Search for New Heroes. On June 2, 2008, Washington DC will host the annual Computerworld Honors Laureate Medal Ceremony and Gala Awards Evening, which pay tribute to leaders of the global IT revolution. These prestigious, invitation-only events will take place at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium.

To achieve Laureate status, an organization must first be nominated by a member of the Chairman’s Committee — an invitation-only collection of Chairmen and Chief Executive Officers from 100 of the top global technology companies — for “use of information technology ... especially noteworthy for

the originality of its conception, the breadth of its vision and the significance of its benefit to society”. Organizations are then asked to submit a case



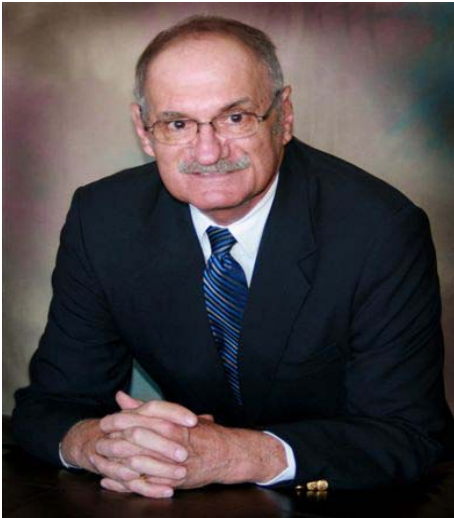
THE COMPUTERWORLD HONORS PROGRAM

study that is judged against 10 criteria before being added to the program’s collection and celebrated in a formal Gold Medal ceremony “honoring those who use Information Technology to better society”.

*“Secure EMR for Remote Providers”* details the challenges and rewards of de-

ploying a web-based Electronic Medical Record system to a mobile staff working primarily outside of the secure network perimeter. Beyond recognition as a role model for other agencies to emulate, this paper serves as a testament to the dedication of the entire Touchstone staff, working together to improve processes for satisfying documentation and billing requirements in order to spend more quality time with clients. This case study will join a growing body of materials available online and to over 350 universities, libraries and research institutions worldwide.

Touchstone was nominated by Symantec Corporation in the category of Non-Profit Organizations. Previous honorees include: City of Cape Town; Oklahoma State Department of Human Services; America’s Second Harvest; Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services; and, the Independent Electoral Commission, South Africa. IT Director, Steven Porter, will represent Touchstone in Washington, DC.



# From the President

## Timothy Dunst

It is especially unfortunate that in times of limited funds we continue to fail to measure outcomes for the treatment and prevention interventions for children and families. Limited funds means that we must be prudent in what is funded and what is not. In times past we could afford to subsidize programs that looked good and felt good but really did not provide positive outcomes for children and families.

The failure to measure

outcomes and determine what works and what doesn't has been the greatest shortfall of those of us who advocate for improved behavioral health services. Asking for increased funding in difficult financial times is hard enough but asking for more money for things we can't prove work is foolish. It is like buying a car with no guarantee that it even runs.

If we had quality evidence that our services lead families to healthy and responsible lives we could prove that funds allocated were well spent. AND we could ask for increased funding because treatment lead to healthy families who became healthy taxpayers.

Touchstone has, for the last ten years, begun replicating programs that are evidence-

based with positive outcomes. Presently we offer: Functional Family Therapy, Multisystemic Therapy, Brief Strategic Family Therapy, To Good for Drugs and Choosing the Best. All have scientific research that indicate positive outcomes for children and families.

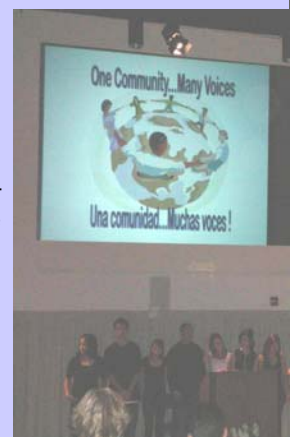
We have begun to conduct studies on all of the other Touchstone treatment and prevention interventions to asses their effectiveness. If they do not have positive outcomes they will be revised or discontinued.

Touchstone is committed to continue to provide positive outcome services. Treatment that works. *What a novel idea.*

## Parent Conference - One Community...Many Voices

On Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, Touchstone Behavioral Health's Parent Resource Program, of the Social Development and Prevention Department, held its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Parent Conference, *One Community...Many Voices*, at the Heard Native Culture and Arts Museum. The event turned out to be quite a success with 180 adults and 38 children in attendance. This year, the Parent Conference focused on increasing parental awareness of the importance of community attachment and organization and how to become involved. In neighborhoods where people do not feel attached to the community or to each other, children are at higher risk for problem behaviors such as; using alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs, dropping out of school, having sex (and risking pregnancy or getting a sexually transmitted disease), and becoming involved in gangs, delinquency or violence.

The luncheon began with an engaging activity about protective and risk factors and the social development approach to prevention.



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There were many speakers who provided insight about how and why to become involved in community development. Two community leaders/advocates from Tomahawk Village Block Watch, a collaborative community development organization, shared their background and advice as well as their involvement efforts to encourage those who were in attendance. Touchstone Behavioral Health's Prevention Department presented Asset Based Community Development with a culturally inclusive and sensitive approach. The conference was facilitated in English and Spanish.

While Touchstone Behavioral Health's Prevention Director, Vernon Powell, closed the conference with inspirational words of wisdom, the preven-

tion and executive management team surprised him with an award and acknowledgement for all of his dedication and support in the prevention efforts.

The event also provided an opportunity for parents to have positive interaction with other parents; It was a "parent's day out" without the hassle and financial burden of paying for lunch, entertainment, information, and childcare. Those in attendance were also entertained by a moving theatrical production performed by youth involved in the Community in Action coalition group established by our community specialists. Various prizes were raffled throughout the conference with the grand raffle prize of a Dell computer. Thank you to all involved who made this event a success.

## Culture Competency Committee

In observance of *Memorial Day* and to inform Touchstone employees and others about the importance of the Armed Services and how it relates to behavioral health systems, Touchstone's Cultural Competency Committee welcomed guest speaker, Christopher Guerrero, to the May 13 Open Forum. Guerrero joined the Army June, 2000. Currently, he is stationed in Flagstaff, Arizona and serves as a Recruiter. Guerrero has been stationed in: Fort Knox, KY; APG Maryland; Fort Hood, TX; Hanau, Germany; Bagdad, Iraq; Fort Irwin, CA and he served in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

To honor all Armed Services and Veterans who have made a great contribution to our society we would also like to honor Sons, Daughters, Mothers, Fathers, Brothers, Sister, Husbands, Wives who have served, or are serving. **THANK A VETERAN!**

For our fallen soldiers, Memorial Day was proclaimed in 1868 by Commander, General John Logan.

### Committee Updates

July, 2008 the CCC will release a new training on Cultural Competency, both a NEO (New Employee Orientation) training and a refresher training will be offered. Everyone will be required to attend these new trainings. Watch for more information on dates and times to attend.

The CCC would like to welcome Veronika Madler, HCTC therapist, to the RATS (Research & Training Sub-committee).

With Patty Liwanag leaving TBH, Vernon Powell is looking for a new Vice Chair for this Committee. The CCC would like to extend an open invitation to anyone wishing to join the committee. Please contact Vernon Powell if you are interested. Patty Liwanag would like to thank the Cultural Competency Committee for all their dedication and hard work and says she was grateful for the opportunity to have served on this committee.



# Employee of the Quarter Jamie Ginsberg

Jamie Ginsberg joined Touchstone Behavioral Health in June of 2001 as a volunteer. A young inspiring worker, Jamie showed her unquestionable desire to work hard and dedication to whatever project needed to be completed. Much like a human sponge, Jamie's ability to retain information was quite impressive. When given a new task, she was able to take that information and apply it to her everyday work. Soon after volunteering her time with Touchstone, she was hired as a Journey's staff member and later as an Assistant Supervisor for our Before and After School program. Her dedication to the program truly exemplifies the true meaning of someone who cares about the "little ones".

Because of her exceptional work, Jamie was promoted to Site Supervisor this past year. She has successfully maintained and increased the productivity for our program and ensures the clients' needs are met first. Lastly, she constantly assists her supervisor with ways to improve the program. Out of all these great qualities, her



greatest attribute is her ability to establish an excellent rapport with students, parents and school officials.

As Prevention Director, Vernon Powell states, I am honored and

pleased to recognize Jamie as our standout employee for this quarter. In addition to her work load, Jamie carries a full-time schedule working towards her Bachelor's degree. Jamie, keep up the good work!

## FUND-RAISING EFFORTS FAMILY FUN DAY

It takes a lot of time, energy and staff to prepare for the upcoming 2008 Family Fun Day event. Many thanks to FSPs, Maria Carpio and Kathy Allen, who are ahead of the game this year with their fund-raising efforts. Walmart presented them with a check for \$1500 to go towards the upcoming event. Great Job Maria and Kathy and the rest of our FSPs (Family Support Partners) Team!



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### Editor's note

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