



DRUG FREE MARION COUNTY HONORS THREE RECOVERY ADVOCATES AT ANNUAL CELEBRATION ON SEPT. 30

Three Hoosier residents received honors as Recovery Advocates at Drug Free Marion County's annual Indiana Addiction Recovery Month Celebration on Sept. 30.

Stanley DeKemper II of Indianapolis received the 2009 Daniel C. Crowe Lifetime Recovery Advocate Award, while Judge Michael Kramer of Albion and Keith Sneed of Indianapolis were named 2009 Recovery Advocates of the Year.

The Daniel C. Crowe Lifetime Recovery Advocate Award, named in honor of the first-ever recipient, recognizes an individual who has made contributions over a number of years to the cause of addiction treatment, prevention and advocacy in Indiana. Advocates of the Year are celebrated for their support of and advocacy for those in recovery during the past 12 months.

"We are thankful for this opportunity to recognize Stan, Michael and Keith for their invaluable commitment to those in recovery from the disease of addiction," says Randy Miller, executive director of Drug Free Marion County. "Their tireless efforts have made a true difference in the lives of many Hoosiers, from those in recovery and their families and friends to the professionals and volunteers who support recovery initiatives."

DeKemper has been a leader in establishing addiction services in Indiana for 37 years and holds a number of "first" distinctions. A founding board member and officer for Drug Free Indiana and the Indiana Addictions Issues Coalition, he was the first Indiana director of cultural competency training for addictions, the first addiction trainer for Indiana and the first addiction certification officer for the state.

Kramer, judge of Noble Superior Court II of Noble County Courts in Albion, Ind., has served on the Regional Advisory Board for Drug Free Indiana, which also once named him Volunteer of the Year. He chaired Drug-Free Noble County for many years as well.

Kramer serves on the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Planning Council and was appointed by Governor Mitch Daniels to the Governor's Advisory Panel for the Indiana Grassroots Coalitions Prevention Initiative. Kramer also serves on the boards of Noble House, Common Grace, Noble County PRIDE, Noble County Teen Court and Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA).

Sneed works as an adult substance abuse counselor at EmberWood Center, an Indianapolis not-for-profit offering adult and adolescent outpatient drug, alcohol, and gambling treatment and positive youth-development services designed to prevent substance abuse. He is a peer-to-peer counselor in the Access to Recovery Program and volunteered at EmberWood's 2009 Myths of Addictions art show, among many other contributions.

For more information, call 317-254-2815 or visit www.drugfreemarioncounty.org.

Drug Free Marion County, a not-for-profit organization, works to prevent and reduce substance abuse by creating a healthier and safer Marion County through advocacy, education and information with individuals, families, professionals and communities.

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