

For immediate release by Yankton Area Mental Wellness, Inc. – 06/15/10

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MENTAL WELLNESS AWARDS PRESENTED

(Yankton) Yankton Area Mental Wellness, Inc (YAMWI) presented awards to key supporters promoting mental health services within the community and across the region. The awards were presented during the Twelfth Annual Mental Wellness Conference, held on June 9 & 10, 2010, at Mount Marty College. The YAMWI Board of Directors Award recognized Michael R. Miranda. The Conference Theme Award “Counting on YOU to Make a Difference” was presented to Carla Hummel, Director of Volunteer Services at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital. The Professional Leadership Award was presented to Charles Barron. The Mental Wellness Community Service Award was presented to the Yankton Children’s Mental Health Fund. The awards were presented by Pam Kettering, Executive Director of United Way and Volunteer Services of Yankton and Matt Michels, Avera Health. Both Kettering and Michels are members of the Yankton Area Mental Wellness, Inc Board of Directors.

YAMWI Board of Directors Award

Michael R. Miranda

The Yankton Area Mental Wellness, Inc. Board of Directors Award recognizes invaluable involvement, which is evidenced by the progress seen for YAMWI. The Board of Directors Award recognizes outstanding support and service for the Yankton Area Mental Wellness Conference. Michael Miranda is a Senior Manager with the firm of Williams & Company CPA PC and has over 33 years of public accounting experience. He serves as Williams & Company’s tax and employee benefit consultant and specialist. Michael is currently the YAMWI treasurer with the responsibility of keeping the organization’s financial records, paying bills, and filing tax returns. Michael and his company have donated computer hardware for YAMWI and has provided hotel accommodations and transportation for conference presenters. Michael’s musical

talents have provided connections to colleagues that have supplied musical presentations at the YAMWI conferences.

Professional Leadership Award

Charles (Charlie) Barron

The Professional Leadership Award recognizes professional contributions in service to mental wellness. The award honors the individual's commitment to promoting high quality services or advocacy on behalf of those with mental illness. Charlie has been a part of the Yankton Area Mental Wellness organization for many years, and strives to include speakers and break-out sessions that will benefit educators. He is a past conference presenter and is YAMWI's greatest link to understanding the needs of educators for better supporting the mental health of their students. Through his work with the Yankton School District, Charlie has been excellent at promoting the conference to area and statewide educators. He also has shared information with the media on mental health topics. Charlie was the 2010 Conference Planning Committee Chairman. He has been dedicated to serving youth, which has been a primary focus of YAMWI, through his lifelong professional and personal interests.

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Conference Theme Award

Carla Hummel

Each year Yankton Area Mental Wellness, Inc. chooses a theme for the annual conference. The 12th annual conference had the theme "*Counting on YOU to Make a Difference*". This award is presented in recognition of the significant impact one individual can make for improving services, which fulfills the goal for the 2010 YAMWI conference theme. Carla Hummel, who is employed as the Director of Volunteer Services at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, has been matching volunteers to volunteer opportunities for over nine years. Carla is one of only three certified administrators of volunteer services in the state of South Dakota. Her own volunteering currently includes the Yankton Area Youth Ministry Team, Dakota Dance Association, American Cancer Society's Relay For Life, and Lifelight Tour – Yankton Coordinator. She has also served with Yankton Chamber of Commerce Health & Safety Committee, 4H Club, and First United Methodist Church Youth Program. Carla was instrumental in obtaining the Avera Health Foundation grant for YAMWI to provide the ACT Program training and has brought numerous speakers to the YAMWI conference. She is a member of the Board of Directors for Yankton Area Mental Wellness, Inc. and currently the Secretary of the YAMWI Conference Planning Committee.

Mental Wellness Community Service Award

Yankton Children's Mental Health Fund

The Mental Wellness Community Service Award is presented in recognition for service to those living with mental health concerns. The recipient brings greater attention to the mental wellness conference, promotes a spirit of collaboration between service providers, assists in recognizing the talents of local mental health professionals, supports mental health service delivery, promotes sharing of information, works to increase awareness for the mental health needs of local citizens, and promotes mental wellness by example or service. The Yankton Children's Mental Health

Fund was founded by Marian Gunderson and Pam & Don Kettering and their generous donations. Established through Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services (LCBHS), the Yankton Children's Mental Health Fund provides assistance to offset costs for children and their families needing mental health services. Children's outpatient services are the fastest growing program at LCBHS and many of those families cannot afford the medical expenses. In addition, this fund allows others to donate to children – even small donations are welcome and count up to help kids in need!

About YAMWI

Many people from all throughout the region have come to rely on the YAMWI conference as a means for networking, for obtaining high quality education on mental health issues and for assistance in completing professional education to support licensure and recertification requirements. Planning is well underway for the 2011 conference to be held on June 8 & 9, 2011, at Mount Marty College. For more information on the 2011 YAMWI Conference contact: www.yamwi.org or email yamwi.org@gmail.com

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PHOTO:

Yankton Area Mental Wellness, Inc. (YAMWI) presented awards to key supporters promoting mental health services within the community and across the region. Awards were presented during the 12th Annual Yankton Area Mental Wellness Conference, held on June 9 & 10, 2010 at Mount Marty College, Yankton. Pam Kettering, Executive Director of United Way & Volunteer Services of Yankton and Matt Michels, Avera Health presented the following awards on behalf of YAMWI. The YAMWI Board of Directors Award was presented to Michael R. Miranda of Sioux Falls, in recognition of outstanding support and service for the Yankton Area Mental Wellness Conference. The Professional Leadership Award was presented to Charles Barron of Yankton, in recognition for professional contributions to YAMWI as an officer and presenter for the Yankton Area Mental Wellness Conference. The Theme Award recognizes dedicated service that best fulfills this year's YAMWI Conference Theme "Counting on YOU to Make a Difference" and was presented to Carla Hummel. The Mental Wellness Community Service Award was presented to the Yankton Children's Mental Health Fund.

Photo:

Front row left to right: Charles Barron, Carla Hummel

Back row left to right: Michael Miranda, Pam Kettering and Thomas Stanage, Chairman of YAMWI Board of Directors.

Photo attachment: YAMWI Awards 2010