

2008 EXCELLENCE AWARDS Director's Choice Award

Vicki Skryha



According to her many supporters, Vicki Skryha is the person most responsible in Oregon for the development of affordable housing for people in recovery from mental illness and substance abuse.

During her many years with the State Addictions and Mental Health Division of the Department of Human Services, and before with the SE Mental Health Network, Vicki's passionate concentration and ability to work with multiple partners in a solid, collaborative way has resulted in the success of numerous new housing projects around the state for people with mental illness. Her low key style, subtle sense of humor, remarkable technical competence and well-developed business ethics are a few of the qualities that set Vicki apart.

During the nomination process, a number of individuals stepped forward to provide comments in support of Vicki's nomination:

"In the 1990s, Options for Southern Oregon, was a small nonprofit learning the ropes of mental health service and soon discovered that the lack of affordable, safe and decent housing was a major barrier to stability and recovery. Reaching out to Vicki, we found a compassionate and informed advocate and authority with real suggestions and resources."

"Vicki has been an inspiration and support to virtually everyone who has worked in the world of housing and mental health in Oregon in the past twenty years. No one surpasses her regarding her knowledge of the services system in Oregon"

"Her attitude has always been one of 'how will we make this happen' rather than 'can we make this happen.' Not only does Vicki display this 'can do' attitude, she inspires others to share in it and make wonderful things happen."