



2008 Nonprofit Excellence Award

The Center for Non-Profits, in partnership with **BD** and the **Star-Ledger**, congratulates the winners of the inaugural **New Jersey Nonprofit Excellence Award**. Inspired by programs established in Washington, DC, New York City, and other parts of the country, the **New Jersey Nonprofit Excellence Award** is designed to highlight and reward nonprofits that demonstrate exemplary achievements in impact of programming, sound, ethical management and governance, and innovation and resourcefulness. This awards program is being introduced as we celebrate the Center for Non-Profits' 25th anniversary of service and leadership for New Jersey's nonprofit community.

The winning organizations - one each in a "smaller" organization and "larger" organization category - will receive a \$7,500 award plus recognition at the Center for Non-Profits' 25th anniversary reception and conference on December 9th and 10th, 2008, and in broader public education efforts.

In addition, the winning organizations will also have the opportunity to access higher education opportunities donated by the following institutions: **Mercer County Community College**; **Seton Hall University Center for Public Service**; and **Brookdale Community College**.



WINNER - Larger Organization (budget \$500,000 or more)

Center for Prevention and Counseling, Newton, NJ

Barbara Adolphe, Executive Director

The Center for Prevention and Counseling, founded in 1973, is a substance abuse treatment and prevention agency serving Sussex County. Its mission is to promote health, hope and recovery among all people by creating an environment that is safe and free from the effects of substance abuse and addiction. In making its determination, the award selection committee was particularly impressed with the potential for replication of the organization's management practices to other non-profits; the commitment to values and mission infusing all aspects of human resources; active involvement of the board of trustees; and the level of programming and achievement of results within its budget. More information about the Center for Prevention and Counseling is available at www.centerforprevention.org.

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WINNER - Smaller Organization (budget less than \$500,000)

Trenton Children's Chorus, Princeton, NJ

Taione Martinez, Executive Artistic Director

Trenton
Children's
Chorus

Making Music
Making Friends
Making a Difference

Trenton Children's Chorus, founded in 1989, is an after-school choir serving Trenton and the surrounding communities. Its mission is to give young people the chance to sing a wide range of choral literature, especially children who might not otherwise have an opportunity to do so; and to provide a way for children and youth from different backgrounds to get to know one another through artistic endeavor. In selecting Trenton Children's Chorus, the judges called special attention to its leveraging of partners and resources beyond Mercer County; strong board involvement in the organization; commitment to evaluation and results; and utilization of its strategic plan to aid the expansion of the organization. More information about Trenton Children's Chorus is available at www.trentonchildrenschorus.org.

The Selection Process

In this, the first year of the award, we were thrilled at the level of participation in response to our call for applications. Over 80 applications total were received, with over 50 in the large organization category. The winning organizations in each category were selected by an independent, volunteer Awards Selection Committee representing government, business, academia, non-profits, accounting and organized philanthropy. The Center for Non-Profits served as the administrator of the award program but its staff or board members did not serve on the Selection Committee. We gratefully acknowledge the members of the selection committee for their thoughtful deliberation:

Rikki Abzug

Francis Blanco

Rhonda Crichlow

Ellen Lambert

Jacqueline Rubel

Jane Silverman

Nina Stack

June Toth

Promoting Excellence, Sharing Ideas

The New Jersey Nonprofit Excellence Award is designed to shine a bright light on the achievements and sound practices of New Jersey's non-profits. In the coming months, the Center for Non-Profits intends to share the ideas, innovations and strengths of the winners and the other applicants with the broader non-profit community in order to inspire others and provide opportunities for learning. We envision the New Jersey Nonprofit Excellence Award as an evolving initiative that will foster increased awareness, within and outside the non-profit community, of the innovations and accomplishments of the non-profits. We welcome suggestions and involvement as the process continues to unfold.

Acknowledgements

The Center for Non-Profits gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions of our partners, BD and the Star-Ledger, in making this project possible. Our colleagues at the Center for Nonprofit Advancement in Washington, DC, and the Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York readily shared their wisdom and experience as we prepared to develop the Nonprofit Excellence Award in New Jersey. We thank Mercer County Community College; Seton Hall University Center for Public Service; and Brookdale Community College for their generous donation of learning opportunities. Finally, we acknowledge the First Occupational Center of New Jersey for its in-kind support of this initiative.