

**We are proud to announce the 2010 Children Come First Award Winners this year, they are:**

**Ann Hager Advocacy Award went to Jennifer Szprejda, Neopit, WI.** The Ann Hager Advocacy Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to advocacy for children with behavioral health needs and their families. This award recognizes someone who sees a person's strengths regardless of the challenges present, fights for change and doesn't give up, and sees opportunity in every challenge.

**Distinguished Professional Service Award went to Paula Verneti, Iron County, WI.** This award is presented to a professional or professional group that has demonstrated unyielding dedication to the principles of collaborative systems of care in working with children with behavioral health needs and their families. Award selection will be based on the recipient's performance above and beyond typical job requirements. Individuals and organizations from any field of endeavor are eligible for the Distinguished Professional Service Award.

**Outstanding Family Member Award went to Rose Ann West, from Cambridge, WI.** This award recognizes a parent, caregiver or family member who has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to children with mental health needs. The award recipient will have made significant contributions to enrich the lives of children through his/her understanding, persistence, generosity, collaborative mindset or sense of justice.

**Outstanding Youth Award went to Ashley Enoch, from Rice Lake, WI.** The Outstanding Youth Award recognizes a youth for achievements in self-advocacy or activism. This award is presented to a youth who has demonstrated characteristics such as leadership, creativity, tenacity, integrity and courage in the face of adversity.

**Eleanor McLean Award for Outstanding Public Service went to George Hulick, Madison, WI.** This is not an annual award but rather featured from time to time to recognize specific individuals who have emulated Eleanor's efforts. Eleanor's passion, vision and tireless commitment to service improvement, and her ability to get all of us to work just a little bit harder to get things right are the inspiration for this award. It is designed to help us honor public servants whose long-term dedication to getting things right, and willingness to fight the good fight from within the bramble and mine fields of the bureaucracy make it possible for more children and families throughout our state to get the help they need when they need it.