



## Press Release

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In photo: Peter Letourneau, TCMHS Board President, Trooper Ricki Cote, Trooper Tyler Stevenson, and Chris Copeland, TCMHS Executive Director.

## State Troopers and Longtime Employee Honored by TCMHS

AUBURN, ME - At its Annual Meeting Event on October 19, Tri-County Mental Health Services conferred its two highest honors for people who do extraordinary work on behalf of people with mental illness.

The **Giving Voice Award** was presented to *State Troopers Ricki Cote and Tyler Stevenson*, with mention also of their K-9 helper Ramos. The Troopers were nominated by Cassandra Linton, a TCMHS Crisis Worker, in connection with a specific incident in which they risked their own health and safety to intervene with a client attempting suicide. "It is without a doubt in my mind and in my heart the dedication, determination and unselfish qualities of these Troopers saved my client's life..." Linton noted, "Their extraordinary efforts gave our consumer more than a voice that night; they gave him another chance at life and did it despite the safety of their own lives." Trooper Cote is Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Certified and also a CIT trainer who trains law enforcement personnel and first responders. Trooper Stevenson is a member of the Maine State Police Tactical Team and his K-9 partner is "Ramos".

The **Inspiration Award** was given to longtime employee and passionate advocate *Joan Detel, Manager of TCMHS Residential Services*. Chris Copeland, Executive Director, accepted the award on Joan's behalf, as she was recovering from surgery and unable to attend in person. He credited her with building most of the agency's programs for adults with severe and persistent mental illness, including community integration services, outpatient treatment, and residential. "She is a tireless advocated for the residents in our community housing unit, but also for all individuals with severe and persistent mental illness throughout the state," he quoted from her nomination, which was submitted by staff.

The crowd of more than 130 people gave standing ovations to all the award winners.

The 2010 Annual Meeting was sponsored by Healey & Associates and Health Plans-a Harvard Pilgrim Company, with additional support from Dresser & Associates.

Tri-County Mental Health Services is one of Maine's most respected and progressive agencies dealing with the psychological and social well-being of children, adults, and elders. TCMHS serves nearly 10,000 individuals each year in Androscoggin, Cumberland, Franklin and Oxford counties and beyond with innovative programs and services addressing mental health, substance abuse, mental retardation/developmental disabilities, autism, and more. The agency is a state, regional and national leader in trauma-informed and recovery-based service delivery, and strives to offer hope to individuals, families, and communities. Visit [www.tcmhs.org](http://www.tcmhs.org) for more information.