



Valley Youth House
829 Linden Street
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For Immediate Release

***Valley Youth House Wins National Award
Youth Education Program Recognized by Federal Agency***

October 28, 2008 The Youth Education Program of Valley Youth House is one of the 29 organizations nationwide to be recognized by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The annual award program is given to public and private sector organizations for the exemplary implementation of programs demonstrated to prevent and/or treat mental illness and substance abuse.

“Families and individuals expect the best services possible for the prevention and treatment of health conditions,” said SAMHSA Acting Administrator Dr. Eric Broderick. “These award winners are blazing the trail to show how it can be done.”

Valley Youth House programs recognized by the government agency included Too Good for Drugs II and Strengthening Families Program for Parents and Youth Ages 10-14 which are operated in the Northern Lehigh School District. SAMHSA also cited the work the agency does with Students Against Destructive Decisions, a Peer Helper Training, and psycho-educational groups conducted at the school.

SAMHSA noted that “All of these programs provide students with the skills needed to grow up to be productive individuals who make positive choices.”

In accepting the award Ann Adams, Coordinator of the Youth Education Program acknowledged the partnership Valley Youth House has formed with Northern Lehigh. She also noted that SAMHSA recognized Valley Youth House because the programs have produced measurable results.

“SAMHSA noted that our programs were of very high quality, and we are proud to be recognized in this manner.” said Adams. “The programs demonstrated significant improvements in family communication and cohesiveness and student decision making related to substance abuse.”

SAMHSA is a public health agency within the Department of Health and Human Services. The agency is responsible for improving the accountability, capacity and effectiveness of the nation’s substance abuse prevention, addiction treatments, and mental health services delivery system.

Valley Youth House is a Lehigh Valley-based social services agency devoted to assuring that every child in our society will have a chance to develop into a healthy, productive, and responsible adult. The agency offers a range of residential, counseling, mental health, and life-skills education services in Lehigh, Northampton, Bucks, Montgomery, Carbon, and Philadelphia Counties.

Valley Youth House has offices in Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Warminster, Norristown, and Philadelphia, and a full and part-time staff of 300. The agency serves 9,000 youth and their families each year, more than 90% of whom are from the Lehigh Valley.

More information on these awards is available through the Science and Services Awards page on SAMHA's Web site at <http://www.samhsa.gov/scienceandservice/>.

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