

**For Immediate Release:  
June 18, 2008**

**Contact: Robert Pini  
(802) 442-5491  
[rpini@ucsvt.org](mailto:rpini@ucsvt.org)**

## **UCS Staff Awards Luncheon Recognizes 50<sup>th</sup> Year of Accomplishments**

Bennington, Vt. — The annual staff recognition luncheon on June 18 opened by paying tribute to 50 years of accomplishments from UCS staff.

“Fifty years is quite an accomplishment, which we will celebrate at our birthday bash in September, but as I reflect this milestone today, I know it signifies many accomplishments achieved by many people — you and others like you from years past,” said Executive Director Ralph Provenza.

Held at the elegant Paresky Wing of the Bennington Museum, the luncheon glittered with festive decorations, shining awards, and broad smiles.

“The purpose of one’s life is not to just be happy, but to *matter*, to be productive, to be useful, and to make some difference in the world,” Provenza said. “I think that defines the history of this agency and hopefully the future as well.”

Glenn Comar got the biggest surprise of the afternoon when he realized he was the winner of the Cleveland and Phyllis Dodge Award, presented for his longstanding efforts to advance mental health in the community. A 20-year veteran of the UCS board, Comar received a standing ovation for his long serving support to UCS.

Adrien Bagatelle, Shannon Buck, and Sue Pierce were all nominated for the prestigious Scully Award, which recognizes dedication that transforms lives and inspires others. At the end of the program, Sue Pierce was announced as the Scully Award winner.

Service awards were given to all staff celebrating milestone years. Other awards included the Quality Team Award, the Excellence Award, and awards for internships and staff who have completed degree training.

### **Scully Award Nominees**

Each Scully Award nominee must have served UCS and the community for many years and be dedicated to the people of the community and their needs to such an extent that they are an inspiration to others.

### **Sue Pierce, Head Start**

For more than 20 years, Sue Pierce has been a dedicated and exceptional clinician at UCS; more recently as the Coordinator of the Northshire Head Start program. She is responsible for all health, education, and family services for the program in Arlington and Manchester. She advocates for services and opportunities for Head Start families and she juggles all of these responsibilities

effortlessly. She is highly respected in the early education community for her insight and knowledge of family systems.

Even with a full load this year, Pierce agreed to oversee the mental health component for the entire Head Start program in order to insure a successful Federal review. She works closely with her colleagues and staff within and without Head Start, and her high standards have insured that quality and respectful services are provide to our young children and their families.

### **Adrien Bagatelle, Community Rehabilitation and Emergency Services**

Adrien Bagatelle is deeply committed to her clients and finds solutions even when presented with the greatest of difficulties. She balances many needs, looks for teaching moments when she can including helping clients can manage their finances. She is a leader in our effort to increase staff knowledge about substance abuse, providing training and consultation throughout the agency. She has provided training to the nurses at Battelle House and was an expert panelist at the BHN conference on co-occurring disorders.

Bagatelle is a creative and imaginative participant in the CRES management team. She offers new ideas and maintains a positive attitude, and often jumps in to assist her colleagues. She is a valued source of assistance, advice and companionship.

### **Shannon Buck, Developmental Services**

Since 1994 Shannon Buck has grown steadily in her responsibilities, always working to be the best advocate and care provider she can possibly be. From her start at Autumn House as a Level I worker to her current responsibilities as Group Home Coordinator for all three DS group homes, she has respectfully cared for each person in her charge, greatly endearing herself to them. Her heart is with her clients.

She also contributes significantly as a member of the DS management team. She has helped to identify, hire, and train many staff, and she supports them just as closely as she does her clients. Active in the agency Employee Recognition effort, and a critical provider of CPR & First Aid training to all our employees, she is a clear example (and a happy, helpful, pleasant, smiling example) of what it truly means to serve and support others.

UCS serves children, adults, families, and seniors through nationally recognized counseling, early care and education, and clinical support that changes lives. Visit [www.ucsvt.org](http://www.ucsvt.org) to find out more.

-End-