

April 13, 2010

## PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS (PANO) HOLDS ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND ANNOUNCES STANDARDS FOR EXCELLENCE® CLASS OF 2010

(Harrisburg, PA) Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations (PANO) held its Annual Conference on April 6 at the Harrisburg Hilton. The conference began with a keynote address from special speaker Robert Egger, President of the DC Central Kitchen. Conference participants then attended educational workshops on: Technology, Corporate Sponsorship, Nonprofit Advocacy, Health Insurance, Nonprofit Collaboration, Team Building, Social Media, Mergers and Nonprofit Governance.

A highlight of the event was honoring seven newly certified organizations, and three recertified organizations that have been *awarded the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations' "Standards for Excellence Seal,"* from May 2009 to March 2010. The newly certified organizations are: Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg, PA, Inc., Domestic Violence Center of Chester County (West Chester), Easter Seals Eastern Pennsylvania (Allentown), New Hope Ministries (Dillsburg), Phoenixville Healthcare Access Foundation, Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services, Inc. (Charleroi), and United Methodist Home for Children, Inc. (Mechanicsburg)

Organizations that were recertified for a period of five years are: The Arc of Chester County (West Chester), Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance (Harrisburg), and Surrey Services for Seniors, Inc. (Berwyn).

In addition to the certification process, Standards for Excellence® provides many educational components to assist nonprofits in building operational capacity. The voluntary certification process includes a peer review process that sets high standards and promotes excellence and accountability for nonprofits through self-regulation. In an era of heightened scrutiny of nonprofits, the goals of the program are to build capacity in nonprofit organizations in order to increase the accountability and credibility of the sector. Areas covered in the Standards are: mission and program, governing body, conflict of interest, human resources, financial & legal, openness, fundraising and public affairs/public policy.

For information about PANO workshops and events, please contact Megan Resser, Director of Programs and Events, at (717) 236-8584 x1012 or [megan@pano.org](mailto:megan@pano.org). For more information on the **Standards for Excellence®** program, contact Tish Mogan, Standards for Excellence Officer, at (717) 236-8584 x1001 or [tish@pano.org](mailto:tish@pano.org).

PANO is the statewide membership organization serving and advancing the charitable nonprofit sector through leadership, advocacy, education and services in order to improve the quality of life in Pennsylvania. PANO represents all regions of the state and all sectors of the nonprofit community including human service, health, educational, cultural, environmental, religious and other charitable organizations and foundations.



From Left to Right - **BACK:** Dr. David Reed, United Methodist Home for Children, Inc.; Jorge Alonso and Eric Saunders, New Hope Ministries; Dolly Wideman-Scott, Domestic Violence Center of Chester County; Barbara Fentress, Surrey Services for Seniors, Inc.; Michael Kumer, Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services, Inc. **FRONT:** Pete Biasucci, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg, PA, Inc.; Angela Liddle, Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance; Diane Carey, The Arc of Chester County; Tracy Shantz and Laura Fretz, Phoenixville Healthcare Access Foundation (Not pictured: Nancy Teichman, Easter Seals Eastern Pennsylvania)