



Recognition and Appreciation in Atlanta

Awards presented during CHADD's 22nd Annual International Conference on ADHD

AWARDS ARE A TRADITION AT CHADD'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE. The gathering provides an ideal opportunity to recognize outstanding volunteers and professionals who work tirelessly to improve lives affected by ADHD.

The following awards highlighted the November 2010 conference in Atlanta.



CHADD President Steven Peer and Conference Co-Chair Sharon Weiss with Hall of Fame inductee Anne Teeter Ellison

HALL OF FAME AWARD

CHADD established the Hall of Fame in 1994 to honor individuals at the forefront of research, medicine, or education who have made a significant impact on the lives of people with ADHD. It is considered one of the most prestigious awards in the mental health community. The 2010 inductee was **Phyllis Anne Teeter Ellison, EdD.**

A professor emeritus of educational psychology at the University of Wisconsin-

Milwaukee, Ellison has advanced research on ADHD throughout her career. She is the author of the highly regarded *Interventions for ADHD: Treatments in Developmental Context*, one of the only books that looks at the etiology, diagnosis, and treatment of ADHD in a developmental context. She co-authored *Child Neuropsychology: Assessment and Interventions for Neurodevelopmental Disorders*, which details the study of brain function and child and adolescent behavior.

Ellison has given years of exceptional service to CHADD, serving as president from 2005 to 2008, always ensuring that the organization disseminates evidence-based practices. She has chaired and been a member of CHADD's professional advisory board and the editorial advisory board for *Attention* magazine, and served as chair and co-chair of the annual international conference. She spearheaded the development of the Teacher to Teacher program and continues to work on developing its curriculum.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

A special education teacher at the East County Academy of Learning in Lakeside, California, **Katherine Nell McNeil, EdD**, teaches students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are diagnosed with severe emotional/behavioral disorders. She is able to reach these students because she has been there herself. She barely made it through high school and entered college unable to write a coherent paragraph. While studying at university, she was diagnosed with severe ADHD and significant learning disabilities. Undeterred, she earned her bachelor's, master's, and doctorate in education—while working full-time as a special education teacher. She challenges her students to reach their fullest potential, giving them a multicultural perspective by sharing her experience as a Native American and opening the world of technology to them through a digital media design class. When a student says "I can't," she responds: "I won't accept that. If I can, you can. We have the same disabilities. So let's work together and find a solution."



Katherine McNeil

INNOVATIVE PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

Profiled in *Attention* in June 2010, the Fairfax County ADHD Partnership is a model for how schools, families, and community professionals can join forces to help students with ADHD. Its members—parents, pediatricians, community psychologists, social workers, and behavioral therapists, as well as school administrators, school psychologists, social workers, guidance counselors, and special education teachers—meet six times a year to assess the needs of students with ADHD and to determine how best to train school personnel and others to address these needs. Trainings are offered to schools and local professionals at minimal or no cost. The Partnership recently produced *ADHD Teens Talk*, a training video for secondary and elementary school that has been successful locally and nationally.



From left: Anne Teeter Ellison, Maureen Gill, Patrice Garver and Fereshteh Shahrokhi of the Fairfax County ADHD Partnership, Mark Katz, Steven Peer, and Sharon Weiss



Diana Fertsch, MD

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP AWARDS

A pediatrician with a huge practice, **Diana Fertsch, MD**, facilitates a branch in Dundalk, Maryland—a low-income, underserved population.

Dinner is served at every meeting because

so many in the area are struggling financially. Fertsch's journey includes a personal dimension, since her own son was diagnosed. She works to improve the care of children in her community by raising awareness about ADHD and its treatment among other physicians.

Jean Gavin, a member of the professional advisory board of the Lee County Chapter, is the "first line" of contact anyone seeking support from CHADD in Southwest Florida. For eighteen years she has maintained the communication links between the local group, the national CHADD organization, teachers, parents and children, and professionals. Gavin organizes interesting monthly meetings that feature engaging and knowledgeable speakers.

Holly Graff has been the backbone of the Sacramento, California branch for several years. She brings interesting and informative speakers to each meeting, offering breakout groups targeted to the membership's changing needs. She involves the region's best experts and resources, and whenever possible she appears on media outlets to inform and involve the public. Graff has trained and supported parents and developed a terrific community network.

CHADD AFFILIATES OF THE YEAR

Monmouth County CHADD has been able to accomplish much since opening in 2008. The chapter began by holding the monthly parent support group in the evening, but soon recognized the need for a daytime program so parents could attend while children were in school. The chapter responded to the need for adult support group meetings as well. Monmouth County CHADD's networking and collaboration have brought other organizations to the chapter as the local resource on ADHD.



Linda VanMelis, Eva O'Malley, Joyce Bartley Turk, and Jan Manos of Monmouth County CHADD

CHADD of North Texas has expanded to include branches throughout the northern part of the state. The chapter collaborates with school districts, colleges, and universities, and advocates with clinics and other social agencies. For the last five years the chapter has offered an annual education program in both English and Spanish. The coordinator, a certified Parent to Parent teacher, provides training to parents in the community at least twice a year.



Natalie Davenport, Jan Seltzer-Garza, Mike Garza, Kerry Davis, and Dulce Torres of CHADD of North Texas

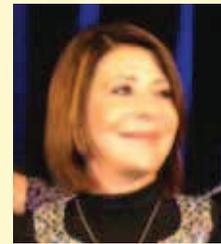
PARENT TO PARENT TEACHER AWARDS

Certified as a Parent to Parent Teacher in 2007, **Jim Drey** has taught classes in the Akron, Ohio area and online. He is an adult with ADHD with a background as a corporate trainer, so his classes are full of lively discussion. He also facilitates an email discussion group, allowing participants to continue exchanging ideas and supporting one another. Drey often helps with organizing P2P certification trainings. When an online teacher had to bow out at the very last minute, he came to the rescue and took over. CHADD's P2P staff can always turn to him when there's an emergency.

Fran Parker was certified as a Parent to Parent teacher in 2004 and has been teaching P2P classes in Michigan ever since. Her classes often have a waiting list. As both a parent and a psychologist, she brings multiple levels of expertise to her classes. She recently joined the ranks of online teachers, to rave reviews. Whenever she develops materials for a presentation about ADHD, she freely shares them

with CHADD and other P2P teachers. She has served on CHADD's national membership workgroup for many years and continues to be a highly effective local coordinator.

Maria Elena Frade Rubio of Mexico City understands the importance of finding support, as the mother of children with ADHD who are now young adults. As president of the Fundación Cultural Frederico Hoth, she started ProyectoDAH to help other families. She traveled to the United States to take the Parent to Parent teacher training, arranged for the translation of all P2P materials into Spanish, and hosted the training of the first class of community P2P teachers in Mexico City.



Maria Elena Frade Rubio



Juan Carlos Pérez Castro Vázquez

A psychologist by training, **Juan Carlos Pérez Castro**

Vázquez is vice president of the Fundación Cultural Frederico Hoth and spearheaded the development of ProyectoDAH. He attended P2P certification training in the United States. He also manages the translation of P2P materials and training in Mexico City, which will allow the program to be offered in Spanish throughout the world.



P2P Teachers Fran Parker, Jim Drey, and CHADD President Steven Peer

JAD AND CHADD FAMILY ISSUES AWARD

This joint award is presented each year to the authors of an innovative article published in the *Journal of Attention Disorders* on issues related to families and ADHD. The 2010 award was presented to two researchers based in Stockholm, Sweden—**Lisa B. Thorell** of the Karolinska Institute and **Kerstin Dahlstrom** of the Astrid Lindgren Children's Hospital. Their study was published as "Children's Self-Reports on Perceived Effects of Taking Stimulant Medication for ADHD" in the *Journal of Attention Disorders* [12(5), 460-468]. Thorell and Dahlstrom demonstrated that a child's knowledge of medication use was an important factor in influencing the child's willingness to continue taking prescribed medication. ☪