

White Earth DOVE staff honors volunteers, organizations with appreciation luncheon

By Gary W. Padrta, Anishinaabeg Today

The White Earth DOVE (Down on Violence Everyday) Program staff held an Appreciation Luncheon for several individuals who were recognized for their dedication to serving victims of violence on Aug. 4 at the Shooting Star Casino Event Center. White Earth Secretary-Treasurer Robert Durant gave the welcoming remarks and keynote speaker Jermaine M. Davis followed with his presentation *Thriving as a Team: Overcoming Adversity to Achieve Success*.

The first individuals recognized with certificates were DOVE volunteers **Mary Riegert, Jenna Schoenberger, Vickie McCollum, Tresa Harbit, Kayla Renney, Emily Annette and Judy Harder.**

"These DOVE volunteers help support the DOVE program in many ways," said Ben Bement who served as Master of Ceremonies. "They volunteer their time to help answer calls on the 24-hour crisis line and they participate in DOVE events and help build the collaboration to make DOVE more affective in reaching those who have been a victim."

The following people were also recognized with certificates for their commitment to services and who support collaborating with others for the betterment of Native people. A statement of their accomplishments were read by Bement

Tara Mason - Human Services

Tara is a supportive person for DOVE. She is always ready to listen and is willing to assist in finding solutions to meet the needs of the people served. She is a great support person for the staff and the White Earth Reservation communities.

Jon Weaver

Jon understands the needs of the consumer and he understands domestic violence. When one of his consumers has addresses concerns of domestic violence he will work into the case plan strategies to help the individual. Jon was also the voice of the DOVE program on one of our radio ads.

Randy Goodwin - Chief of Police

We would like to recognize Randy for his accomplishments in improving the effectiveness of the tribal police department. Randy and his collaboration with the DOVE program has helped improve the services for the victims of crime.

Mike LaRoque - Deputy Chief

Mike has worked many years for the tribal police department and has stood with us in our work against perpetrators and protecting victims of crime. He has help facilitate changes to the tribal police department to help our two programs work more efficiently together.

Jeanine Brand - Clearwater County Attorney

We would like to thank Jeanine for her consistent collaboration efforts with our ASART team. She has participated in numerous DOVE events and has help improve our response to victims. Jeanine has partnered with several programs with her role on CCCVC, CAPC and ASART and has help give these teams direction in providing services to victims. The following people received plaques.

Lori Thompson - Tribal Court

Lori has always been a supporter of the DOVE program and all of our activities. She is a very hard worker and goes out of her way to help DOVE clients. Lori has always helped DOVE by being a long-standing member of the advisory council and has collaborated with the Safe Havens Project and the Media Grant. Her input is valuable and appreciated.

Lee Riepple - Sergeant

Sergeant Riepple has shown the dedication and compassion towards victims of violence and has been willing to go out of his way in helping to make sure that the victims are able to receive the services that they need. He has volunteered his time for many DOVE events and has even encouraged his fellow officers to attend. After working an all-night shift he still found time to help support the 5K Run/Walk.