

## **Community Service**

### **Rose Stoller**

Senior Program Director, The Consensus Council, Bismarck, N.D.

*"Rose is a tough mental health advocate and a depression survivor who helped make depression a recognizable and treatable illness in her community." - Mike Faenza, Awards Committee.*

It is clear when you read Ms. Stoller's list of accomplishments that she has committed her life to helping other people with depression and mental illness. Her work is especially noted in North Dakota, a state with scarce mental health resources where treatment often is inaccessible in smaller communities.

Ms. Stoller began her career as a social worker but shifted gears to advocacy work. She was instrumental in having the phrase "serious mental illness is cause for divorce" deleted from legislation related to her state's divorce and child custody laws.

Even though Ms. Stoller worked with mental health consumers, it wasn't until she experienced depression first hand that she understood how debilitating and isolating it can be. As she puts it, recovery was like a true "welcome back."

*Ms. Stoller is donating her \$5,000 award to Mental Health Association in North Dakota.*