



For Immediate Release

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Compeer of Suburban Philadelphia Honors Mental Health Advocate of the Year

(Sharon Hill, PA) On May 14th, Compeer of Suburban Philadelphia honored **Oanh Kim Le** as the **2010 Advocate of the Year** at Compeer's 20th annual Friendship Luncheon at the Chateau Granieri in Norristown. For nineteen years, Compeer of Suburban Philadelphia has matched caring adult volunteers in one-to-one, co-equal friendships with people of the same gender who are in mental health recovery. Each year, Compeer of Suburban Philadelphia honors an individual who has exhibited an unparalleled effort toward mental health care and advocacy with the Advocate of the Year award.

“This is a prestigious award because it recognizes the recipient’s ability to go above and beyond to help people heal from mental illnesses,” explained Program Director Joseph Cruice. “In choosing an honoree, we look for someone who has a sincere desire to be a partner in bringing friendship, encouragement and empowerment to people in mental health recovery.”

Over four years, Le has worked in both a Psych Rehab Program and in Individual Placement and Support at Northwestern Human Services. Her co-worker Carol Brown nominated her for the award. “Kim is a person of immense character with an unstoppable motivation to better the lives of others in need,” explained Brown.

“It’s such an honor to receive the Advocate of the Year award,” commented Le. “This award is not only for me but for all those that I serve, including my staff. I thank you all.”

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The Friendship Luncheon is a celebration of the relationships between volunteers and their friends. This year's theme was *A Twenty-Twenty Vision of Friendship*.

“The work we do at Compeer is unique,” commented Program Director Joseph Cruice. “The friendships and connections we provide create a vital foundation for healthy, long-lasting relationships.”

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Photo caption: Oanh Kim Le accepts the Advocate of the Year award from Compeer of Suburban Philadelphia's program director Joseph Cruice at Compeer's 20th annual Friendship Luncheon.