



Member Recognition

2018 MOHR Life Enrichment Awards

To recognize the important role that MOHR member organizations play in bettering the lives of the individuals they serve, the Minnesota Organization for Habilitation and Rehabilitation (MOHR) is seeking nominations for its First Annual **MOHR Life Enrichment Awards** for member programs serving individuals with disabilities.

MOHR members are using creative and effective approaches to enrich people's lives through non-vocational services such as arts, community inclusion activities, self-advocacy programs, and other efforts. While work and employers are also very important, non-vocational services are equally crucial to providing a well-rounded and fulfilling life to individuals with disabilities. Enrichment efforts help to build friendships and community, increase skills and self-confidence, and assist in drawing out a wide range of abilities. At its most basic level, life enrichment brings out the best in others. Programs or activities to submit for an award should be considered as exceptional examples which are unusual, rather than typical.

Nominations needed

MOHR is requesting nominations from its nonprofit members, family members or individuals served by one or more members, and outside groups or organizations that are significant partners with the MOHR member to be recognized. Only MOHR member programs will be chosen as winners. Members are encouraged to submit more than one nomination. MOHR will judge the submissions based on the responses to the questions asked below and any supporting materials. MOHR reserves the right to choose the number of winners based on the number and quality of the entries and the individual MOHR regions represented.

What does or does not qualify as a Life Enrichment activity?

It is important that award nominations do not involve paid work in the traditional sense. Instead, nominations should center around programming that enhances the quality of people's lives through other means. This is not to say that the programming can't benefit a person's work capabilities or blend well with the work-related aspects of someone's life. And, performing volunteer work that provides financial value can be considered a life enrichment activity.

Also, non-traditional jobs such as the creation and sale of artwork or other created materials would not be considered as "work" in this context. Some activities may involve products being sold. The general rule would be to consider if the project is primarily for a source of income or more recreational and for enjoyment, but with a financial component that may involve sales. For example, actors with disabilities in a drama group may be given some funds based on ticket sales, artists may be compensated for their artwork when it is sold, proceeds from a greenhouse garden project may be shared by throwing a pizza party for program participants, and so on.

Disability service providers deserve recognition, and MOHR has an important statewide role to play in sharing some of the best examples of the important impact they have on individuals with disabilities.

Please answer the following questions and submit the enclosed form via email to The Wallace Group by February 14, 2018 to nominate a MOHR member for this recognition. Contact Aaron Hustedde, aaron@wallacegroup.com, 651-452-9800.

QUALIFICATIONS: MOHR asks that Life Enrichment activities performed by MOHR members be more than one-time events, but are either ongoing or repeated efforts that occur during particular seasons, or annually. The MOHR member must be significantly involved in providing the service, opportunity or activity for the people with disabilities who are served.

Also, the MOHR member, and any partners in the Life Enrichment activity would agree to any publicity that MOHR would seek out in area newspapers, on radio, television social media, etc.

MOHR also encourages members to submit Life Enrichment examples for efforts that have already won similar recognition from other organizations (you still need you to fill out the form).

MOHR Life Enrichment Awards goals

After choosing the winners, with a goal of at least one from each of MOHR's 10 Regions, MOHR will design and purchase a customized etched acrylic award for each recipient. Winners are encouraged to present the awards to the groups that are involved with the Life Enrichment programming or activities. MOHR can assist with sharing the news with area media, but will not be on site to coordinate or report directly on special events. MOHR can also assist in the creation of news releases highlighting each winner, and is planning to make calls and send emails (and any submitted photos) to media outlets of interest.

MOHR 2017 Life Enrichment Awards – Questionnaire and Nomination Form

(There is no limit to response length, but please describe the activity as succinctly as you can.)

1. How does this program, event or major activity serve individuals effectively and improve their lives, and what makes it exceptional? How is ingenuity used and how has the provider shown an ability to “think outside the box?”

2. How are people in the program and in the community impacted? What is the history and timeline of the program aspects and how has it been improved? What challenges were overcome?

3. How are individuals with disabilities involved in making choices (person-centered) in the program (direction, creativity)? How much of the activity is performed by people with disabilities? By volunteers? Staff?

4. What do you expect the long-term impact of the program to be and how is it being sustained?

5. How have the ideas or concepts of this program spread and benefited others?

6. Is there anything else that should be mentioned in connection with this nomination?

MOHR Life Enrichment Awards – Nomination Contacts

MOHR member name _____

Contact person _____

Position/title _____

Office phone and email _____

Mobile phone _____

City and County _____

Name of supporting organization or partner _____

Contact _____

Position _____

Phone and email _____

City and County _____

Name of second supporting organization or partner _____

Contact _____

Position _____

Phone and email _____

City and County _____

List of Supporting documents, photos/videos/files

Nominations are due by February 14

Questions? Please call or email Aaron Hustedde, 651-452-9800, aaron@wallacegroup.com

The Wallace Group assists MOHR with marketing and public relations efforts.