

For Immediate Release:

Ozone House of Ann Arbor: "Best-Managed Non-Profit"

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Ann Arbor, MI ~

Ozone House Youth and Family Services, located in Ann Arbor, Michigan, announced today its recognition as "Best Non-Profit of 2002 with a budget of less than \$3 million" by **Crain's Detroit Business**. "We are honored to receive this award," said Mary Jo Callan, Executive Director of Ozone. "While everyone at Ozone House takes tremendous pride in the work we do for youth and families each day, it is gratifying to receive external recognition for our efforts." Crain's chose Ozone House because of its first-rate management structure and evaluation techniques, as well as its success in diversifying services and funding sources.

Ozone is thriving right now despite the loss in 2001 of long time leader Tanya Hilgendorf. According to Crain's Detroit, this is a sign of excellent management and was a strong ground for the award. "[Ozone] continued with no staff turnover or program disruptions by promoting a new director from within. It also decentralized its management structure and continued a rigorous self-evaluation plan." Mary Jo Callan, who replaced Hilgendorf, agreed, "There hasn't been any disruption. I had been here, and the staff knows and trusts me."

According to Crain's Detroit Business, contest judges were "impressed [by] how Ozone House has diversified its services and sources of funding." Ozone currently has 15 sources of funding (as opposed to relying primarily on government funds as in the past) with private donations supporting 15 percent of operating costs.

One of the judges, Joseph Bianco Jr., president of Eagle Management Consulting L.L.C., stated that he chose Ozone because of their inclusion of parents and runaways. "I think it shows extremely good management."

A huge part of the success of Ozone House is its internal self-evaluation. The copyrighted "Ozone House Youth Outcomes Measurement Instrument" is a crucial and clear indicator to staff of what Ozone is doing and what it needs. "They are very in tune with the services they need," said Manuel of the Child Care Network. Seconding that was Melanie Hwalek, president of SPEC Associates in Detroit, another contest judge, "They had very clear indicators of how they measure success... tied to the mission of the organization."

Ozone House is a non-profit dedicated to youth and family services. Since 1969, Ozone House has provided a wide array of free services to youth and families in crisis, and has remained committed to helping young people lead safe, healthy and productive lives through intensive prevention and intervention services. According to Manuel, "They are the best advocates for children and teens... displaced from their homes or runaways."

Ozone House is located at 1705 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48104 * (734) 662-2265 (Business Line)