

Nonprofit agencies receive awards

By DON FABER
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Ozone House, which helps troubled young people, won the award for excellence in nonprofit management Tuesday at a ceremony described as an "Oscars night without the sequins."

Director Tanya Hilgendorf said she was honored by the award, and she said her organization puts its clients first. "Good management follows naturally from that."

The award, which carries a \$2,500 prize, came at the fifth annual Nonprofit Excellence Awards ceremony sponsored by Nonprofit Enterprise at Work. It was held at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum before a crowd of about 200 people.

Winners of \$1,000 each were International Neighbors, High Scope Educational Research Foundation and Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County.

The awards are jointly funded by Washtenaw United Way and the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation.

Criteria include maximizing all available resources; identifying long- and short-term goals; devising innovative management strategies to realize those goals; and effectively maintaining management excellence over time while overcoming challenges.

In addition, the Kathleen Power Collaboration Award, named after one of the founding members of Nonprofit Enterprise at Work, went to WISH — the Washtenaw Inter-generational Supported Housing project.

This award was established to honor effective collaborative efforts among two or more organizations working together to accomplish their mission in the community.

The seven members of the WISH collaborative include: Homeless Empowerment Relationship Orga-



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nization; Washtenaw County Community Mental Health; Options Center; Plymouth Housing Commission; HelpSource; Michigan Ability Partners and Home of New Vision.

The Power award also carries a \$2,500 prize.

Earlier in the evening, honorary chair Paula Allen-Meares, dean of the University of Michigan School of Social Work, praised the work of local nonprofits.

"The high quality of life in Ann Arbor is partly due to the work and activities of the nonprofit sector," she said.

Underwriting for the Nonprofit Excellence Awards was provided by KeyBank, Dykema Gossett, and the Dobson-McOmer agency.