



**County Commissioners**

Joshua G. Parsons, Chairman  
Dennis P. Stuckey, Vice-Chairman  
Craig E. Lehman, Commissioner

**Director**

Drew Fredericks

## **JDCAP 2018 Staff Person of the Year Nomination**

### **Walter Whack**

Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center  
Years Employed: 14 years  
Full-Time Youth Care Worker – Shelter

Walter Whack displays an admirable work ethic and tremendous initiative in his performance as a Youth Care Worker at the Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center Shelter Unit. The management of the shelter program often looks to Walter to take the lead on daily operational tasks, as well as, unexpected scenarios that occur as we deal with “at risk” youth. He displays patience as he works with MH/MR clients on the most basic functions such as hygiene and housekeeping. He skillfully teaches, drills, and monitors these individuals according to their needs while helping them remain connected to the general population in a manner that affords them dignity and protects them from ridicule. At the other end of the spectrum is Walter’s ability to employ de-escalation techniques, as he does not avoid the more “challenging” residents in the program.

Walter performs quite well when he is assigned a leadership role, such as Senior Youth Care Worker, when a shelter supervisor is not present. He makes appropriate decisions, reports accurate information, and serves as a resource to his fellow youth care workers. Walter’s skill level and years of experience make him a valuable resource to newly hired shelter employees and he welcomes the role of “mentor”. He is very involved with the training program for “new hires” and works with the Training Coordinator to mentor new YCW’s. These actions are greatly appreciated, promote teamwork, and boost staff morale.

Walter’s greatest attribute is probably his dedication and compassion to work with the youth he serves. He is one of the most consistent and effective communicators when interacting with his co-workers and residents. Walter is very involved in shelter field trips and activities. This year he worked with the Program Coordinator to plan a Harley Davidson factory tour, worked with co-workers to plan all-nighters for the shelter residents, and sponsored several Movie trips for our clients.

Walter’s attitude and actions foster a team mentality and a safe, fair, and positive environment for the residents and staff of the shelter unit.

Submitted By:  
Joe Scannapieco  
Shelter Program Director  
(717) 209-3326

