

CENTRAL CITY

EXTRA

S A N F R A N C I S C O



Michael Nulty (left) and his brother, John, flank Alan Klaum, former MHA board president, at the Mental Health Association's Awards Luncheon.

Michael Nulty honored as mental health champion

Other TL awards to Zamora, Rev. Hope

BY TOM CARTER

THREE Tenderloin movers and shakers received awards in May from citywide organizations for their longtime work in the neighborhood.

The Mental Health Association of San Francisco bestowed its Champion Award on omnipresent neighborhood activist Michael Nulty at its 60th anniversary Awards Luncheon. Safety Network, in honoring individuals from 12 neighborhoods, recognized community benefit district Manager Elaine Zamora. And the Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corp. presented its second annual Kelly Cullen Community Service Award to the Rev. Glenda Hope of Network Ministries.

Nulty graduated from one of MHA's early Tenant Leadership Training programs and went on to co-found the Tenant Associations Coalition. Based in the Tenderloin, TAC is a support organization for tenant leaders in SROs and apartment buildings. It meets monthly to grapple with quality-of-life issues. TAC also has sponsored two community leadership summits.

Zamora, a lawyer and property owner who is the salaried manager of the Tenderloin-North of Market Community Benefits District, was honored at a May 9 reception in the State Building for her work to improve public safety.

The Rev. Hope created San Francisco Network Ministries in the TL in 1972 and ministers to the poor, sick and dying. She has been conducting memorial services in TL SROs since the late 1970s. Hope was recognized at TNDC's 26th birthday celebration and fundraiser at the Hilton Hotel on May 22. Her award is named for Cullen, the former executive director and founder in 1981 of the nonprofit housing builder and manager that serves 2,400 tenants, most living in the Tenderloin.

Nulty, TAC's executive director, told the MHA luncheon crowd of more than 300 at the Merchants Exchange Building that the award was the most prestigious he has received in 30 years of community service.

In those years, Nulty counts 56 organizations, projects and campaigns he started or helped initiate, 22 of them in the Tenderloin where he has lived in SROs the last 10 years. The organizations include the Larkin Street Youth Center and the Mayor's Office of Children, Youth and Family. He is president of the Alliance for a Better District 6, which he founded eight years ago, and is on the benefit district board, having served on the committee that founded it. Last year he received the Mayor's Disability Council Award for Excellence.

As a result of the MHA award, Nulty also received a congressional commendation from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, two state Senate commendations and one from the State Board of Equalization.

Nulty and his twin brother, John, appear frequently at Board of Supervisors' and committee meetings to lobby for neighborhood improvements and often share organizing chores.

MHA Executive Director Belinda Lyons introduced Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who presented her with a state commendation for the organization's accomplishments since 1947.

"And I am thrilled that Barbara Garcia and Michael Nulty are being honored today," he told the crowd. "Michael and his brother don't see the Tenderloin as a dumping ground."

Garcia, the deputy director of Public Health, received the Public Policy Leader award. She spearheaded San Francisco's 40-member task force to determine the county's mental health needs under state Proposition 63 — the 2005 Mental Health Services Act — and how to use the funds. The group conducted 70 community outreach meetings.

Also honored were Wells Fargo Bank as Corporate Leader and the California Endowment as Foundation Leader. Through the bank's Team Member Giving program, scores of employees donate and volunteer at MHA-SF. A bank employee, Stacy Fisher, serves on the MHA board and the bank was a sponsor of the luncheon. The California Endowment awarded the MHA a three-year grant to help educate mental health consumers on preventive care, and is a leading funder of mental health programs in the state. ■

John Gotins contributed to this story.

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