



For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Tiffany Devon
PR Director
734-722-7185
tdevon@comlivservcom

They're a First in Michigan! *First Certified Peer Mentors in the State!*

September 9, 2011 – Wayne, MI - The Developmental Disability Council of Michigan has certified the first Peer Mentors for people with disabilities in the State of Michigan, Andre Robinson of Detroit and Ray Schuholz of Westland! They are both tireless advocates for people with disabilities and have worked countless hours to reach this goal!



Executive Director of the DD Council Vendella Collins said, “Andre and Ray put a lot of time and effort into making Peer Mentoring a reality for people with developmental disabilities. Without their perseverance, this process would have taken so much longer. I hope people will take advantage of the knowledge and experience these two men have to offer.”

Being a Certified Peer Mentor enables Andre and Ray to speak at conferences, share their success stories, teach Peer Mentoring classes and be available to their peers for counseling. They will continue to promote self-advocacy, empowerment and personal responsibility for success.

Ray receiving his certificate from DD Council Executive Director Vendella Collins.

“I’m proud to be the first person to be certified. I’ve been working with this project for years and now I’ll be able to help someone get through the system which can be so confusing and live their life the way they choose” said Robinson.

Schuholz said, “This is so important to me because people have helped me in my life so it’s my turn to help them and others.”



Andre receiving his certificate from DD Council Executive Director Vendella Collins.

Both men put in hours of training and attended many workshops for more than a year to become certified. Some of the important things they learned were why it's so important to use People First Language, how to live a self-determined life and the best way to advocate for themselves and others. Both were also instrumental in creating the Peer Mentor program along the way!

Robinson and Schuhholz receive supports and services from Community Living Services, Inc. CLS is a nonprofit organization providing supports and services to more than 3,000 people with developmental disabilities in Wayne County. CLS is funded through the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency. For more info, visit our web site at www.comliveserv.com.