



National Association of Social Workers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NASW-PA Awarded Thomas Seefeld as Citizen of the Year Award

Monroeville, Pa. – The National Association of Social Workers, Pennsylvania Chapter (NASW-PA) hosted its Annual Conference at the DoubleTree Resort in Monroeville from November 6-8, 2014. Nearly 150 social work and human service professionals were in attendance as well as the Mayor of Monroeville, Gregory Erosenko.

An awards luncheon was held at 12:00pm on Saturday, November 8, 2014. This luncheon recognized the Chief of Police, Thomas Seefeld of Murrysville. Chief Seefeld was one of the first respondents in the April 9 incident attack at Franklin Regional High School.

Chief Seefeld has been in the police force for over 33 years and is the proud father of three. His efforts were instrumental in the tragic incident on April 9. He efficiently coordinated the reunification between parents and children during the day of that tragic event, as well as helped nurture the healing and reconciliation process in the months after the event.

PhD, MPH, ACSW, LCSW, and Associate Professor at the California University of Pennsylvania, Margaret Christopher, said, “I can’t begin to tell you what this man went through as Chief of Police in a relatively small community suddenly faced with such a traumatic school/community-based crisis, and the incredible community leadership he provided during and after it.”

Not only does NASW-PA recognize Chief Seefeld’s courageous characteristics, but also the resilience that the community has demonstrated though out these difficult months. In regards to the community, Christopher said, “There were so many within the community and the informal helping network that stepped forward. It was an example of how the more rural/small town communities activate the informal helping network to serve as a protective factor when they have to do this. Not every community can pull this off, and it takes exceptional leadership to do so.”

After receiving the award Chef Seefeld said, “I cannot take full credit for this award. I would not be the Chief I am if it wasn’t for the brave men and women that serve.” (Tara can you check this quote, I know he said something to that effect)

NASW-PA is proud to honor Chief Seefeld’s dedication to the social community and the countless individuals he has served over the years with the prestigious Citizen of the Year Award. For more information about this event, contact NASW-PA at 717-232-4125.

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NASW is the largest membership organization in the U.S. for professional social workers, serving more than 150,000. NASW-PA represents 6,200 members in Pennsylvania and works to enhance the professional growth and development of social workers, create and maintain social work standards, and to advance sound social policies.