

## **MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY CELEBRATION**

October 30<sup>th</sup> was the annual Mental Health Recovery Celebration and also Galesburg's celebration of Bridgeway's 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. Many special guests joined us including Bridgeway board members Mark Blackburn, Chuck Laird, Steven Brody and Wood Stortzum; DMH staff Joe Croegaert, Tom Troe, Jordan Litvak and Sally Davidson; and DRS staff Louis Hamer, Gene Oulvey and Karen Engstrom. Bridgeway thanks you for your continued support.

## **CONSUMER OF THE YEAR**

Galesburg



Gabriel Powell with Home Manager Carrie Sulteen

Kewanee



Rodney Taylor with Home Manager Cheryl Majeske

Macomb



Bruce Worthington with Residential Coordinator Matt Smith and Case Manager Penni Stracker

Burlington



Brian Lentz with Admin Coordinator Steven Bantz

## **COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD**



Gene Oulvey, Coordinator of Evaluation and Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services for DHS, Division of Rehabilitation Services.

Gene has done more to promote the IPS evidence based model of community employment than any one person in Illinois. He spent more than two years working with DHS/DRS staff trying to get buy-in regarding this model. There was much resistance initially but that didn't deter him. He insisted that DHS/DRS assign counselors to the project that had an understanding of mental illness and who had an open mind. This was the beginning of success as we found staff that gave IPS a chance to succeed.

Gene is indeed a remarkable and inspirational person, but what I personally value so much is his sincerely kind, supportive and positive spirit. I don't know that I have ever met a person who so lights up a room with his presence ...his wisdom and way of conveying a true positive sense of "we can do this" and "we can figure it out." He sure fits the Bridgeway Mission of "Creating Solutions for Everyone."