

## The Wellspring Awards

September 23, 2010

**Steve Forman**  
**Distinguished Service Award**

Steve Forman is proud of his 20 year career as a planning, assessment and facilitation consultant to more than 45 agencies in town. Yet, if you ask him, he “works with people.”

Steve’s personal relationship with Wellspring Family Services began back in 1981 when he volunteered at Cancer Lifeline, which was operating as a program of the agency at the time.

He became further involved in 1984 when he decided to write his Master’s thesis on “the organizational structure, process and how people interact in a non profit agency.” After spending a year in Nepal, Steve took on the role of interim Executive Director at Wellspring Family Services in 1990.

Steve’s claim to fame during his directorship was finding and hiring Ruthann Howell. But even though he handed over the reins to Ruthann, he was never strayed far from the agency. In fact, he has been a part of every key decision process that the agency has undergone over the past 20 years. Steve has guided various board groups through a lot of tough decisions: Which way to take the housing program? Should we build or buy a pre-existing building? Can we successfully run a capital campaign? and so many other critical turning points for the agency.

Ruthann believes Steve’s “magic” is being able to synthesize hours of debate, a ton of information and present it back to the group clearly, and often times in a simple question... and he never “dumbs” you down. Sometimes the answer is so clear, that he has to encourage everyone to buy into their own decisions. One of our best moments under Steve’s guidance was after the board decided to move forward with the capital campaign, within minutes, Steve had made his pledge of support as one of the first donors to our capital campaign, she remembers.

Steve is a true ambassador for Wellspring in the community. Although he works with over 45 other agencies in the area, he admits that he’s always out there talking about Wellspring.



Learn more: [www.wellspringfs.org](http://www.wellspringfs.org)