



Tom Wolff & Associates

Creating Collaborative Solutions

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American Psychological Association Presents Award for Distinguished Contributions to Independent Practice to Tom Wolff

On August 8, 2014 at their Annual Conference in Washington DC the American Psychological Association bestowed one of its highest honors, the “Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions to Independent Practice” to Tom Wolff Ph.D. of Tom Wolff & Associates in Amherst, Massachusetts.

Tom’s citation read as follows:

Thomas J Wolff Ph.D. is a nationally recognized consultant working with individuals, organizations and communities. His practice anchored in the values of social justice and collaboration, has focused on building strong communities and by doing so strengthening the wellbeing of people within them. His work has had a profound and enduring impact on American society. He pioneered the concept of local community coalitions, which have become national models for community-based health and human service delivery. He has advanced public recognition of psychology as a profession and provided the bedrock for what we now term “community-engaged scholarship

Tom Wolff Ph.D. is a community psychology practitioner committed to issues of social justice and to building healthy communities through collaborative solutions. A globally recognized consultant on coalition building and community development, he has a lifetime of experience training and consulting with federal, state and local governments,, foundations, hospitals, non-profit organizations, and various communities across North America and around the world.

Tom has published numerous self-help resources. His most recent is *The Power of Collaborative Solutions –Six Principles and Effective Tools for Building Healthy Communities*. He has been a partner in the development of the Community Tool Box (ctb.ku.edu), a website with 7,000 pages of practical resources on community health and development.

Tom is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association, which granted him its 1985 National Career Award for Distinguished Contributions to Practice in Community Psychology, and its 1993 Henry V. McNeil Award for Innovation in Community Mental Health . In 2000 he received the “For the People Against the Tide Award” from the advocacy group, Health Care for

All for his “outstanding efforts to energize and educate local communities in areas of health care justice”. He received his bachelor’s degree from Clark University, and his doctorate from the University of Rochester. He presently leads Tom Wolff & Associates (www.tomwolff.com)

Photos attached: Head shot Tom Wolff, Presentation at APA with President Nadine Kaslow

For more information contact Tom Wolff 413 253 2646, tom@tomwolff.com

Supplemental material:

Quotes from award introduction at APA by Irma Serrano Garcia

“Quotes from some of his clients evidence the impact and quality of his work.

Liz Salomon, Project Director of Connect to Protect, a coalition based HIV prevention effort stated: “Tom’s commitment to helping us move our work forward with a consistent and directed focus on those who are most impacted by the HIV epidemic in our city has been invaluable. Always committed to social justice and social change, Tom has been a great advocate, mentor and friend...”

Abigail Ortiz, the Director of Community Health Programs in Southern Jamaica Plains Health Center adds: “Tom has the rare quality of being able to move folks from vision space into implementation space in a real accountable way. ...Tom is clear about the system of racism. He is unapologetic in this and keeps all collaborative members focused and committed to [a] vision of racial equity.

Nashira Baril, Director of the Center for Health Equity and Social Justice adds “Tom joined us and brought us through a moving process by which the community members recognized the power of their collective voice Tom is keen on facilitating process ... The skill set he brings through his independent practice with communities is anchored in the values of social justice and community collaboration.

These quotes reflect not only Tom’s skills but the consistency and clarity of his values which are essential for community work that is empowering, participatory and forward moving.”

..... His newest book *The Power of Collaborative Solutions: Six principles and effective tools for building healthy communities* is superb. In this and other writings, he has derived lessons from successes (and failures) of community engagement. Taken together, this distilled wisdom has generated what we now term “community-engaged scholarship.”

Irma Serrano Garcia Ph.D., Pasada Presidenta 2013, Asociación de Psicología de Puerto Rico

Other quotes from those who wrote letters in support:

Tom’s work as a community practitioner has been enormously effective. It has already had a profound and enduring impact upon American society. More specifically, Tom has pioneered the

concept of local community coalitions; his leadership has helped these coalitions become national models for community-based health and human service delivery.

After launching several such coalitions in Massachusetts, and after receiving major foundation funding, Tom created a statewide network of coalitions through his formation of Healthy Communities Massachusetts. In this path-breaking network, coalitions could and did share information and ideas, receive common training, and plan coordinated efforts.

I have had first-hand knowledge of Tom's work as a close professional colleague for the past 25 years. I can testify that he has had more community impact than any psychological practitioner I know.

Bill Berkowitz, Ph.D. Professor Emeritus Department of Psychology ,University of Massachusetts Lowell

Dr. Tom Wolff could not be more deserving of this prestigious award. His distinguished career has made enduring contributions to applying principles and values of psychology to promoting health and well being of communities. His decades of clinical-community practice—and the lessons he has derived from it—have helped us to understand how to bring about changes in communities that reduce risk/enhance protection and improve lives of our most vulnerable members. I will comment briefly on his achievements as a psychologist in independent practice working to assure conditions for health and well being for all of us.

Dr. Wolff has had an extraordinarily effective career of engagement with communities. He one of the nation's leading consultants on community coalitions; that is, how to establish and maintain collaborative action to address community-determined issues such as preventing substance abuse or violence or promoting healthy living or access to health care.

Stephen B. Fawcett, Ph.D. ,Kansas Health Foundation Distinguished Professor of Applied Behavioral Science & Director, Work Group for Community Health and Development , University of Kansa

It is an honor to provide a letter of recommendation for **Tom Wolff, PhD** for The American Psychological Association Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions to Independent Practice. Dr. Wolff's contributions to the practice of Community Psychology are unmatched and his accomplishments span a remarkable career of pioneering work in the independent practice of Community Psychology. Simply put, Tom Wolff is the most prominent and accomplished Community Psychology practitioner in the 50 year history of the field and the majority of his work has been with disadvantaged populations around reducing the disparities and the social injustice they face.

Greg Meissen, Ph.D, Professor of Psychology and Coordinator, Community Psychology Doctoral Program, Wichita State University