



# **Mental Health and Recovery Services Board**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**Phyllis Putnam**

written by Mircea Handru, MBA

Last week, we lost a dear friend and one of the most kind and caring people I ever met. Phyllis was a true pioneer and advocate for individuals struggling with mental illness. She started a housing program throughout Northwest Ohio prior to the Mental Health Act of 1988, working to get housing in place for individuals leaving the state hospital. Soon after that, Ohio Department of Mental Health approached Phyllis to organize a network of citizens who would take the mentally ill into their homes, much like a foster home for a child. She was instrumental in finding homes in rural communities throughout Northwest Ohio. She cared so much for individuals with mental illness, taking them grocery shopping, to various functions and dinners, and even opening her home for crafting parties. She was a big believer in family support and assisting individuals in their home settings. She believed that when assessing clients, you get a better picture when you see how and where they live in comparison to an office setting.

Phyllis served as the Executive Director of the Hancock County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Board for over 25 years. A Tiffin resident, Phyllis spent ten years as a Board member for the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties. She also served ten years on the NAMI Ohio's State Board. Phyllis' community service also included her work with the League of Women Voters and Tiffin Area Pax Christi.

Phyllis made this work a better place for all of us, especially for individuals struggling with mental illness. We have lost one of the most passionate and caring people in our community.

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