

**COUNTY OF OAKLAND**  
**OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF**

**MICHAEL J. BOUCHARD**



**SHERIFF BOUCHARD - A CHAMPION OF YOUTH**

**Oakland County Sheriff Receives Award from  
Oakland County Youth Assistance**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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November 14, 2007 (Oakland County)- Oakland County Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard received special recognition from Oakland County Youth Assistance at the Iroquois Club in Bloomfield Hills during their annual breakfast last Thursday. Sheriff Bouchard received the "Oakland County Youth Assistance 2007 Champion of Youth Award" for supporting Youth Assistance in a variety of ways – speaking at Youth Recognition Events, offering refurbished bikes to youngsters through the Sheriff's Re-CYCLE for Kids Program, and most importantly, collaborating with Youth Assistance staff to create the U-Turn program.

"Because of the wonderful collaboration between the Sheriff's Office and Youth Assistance, we are able to deliver more comprehensive services to the youth that come into our program," said Mary Schusterbauer, Chief of Oakland County Youth Assistance.

Youth Assistance is a community-based program with 27 Local Offices serving the citizens of Oakland County whose mission is to strengthen youth and families and to prevent and reduce delinquency, neglect, and abuse through community involvement.

The U-Turn program's intent is to educate youth and their parents about the consequences of crime and the realities of prison life while reinforcing the value of making smart decisions (staying in school, abstaining from drugs and alcohol, making wise choices about peers, employment, parental involvement, etc.) in order to keep youth from having any further contact with the juvenile justice system. Since 2001, over 1000 youth along with their parents have participated in this educational program for Youth Assistance clients.

"While people may think of both the Court and the Sheriff's Office as dealing with people who break the law, I am so pleased that we are collaborating to prevent young people from entering the legal system," said James M. Alexander, Presiding Judge of the Family Division of the Oakland County Circuit Court.

"I am honored to have received such a wonderful recognition," said Sheriff Bouchard. "I am proud to support Youth Assistance and look forward to our continued relationship helping and supporting families in Oakland County."