

MEDIA RELEASE

Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia
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DC Resident & CSOSA Vocational Development Specialist Tony Lewis Wins National Award as Best Community Leader at the 2011 Steve Harvey/Ford Hoodie Awards in Las Vegas

Washington, D.C: Tony D. Lewis, Jr. of NW Washington D.C. won the award for “Best Community Leader” at the Ninth Annual Hoodie Awards in Las Vegas on Saturday, August 13th. Lewis was in competition with other community leaders from across the country.

Established in 2001, the Hoodie Awards were created by Steve Harvey to recognize the efforts that the stars of our neighborhoods are making in the cities and towns in which they live.

See

<http://www.zimbio.com/photos/Tony+Lewis+Jr./9th+Annual+Ford+Hoodie+Awards+Hosted+Steve/FkkflmOjL7> for photos of Mr. Lewis as he receives his award.

See <http://www.prurgent.com/2011-07-11/pressrelease182373.htm> for background on the Hoodie Awards.

Regarding the awards, Steve Harvey said “I believe that we’re all created equal and it’s not fame or fortune that makes an ordinary person extraordinary, but it’s the things they do to help others and to uplift their communities that makes them special.”

Tony Lewis is a Vocational Development Specialist at the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA), located in Washington, D.C. He finds employment for individuals with criminal records that are under the community supervision of the agency. Lewis won the award based on his work at CSOSA and with the children of incarcerated parents. He created the “Son’s of Life” program in Washington, D.C. and is involved in food and toy drives, conducting workshops and arranging for children to see their incarcerated parent(s).

Tony's story of growing up as the son of an incarcerated parent has been documented by a variety of sources including the Washington Post, see <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/30/AR2010013002446.html>.

“As the child of an incarcerated parent, I understand the pain separation brings,” states Lewis. “We need to place greater emphasis on offender reentry and the children left behind. I’m humbled by the award but we need to do more to break the cycle to protect the children of incarcerated individuals.”

Lewis’s personal website address is <http://www.thetonylewisjr.com/>.

See <http://www.csosa.gov> for the CSOSA website. When there, please see “Hiring People on Supervision” (center of front page) for more information regarding the employment of men and women with criminal records.

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