



232 NW Sixth Avenue | Portland, Oregon 97209  
T: 503.294.1681 | F: 503.294.4321 | [www.centralcityconcern.org](http://www.centralcityconcern.org)

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For information, call Carole Romm at 503-294-1681

### **Gary Cobb Wins National Award**

Portland, OR – Gary Cobb, [Central City Concern](http://www.centralcityconcern.org) staff member and passionate advocate for people in recovery, received the *Ellen Daily Consumer Advocacy Award* from the National Healthcare for the Homeless Council (NHHC) today at the organization’s annual conference held in Phoenix, Arizona. NHHC is a professional organization for individual and organizational members working to improve the health of homeless people and those who seek housing, health care, and adequate incomes.

Gary came to Central City Concern in 2000 as a homeless heroin addict in need of housing and treatment. He successfully completed detox, outpatient treatment and CCC’s Recovery Mentor program, and moved into CCC’s Alcohol and Drug Free Community housing. Gary became a key leader in the Recovery Association Project (RAP), a local grassroots organization which uses community organizing to increase treatment and recovery resources.

Gary constantly recruits other consumers of recovery services to tell their stories and join his advocacy activities. He is an active member of CCC’s Health Services Advisory Council, a consumer advisory board which provides input to CCC’s Health Care for the Homeless services. He has advised government leaders on issues relating to homelessness and recovery. In 2005, Gary received the prestigious Mayor’s Spirit of Portland award, and he serves on the local police public safety committee representing people in recovery.

Gary is dedicated to the transformation process for himself and especially for other homeless people.

He works for CCC as a janitor at the Old Town Clinic, the program where he received treatment. "I like to say my job is to clean up the building that helped me get clean," he says.

The Ellen Dailey Consumer Advocacy Award, is named for the late homeless advocate from Philadelphia, PA, and it recognizes extraordinary work to improve access of homeless people to health care.

Central City Concern's mission is to provide pathways to self-sufficiency through active intervention in poverty and homelessness. CCC operates more than 1,300 units of affordable housing and provides health, recovery and employment services to thousands of individuals in the Portland metro area every year.

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