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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Michigan Community Resources Honored Community Achievements at Annual Event**

DETROIT – October 30, 2014 – At its 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Event, Michigan Community Resources (MCR) presented awards to individuals and organizations that demonstrated outstanding commitment to pro bono and community-based service. Awards were presented for Law Firm of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Partner of the Year, and Outstanding Community Action.

The event was held on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Stroh River Place Atrium and was sponsored by Michigan State Housing Development Authority, DTE Energy, Rock Ventures, the Ford Building and First Merit Bank.

The 2014 Volunteer of the Year award was presented to [Joe Wloszek](#) for his pro bono work while with [Kitch Drutchas](#). For over two years, Wloszek along with other Kitch attorneys and legal assistants volunteered hundreds of hours helping an MCR client with a complex real property matter through both bench trial and appeal, eventually winning a \$75,000 judgment for the small nonprofit.

The Law Firm of the Year honors firms that act as leaders and advocates for pro bono service. This year the award was presented to [Miller Canfield](#) for its outstanding commitment to pro bono work through MCR's pro bono referral program and its willingness to accept complex pro bono referrals.

West Grand Boulevard Collaborative received the Outstanding Community Action Award for its model [Henry Ford Health System Community Agreement](#) with which MCR provided legal assistance, as well as its high-level of community engagement.

MCR's Partner of the Year recognizes collaborative projects with MCR that help strengthen low-income communities. This year the award was presented to Denby High School for the Youth Neighborhood Impact Academy, which taught community development and neighborhood improvement strategies to students and helped them design their own community improvement project.

Michigan Community Resources' annual event celebrates the dedication of our volunteers and the progress its clients make towards capacity building, blight elimination and neighborhood revitalization.

"We are very proud of our work this year, but we are even prouder of the work our clients and partners have accomplished," said Jill Ferrari, chief executive officer of MCR. "This year, residents and organizations from low-income communities came together like never before to design solutions to everyday problems. We are excited to be a part of this growing energy and grateful to our volunteers and supporters for understanding the value of this work."

Over 200 nonprofit executives, attorneys, funders and community leaders attended the event this year. To learn more about the event, please visit [www.mi-community.org](http://www.mi-community.org).

### **About Michigan Community Resources**

Michigan Community Resources supports and empowers Michigan nonprofit community organizations serving low-income communities by providing pro bono legal, educational, technical and community outreach services. The result is stronger organizations and revitalized low-income communities. Since 1998, it has served over 1,200 nonprofit community organizations, leveraged over \$13 million in pro bono legal assistance, and provided vacant property related technical assistance on over 200 matters.

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