

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 4, 2010

Contact: Dana Schaar, Executive Director  
701-258-9101 or 888-396-3266  
[ndano@btinet.net](mailto:ndano@btinet.net)

### **Johnson Receives Walt Odegaard Leadership Award**

BISMARCK – Debra Johnson, Prairie Harvest Mental Health executive director, received the North Dakota Association of Nonprofit Organizations’ (NDANO) Walt Odegaard Leadership Award during the Annual Nonprofit Leadership Conference June 3 in Bismarck.

The Walt Odegaard Leadership Award is given to an individual who has made a difference by strengthening the nonprofit sector through leadership, volunteerism and/or philanthropy.

Johnson has served in leadership positions for the nonprofit Prairie Harvest Mental Health for 18 years – the first six years as the business manager and the last 12 years as the executive director. Prairie Harvest provides community-based services, housing and employment for individuals with serious mental illness. Johnson’s leadership abilities have enabled the organization to grow to provide numerous levels of service for its clients.

Johnson has been a member of the North Dakota Mental Health Planning Council since 1998 and has served as chair for two years. She has also served on boards of the Senior Citizen Association, American Red Cross and the Girl Scouts. She has served six years as a national Mental Health Block Grant Reviewer and two years as chair of the Southwest Review panel for the Center for Mental Health Services. Johnson is a board member of the National Association of Mental Health Planning and Advisory Councils and provides training in that capacity for planning councils across the country.

“Deb has been a leader in her community,” says NDANO President Mitch Monson. “NDANO is pleased to recognize her accomplishments and commitment to helping her clients, building community and improving quality of life in North Dakota.”

NDANO is the statewide membership association advancing nonprofit organizations through advocacy, education and training, public policy, information and research, and cost-saving programs. Learn more at [www.ndano.org](http://www.ndano.org).