

THE BOX PROJECT

RECIPIENT OF ASSOCIATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Hartford, CT , The Box Project, Plainville, CT, was the recipient of the Association Achievement Award for its "Survey 2002". The award was presented by the Connecticut Society of Association Executives (CSAE), a non-profit professional society of association executives at its Annual Meeting at The Colonnade, in Glastonbury, Connecticut, on January 23, 2003.

This award recognizes an organization that has created and implemented a particularly excellent program with an emphasis on a successful activity from which other associations can learn. A special committee, appointed by the CSAE Board of Directors selects the award winner.

The Box Project was chosen because of its innovative efforts in assessing and meeting the needs of its thousands of members across the USA. Founded in 1963, The Box Project matches sponsor families from across the USA to families living in the worst areas of rural poverty in the country. The sponsor families mentor and help their "sister-families" by offering support, encouragement and material aid. The program is unique because the sponsors communicate and send packages of assistance directly to the recipients, rather than through the organization. This increases member satisfaction and develops personal relationships across economic and cultural groups.

In 2002, the first scientific survey of the organization was completed with help from Professor Juan Battle (CUNY Graduate Center & Hunter College), who served as a lead researcher on the project, and Jeneve Brooks-Klinger (currently a Ph.D. student at Fordham University), and Dr. Mohammad Hoque of Mississippi Valley State University in order to assess the program. The study detailed the tremendous impact that the program has in providing friendship and millions of dollars in aid and educational incentives. Exceptionally high personal satisfaction levels of members and the efficiency of the organization's structure were documented. Among the discoveries was that for every dollar The Box Project received, it leveraged over 13 dollars in direct aid to families.

"In an age of increasing needs and expectations, when 61% of your poor, recipient families adamantly tell you to 'change nothing', you know you're doing something right," commented Executive Director Allen Pitts.

For more information on the Connecticut Society of Association Executives or its programs, contact CSAE, 214 Warrenton Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06119 or visit their website at www.csae.net.

For more information about The Box Project or its programs, contact The Box Project, PO Box 435, Plainville, CT 06062 or visit their website at www.boxproject.org.