2022 Awards of Excellence

Peer Specialist of the Year Award

Tina Simpson, CPS
Peer Specialist Supervisor
Spindletop Center

ABOUT THE AWARD

Each year at NatCon, the Peer Specialist of the Year Award is given to an individual with lived experience who works in a health care organization and uses his or her strengths to help peers on their road to recovery from mental illness. Learn more by visiting our [awards website](#).

MAKING A MARK

As a woman of God in long-term recovery, Tina Simpson has overcome many obstacles to become a servant in the peer community – from living a life of homelessness and drugs to frequent visits to jail, treatment centers and institutions. Through her faith and persistence, Tina was able to turn her "mess into a message" and use her trials as testimony in support of others in need.

Tina currently serves as a Peer Specialist Supervisor for Spindletop Center, a community center system in Beaumont, Texas, that provides services to people with mental disabilities in an effort to allow them to live and work in the community. A Certified Peer Specialist (CPS), recovery coach, WRAP and WHAM facilitator, and advanced-level WRAP facilitator, Tina uses her training and life experiences to connect with her peers and help them find their own personal path to recovery.

"Sometimes when I share my story, people are in disbelief that I survived. At the same time, they start to see themselves in my story and that gives them hope that they can recover," said Tina. "In the words of Maya Angelou, 'There's no greater burden than an untold story.' I try to instill hope by telling my story; not by focusing on how bad things were, but by really stressing the journey and how things have changed for me in the past 10 years."

The [National Council for Mental Wellbeing](#) is proud to recognize Tina as its 2022 Peer Specialist of the Year Award winner and thanks her for changing lives and strengthening communities. Tina will be accepting her award at [NatCon22](#) from April 11-13 in the Washington, D.C., metro area.