Muffy Walker, Co-Founder & Chairman, Board of Directors, International Bipolar Foundation wins the Hope Award for Public Education.

The Inspiring Hope Awards - building on the legacy of the Lilly Reintegration Awards and Welcome Back Awards - recognize individuals who have shown extraordinary tenacity and courage in battling serious mental illness and are living full lives and pursuing their goals. These awards also honor the clinicians, advocates, and organizations that care for and support these individuals in their journey.

Walker's son was diagnosed with bipolar disorder at seven. As a psychiatric nurse, she was devastated with the trouble she had navigating the system to get him the care he needed. Gradually, she taught her son to embrace his illness and learn to cope, and also started a support group out of her home for other family members on the same journey, now the International Bipolar Foundation. Walker volunteers 60 hours a week to support the foundation's outreach in more than 135 countries.

"One in five Americans have a mental illness, yet only 20 percent seek and get the care they need," said Salvador Garcia, MD, Vice President, Global Medical Affairs for Lilly Bio-Medicines. "We applaud the courage and commitment of these honorees in showing how to turn these troubling statistics around. They are brave enough to share their stories, to have the difficult conversations, to seek help and to reach out to others in need."

An independent panel of mental health leaders selected the winners from an overwhelming pool of submissions. Donations of $10,000 are made to organizations of each winner's choice.

"The National Council is proud to be the home for the Inspiring Hope Awards," said Linda Rosenberg, President and CEO of the National Council. "We thank the honorees for sharing their compassion and their commitment; their innovation and their inspiration; their dedication and their dreams. And we thank Eli Lilly for supporting the honorees as they inspire our communities."

The 2014 honorees were recognized for their achievements at the Awards of Excellence celebration in Washington, DC on Tuesday, May 6 in conjunction with the National Council's Conference. This year's guest of honor was Patrick Kennedy, one of the mental health and substance use field's most recognized and influential crusaders.

**Congratulations** Muffy!