

NEWS RELEASE

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Jerry Rhodes Named DSS Director of the Year



Jerry Rhodes, Director of the Washington County Department of Social Services, was named Director of the Year by his peers at the Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services (NCACDSS). The award was presented on July 9th at the NCACDSS Awards Banquet in Wilmington, NC.

Beth Duncan (Randolph County DSS Director), said in her presentation that “[Jerry] embodies the Rotarian motto of

“Service above Self.” and is held in high esteem by his staff and the community. There is no question that Jerry Rhodes has made major contributions to the Social Services System in North Carolina both over the past year and over the past thirty-four years.”

Rhodes humbly accepted the award on behalf of all county DSS directors and recognized all of the groups and individuals that supported his efforts through the years including David Peoples, Washington County Manager who was in attendance. He also thanked his wife, Rita, son Tyler and his wife Kaley, and son Patrick and his wife Alburn, who were all present during the ceremony.

Rhodes has lead Washington County Social Services to outstanding achievements and has made significant contributions to the North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services (NCACDSS). In 1975, Rhodes was hired as a CETA worker and became a Medicaid Eligibility Specialist that same year. He later was promoted to Child Support Enforcement Supervisor and then eventually to department Director. He is currently the chair of the local Child Protection and Fatality Prevention Team in his county. He is a member of the rural Transportation Planning Committee, and is the Chairman of the United Fund in Washington County. In 2005, he was appointed to the North Carolina Social Work Licensure Board, where he has worked tirelessly to promote high standards of professional performance for professionals engaged in the practice of social work. In 2007, the College of Human Ecology at East Carolina University honored him as one of seven History Holders. Rhodes has served as the President of NCACDSS and currently continues to serve as the Association’s parliamentarian.

Jerry and Rita reside in Plymouth, NC where he enjoys boating, biking and reading.
