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Hartford – On Thursday, March 24, 2011 at 5:00 p.m., three organizations will join together at the Legislative Office Building to present their 23rd Annual Mental Illness Awareness Media Awards to Connecticut journalists for excellence in exploring the topic of mental illness.

Sponsors for the event are The Connecticut Psychiatric Society (CPS), the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-CT), and the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS).

The first place winner in the Print Category is Kathleen Megan, for her *Hartford Courant* article, “College Student’s with Mental Illness Can Offer Special Challenges.” Ms. Megan offers insight into the challenges faced by parents of students with mental health concerns who transition to college and the lack of support and counseling available to this students.

The second place winner is *Hartford Courant* writer Rick Green for his article, “Missing on Kids’ Mental Health.” Mr. Green brings to life the challenges faced by many parents of children and adolescents in finding appropriate mental health services due to increasing shortage in mental health professionals and continuing rise of cost associated with treatment.

Julie Stagis of the *Hartford Courant* received an Honorable Mention in the Print Category for her article entitled “A Successful Battle with Depression.” Ms. Stagis tells the story of a young woman who struggles with depression through college and eventually learns to manage her illness and lead a happy and successful life.

The first and second place winner in the Broadcast Category is The Colin McEnroe Show. The broadcasts of “Phobias” (first place) and “Hoardings” (second place) were featured on *WNPR*. Both broadcasts offered an in-depth look into the struggles faced by individuals who suffer from these disorders and the symptoms and treatment options available to live a normal life.

An honorable mention in the Broadcast Category was presented to Where We Live of *WNPR*. Their broadcast of “Tis the Season for Depression” explores the relationship between the seasons and it’s affect on people’s moods and various means to cope with feelings of distress, sadness, and depression throughout the winter months.

Judging for the competition was done by the three sponsoring organizations.

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