

The Judith Rothbaum Award

Honoring Rothbaum's outstanding contributions to the social indicators field and recognizing excellence in using social indicators for community action

**Presented by the National Association of Planning Councils and
Sponsored by United Way of Central Oklahoma**



Judith Rothbaum devoted her career to improving services for the less fortunate. Working on both a local and national level, Judy was widely recognized for her work with anti-poverty programs, substance abuse counseling and community-based health care programs. Born in 1945, she earned her bachelor's degree from Chatham College in Pittsburgh in 1967 and her M.P.H. from the University of Oklahoma in 1982.

Judy's career began in the Office of Economic Opportunity's National Anti-Poverty Program where she was active as a consultant for fund development, program development, program evaluation and social services management. After 20 years, Rothbaum left the program to become research director of the Community Council of Central Oklahoma in 1992. During her tenure as the research director of the Community Council of Central Oklahoma, Judy undertook the daunting and unprecedented task of strategically analyzing the health and human service needs in the Oklahoma City metro area. She wisely sought the involvement of 32 community volunteers with a history of leadership and activism in health and human services. The resulting publication, "Choosing our Future", was one of the first community indicators projects in the nation and became the basis for the now biennial local report known as Vital Signs. Today, Vital Signs continues to define the needs of children and youth, working-age adults and families, and the elderly in central Oklahoma.

Judy's passion was to help nonprofit organizations thrive. She once wrote "My mission is to support you - whether you're a nonprofit board member, staff member or volunteer - as you work to make a difference in people's lives." She served on the board of directors of the National Association of Planning Councils and Children's Medical Research Institute among others while developing initiatives in higher education, community health care, and medical research, serving as an instructor in fund development for the American Public Health Association's Maternal and Child Health Institute, and creating and teaching a continuing education curriculum in resource development for nonprofits.

Judith Rothbaum passed away in 2007 at the age of 61. Her legacy continues to impact communities throughout the United States. This award in her honor seeks to recognize those who mirror her passion and vision.

Judith Rothbaum Award Winners

- 2008 Katrina Middleton – Community Services Planning Council (Sacramento, California)
- 2009 Jan Figart – Community Service Council (Tulsa, Oklahoma)
- 2010 Claudia Gooch – The Planning Council (Norfolk, Virginia)

