

In the Spotlight

Highlighting Exceptional Employees

Jim Huegerich

Crisis and Human Services Manager

Joined Town: Aug. 18, 1975

Jim Huegerich was selected to receive the W. Calvin Horton Service Award for Town employees at an awards ceremony held Thursday, April 22, at Town Hall.

Town Manager Roger L. Stancil and members of the Senior Management Team joined with former Town Manager Cal Horton, Town employees and the Huegerich family to recognize the honoree. Town Manager Stancil selected the honoree for the award, based on information and recommendations from an employee committee comprising Deborah Squires, Dan Jones, Lance Norris, John Newark, Larry Stroud and Loryn Clark.

The award is one of the highest honors the Town of Chapel Hill bestows upon an employee. It is given to a Town employee who brings credit to the Town with exceptional contributions to the community. The employee represents the ideals of public service to citizens and peers in everyday demeanor and actions.

Jim arrived in Chapel Hill in 1974 after serving as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. In spite of the numerous choices he had for graduate school, he chose to become a Tar Heel not only because of the school's reputation but also because his family had relocated from the Midwest to Raleigh. He has a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wis., and a master's degree in education from UNC-Chapel Hill.

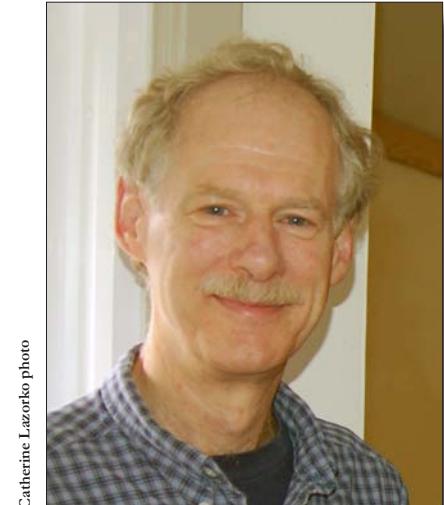
Upon finishing his master's degree, Jim began working for the Town of Chapel Hill in the Crisis Unit that Mayor Howard Lee had established within the Department of Human Services. It was then and is still today considered a unique concept of combining social work and law enforcement, a model envied by many communities.

Jim's first call took place on a Sunday

morning. His pager began to beep, and he nervously searched for a pay phone. He was directed to meet an officer at the home of a mental health worker. After this troubling call, Jim shared with his wife Tricia that he did not feel he was capable of or cut out for the job. But he persevered ... for 35 years. Countless people's lives have been touched through Jim's ability to work through crisis situations. In addition to Jim being recognized statewide as an expert in crisis counseling, he has also been recognized nationally as an expert in the field.

Some of Jim's most noteworthy activities are gardening, biking and walking. During his career with the Chapel Hill Police Department, Jim has walked or biked to work every day, choosing to not use motorized transportation. His gardening skills are visually and 'edibly' impressive. People often stop to ask his advice. His notoriety as a gardener has led local landscapers to ask for his input on perplexing issues.

Jim and his wife of 37 years, Tricia Huegerich (Library), have reared four children in Chapel Hill — daughters Amanda, Anneka and Jordan and son Reed. Jim enjoys gathering with his expanded family which now includes sons-in-law Jason Bostian and James Bailey, daughter-in-law Bryn Lippert Huegerich, and grandchildren Hannah, Abigail, Lillian, Brooke and Clay.



Catherine Lazorko photo

Earlier this year, Jim was recognized with another prestigious award, the Herman Stone Award from the Chapel Hill Police Department. The award is named for a previous police chief renowned for his relationship with the community. The characteristics of the award recipient are commitment to service, commitment to the values of fairness and respect for the individual, loyalty to the agency and to the community, and a demonstrated desire to serve people.

Congratulations, Jim.

Senior Management Team Values

In November 2007, the Town's Senior Management Team adopted the following set of values to guide their behavior and decisions. These values are Ethics, Social Equity, Professionalism, Respect, Innovation



and Teamwork. It is the intent of the Town Manager and the Senior Management Team to strengthen the organization with a commonly held set of values that drive our mission and objectives.