Response to question #2 on the Nomination Form:

2. Describe how this person or organization meets each of the criteria for the respective award category

The Alcoholism Council of Schenectady County, Inc., a not for profit organization was formed in 1968. Beginning with a drop-in center in the Christ Church, those combating alcohol use would stop by for coffee and speak with counselors. In 1976, the council moved to the Old State Theatre building to provide treatment services. The council opened its first community residence in 1985, named after the long time medical director, Dr. James Purcell. The Perrin House named after a valued counselor in the field, Georgia Perrin, opened in 1987 to serve women. In 1988, a Drinking Driver Program and Dual Recovery services were introduced. The council then moved to the former Masonic Lodge on State Street and Erie Boulevard and renames itself to The Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Council of Schenectady County, Inc. They then opened another community residence serving men in 1993, Smith House. The Shelter Plus Care permanent supportive housing program began in 1994 to serve homeless individuals and families in recovery. In 2006, as part of a larger strategic planning process, the council adopts a dba, New Choices Recovery Center and a new logo and tagline, "Life on Solid Ground". New Choices begins managing in 2007 and later merges in 2013 with the Bridge Center of Schenectady, Inc., a community residence serving men. Also in 2013, New Choices takes on a new Permanent Supportive Housing Initiative, MRT, and is able to provide rental assistance as well as case management to those who are high Medicaid users with a history of addiction.

New Choices then assumes ownership of the Carver Community Clinic in 2014, now known as Community Counseling Services (CCS). In 2014, New Choices wins a demonstration grant to operate the first of two Wraparound Aftercare programs in the state to serve opiate abusers amid the epidemic. In 2016, New Choices is designated as the Schenectady County provider of Substance Abuse Prevention Education Services and is chosen as a Center of Treatment Innovation (COTI) to provide mobile outreach and telepractice services to Montgromery, Saratoga and Schenectady Counties. In November 2018 and coinciding with the agency's 50th anniversary, New Choices relocated its headquarters and primary clinic to a built-to-suit facility at 728 State Street in Schenectady.

It is apparent that this agency has had a profound impact on the community through efforts of not only revitalizing and maintaining various structures in the area but also in contributing through revitalizing people. Through prevention, treatment and recovery resources, our agency is able to empower our clients to engage with the community in a meaningful way.