

## The 2016 Voice Awards: Strengthening Families through Hope and Help

By Ebony Campbell



On Wednesday, August 10, 2016, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Voice Awards program at Royce Hall on the UCLA campus to recognize the achievements and recovery of people in the entertainment industry, community leaders and family that play a vital role in raising awareness and knowledge about behavioral health issues.

The glamorous event was hosted by Dr. Mehmet Oz of the “The Dr. Oz Show,” who is an advocate for raising awareness about behavioral health issues and promoting research in the field. Dr. Oz started off the event by asking the audience to participate in a mobile survey called “[Text Talk Act](#).” The mobile survey allows an interactive conversation about mental health and the only requirement is to text a reply to 89800. Over 500 audience members and others watching the live video stream responded to questions asked during the show via text.

Each award recipient's acceptance speech was heartfelt, humorous and memorable, leaving the audience with the feeling that recovery is possible for everyone, and that recovery doesn't happen in a straight line. In life we all have setbacks, people with behavioral health disorders should be treated the same way everyone else is treated.

Tiffany Hunsley, Consumer/Peer/Family Leadership award recipient, mother, recovery champion and founder of Recovery is Happening, left the audience with these words "Addiction is a disease, not a decision."

Below are the 2016 SAMHSA Voice Award recipients being honored for each category:



**SAMHSA Special Recognition Awards** for raising awareness and understanding of behavioral health

- **Kristen Bell and Dax Shepard**
- **Rob Reiner and Nick Reiner**
- **Yashi Brown, Rebbie Jackson-Brown, and Stacy Brown-Salas**



**Lifetime Achievement Award** for their extraordinary contribution to mental health awareness and research.

- **The Staglin Family** of Garen and Shari, Brandon, and Shannon



**Consumer/Peer/Family Leadership Awards** for sharing stories of recovery and showing the positive impact of families in the journey of recovery.

- **Sheldon Hill**
- **Tiffany Hunsley**
- **Julie Magers**
- **Ted Streuli**
- **Sally Zinman**

**Young Adult Leadership Award** for teaching, mentoring, and encouraging young people across the nation faced with behavioral health challenges.

- **Joshua Calarino**

## **Film Awards**

- ***Being Charlie***
- ***The Dark Horse***
- ***Love & Mercy***
- ***Touched with Fire***

## **Television Awards**

- ***Blue Bloods* (CBS)**
- ***The Carmichael Show* (NBC)**
- ***Empire* (FOX)**
- ***Madam Secretary* (CBS)**
- ***Mom* (CBS)**
- ***Nashville* (ABC – CMT next season)**

## Documentary Awards

- *Buried Above Ground*
- *Hollywood Beauty Salon*