



**Ralph Simmons Receives Prestigious Sloan Public Service Award**

On Tuesday, March 20th, Ralph Simmons, Ombudsman of the Bridges Juvenile Center, received the prestigious 2007 Sloan Public Service Award by the Fund for the City of New York at an evening event in Cooper Union. With keynote remarks by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, The Fund's Chair Robert Curvin, President Mary McCormick, and Selection Committee Co-Chair Bishop Joseph Sullivan presented Mr. Simmons as one of only 6 awardees for his extraordinary public service to the City of New York. Mr. Simmons, an advocate for detained youth, also received a \$7,500 award.

The Bridges Juvenile Center, spearheaded by Executive Director Donna Locke, also co-hosted a morning reception where many officers and members of The Fund, and DJJ staff attended to honor Mr. Simmons. He was presented with an illustration by noted illustrator Niculae Asciu. Also in attendance were Marjorie Tiven, Commissioner of the NYC Commission for the United Nations, Consular Corps & Protocol, and Dr. Gloria Faretra, Chair of DJJ's Ombudsman Review Board. The event was covered by Channel 12 News of The Bronx.

The Fund for the City of New York noted, "An out-of-the-box thinker and model case manager, he advocates for this very difficult population well beyond the call of duty. After 18 years, he is completely unjaded. Nothing is beneath him when it comes to taking care of these kids. Nor do they forget him."

