



**For Immediate Release:**  
May 8, 2015

**Contact:** Michael Shalley, Member Services Director  
517-679-6403, [mshalley@michigancommunityaction.org](mailto:mshalley@michigancommunityaction.org)

## **Petoskey, Boyne City residents recognized for achievements**

Two difference-makers from Petoskey and Boyne City received recognition for making positive changes in their lives and the lives of people in Northwest Michigan at the Michigan Community Action Volunteer Awards event at the Capitol in Lansing on April 30. Larry Cole of Petoskey and Tara Riley of Boyne City were nominated by the Northwest Community Action Agency and are among 10 individuals or organizations honored from across the state.

Cole spent time in the Nehemiah Project shelter in Petoskey after becoming homeless when his mobile home burned. He has since gained part-time employment and is renting his residence. He owns his own vehicle, and has received treatment for an addiction. Cole continues to be a positive influence in his community.

Motivated to learn more about child development in order to help her youngest son, who has ADHD, Riley volunteered to complete parenting classes through Community Mental Health. She then took a job as a family engagement specialist, sharing her knowledge and resources with families and staff. In order to provide a better life for her children, she worked toward a bachelor's degree in social work, which she received in the spring of 2013. Riley is now working full-time and taking classes to earn a master's degree.

Michigan Community Action (MCA) awards are given annually to clients who overcame economic and social challenges, and volunteers who go above and beyond to improve a community's welfare.

*Founded in 1975, Michigan Community Action serves its 29 member agencies throughout Michigan by strengthening their capacity to alleviate the causes and circumstances of poverty in all 83 counties.*