

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Michael Coppage Illustrates Mental Illness Through Art**  
*Local artist receives OPPF Enlightenment Award*

CINCINNATI— Talbert House congratulates housing supervisor Michael Coppage for receiving the Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Foundation’s Enlightenment Award.

Michael was recognized for his efforts through art to enhance the public’s understanding of mental disorders and decrease the stigma often associated with mental illness. His artwork has been on exhibit multiple times at Columbus’s Fresh A.I.R. Gallery and his mural is displayed in the heart of downtown Cincinnati by ArtWorks. Through his art, Michael has interacted with both youth and adults to explain different topics such as mental illness.

In Michael’s words, “We need all the help and support we can get. The need to fit in and ‘be normal’ is often the biggest barrier to medication adherence and routine mental health treatment for the young African-American male population diagnosed with mental illness.”

“Thanks to Michael’s efforts and passion for our clients’ wellbeing,” says Talbert House’s President and CEO Neil Tilow, “our community is better educated on this important topic, and our clients are more likely to be welcomed by a community which sees them for more than their mental illness.”

The Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Foundation (OPPF) is a nonprofit charitable foundation working with psychiatrists and other medical and mental health professionals to ensure the highest quality psychiatric care for Ohioans now and in the future through professional education that enriches clinical knowledge; public education to increase awareness of mental health issues; and support for research to advance psychiatric knowledge and outcomes.

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**Talbert House** is a community-wide nonprofit that operates within five service lines: Adult Behavioral Health, Community Care, Court and Corrections, Housing, and Youth Behavioral Health. Children, adults and families benefit from these proven services. Talbert House serves over 36,000 clients face to face and an additional 34,000 are reached through prevention services throughout Southwest Ohio. Talbert House’s mission is to improve social behavior and enhance personal recovery and growth.