

## **Tribute to Jim Schmidt**

James R. "Jim" Schmidt, who worked for 38 years at the Fountain House in New York City and served as its Executive Director 1982 to 1992, died August 11, 2011, of pancreatic cancer. Jim was born in 1927 in Queens.

After retiring from Fountain House, Jim moved to Maine with his wife, Mollie. Despite having 'retired,' Jim continued to work tirelessly to develop and support the development of Clubhouses in Maine. His work has made an immense impact. The Governor of Maine, Gov. Paul LePage, said that Jim Schmidt "was a mentor to me and helped me understand the needs and how we could help. He was persistent and unending in his pursuit to try and find vocational opportunities for people with mental illness."

Most recently, Jim has served on the Board of Kennebec Behavioral Health (KBH), a mental health and substance abuse center in Maine. With Jim's assistance, KBH opened two Clubhouses in central Maine, High Hopes Clubhouse and Capitol Clubhouse. A third KBH Clubhouse is due to open in January 2012.

After Jim retired from Fountain House in 1992, he continued to work on behalf of the worldwide Clubhouse community, by visiting and assisting Clubhouses in Pakistan, Egypt, Moscow, Finland and Sweden. In 1997, he received the Alice Fordyce Public Service Award for his work at a United Nations Award celebration in New York City

Jim was the Director of Fountain House during the time when the Fountain House Clubhouse model was being widely replicated throughout the world. The international Clubhouse community owes a tremendous debt of respect and gratitude to Jim's passionate commitment to the Clubhouse way of working; and to the members that Clubhouses serve. Jim's contributions have created a foundation upon which the Clubhouse movement can continue to grow and thrive. We will miss you, Jim.