



## Probation Association of New Jersey

Serving New Jersey Since 1904

An affiliate of the American Probation and Parole Association

United Professional Center, Building Two

617 Union Avenue, Brielle, NJ 08730

Phone (732) 223-1799 Fax (732) 223-8363

Website: [www.panj.org](http://www.panj.org)

Ellen Cribbin  
Business Manager

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Executive Assistant  
to the President

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### **Contact:**

George Christie, PANJ: (732) 223-1799  
Elizabeth A. Meyers, Capital Impact Group:  
(609) 989-5885

## **PROBATION ASSOCIATION NAMES HOCKEY GREAT JIM DOWD AS CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**

*Former NJ Devil honored for Philanthropic Work Off the Ice*

**Monmouth County, N.J.** –Former New Jersey Devil Jim Dowd recently received the William H. Thomas Citizen of the Year award from the Probation Association of New Jersey (PANJ) for his philanthropic efforts raising money for his “Shoot for the Stars” foundation.

The Foundation holds two major fundraising events each year – the Annual All-Star High School hockey game in Monmouth County and the Hockey Night in Hoboken. Proceeds from the Foundation are donated to local Monmouth County children and families struggling with catastrophic illnesses.

Dowd has played for various teams in the National Hockey League for 19 years since 1991.

George P. Christie, president of PANJ, praised Dowd for his efforts to use his hockey skills and notoriety to help those less fortunate in the community.

“Jim Dowd does an extraordinary thing every year by reaching out into the community to help support families whose children are facing cancer or other life-threatening illnesses. He is truly a gentlemen both on and off the ice, and we congratulate him for being a role model in New Jersey,” said Christie.

The PANJ Citizen of the Year award is named after Monmouth County advocate William H. Thomas who created local art therapy program Amanda’s Easel after the murder of (then) six-year old granddaughter Amanda Weingart of Manalapan. The program has provided art therapy counseling to more than 1,000 abused and traumatized children and their families for nearly 12 years.

Dowd was honored with the award at the recent 67<sup>th</sup> annual PANJ Educational Foundation training institute, “Tackling Tough Times in 2009” which focused on addressing new and growing issues in the supervision system.

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At the group's annual conference, outstanding leaders among probation officers and State Senator Sean Kean (D-Monmouth) received awards for their commitment and dedication to supervising offenders and serving and leaders in their respective divisions. In addition, six scholarships were presented to deserving students continuing their college education.

With an estimated 139,000 adults and 20,000 juveniles under probation system, New Jersey is the nation's ninth largest adult probation system. There are approximately 2,800 probation officers and supervisors in New Jersey. Probation officers supervise child support enforcement, process family court and domestic violence matters, and conduct pre-sentence and pre-trial investigations.

For more information about "Jim Dowd's Shoot for the Stars Foundation," log on to [www.Jdsftsf.com](http://www.Jdsftsf.com).

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