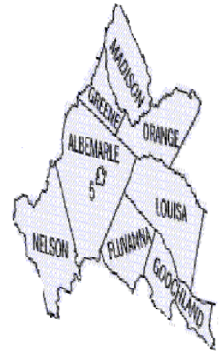




**THOMAS JEFFERSON AREA  
COMMUNITY CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD**

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Thomas von Hemert, CIT Coordinator



## **AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT:**

The Virginia Crisis Intervention Team Coalition Awarded  
**2011 CIT PROGRAM OF THE YEAR**

to the

### **THOMAS JEFFERSON AREA CIT PROGRAM**

For Its Strong Commitment to the Development of CIT within its Community and  
For its Exemplary Leadership throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia  
Presented at Virginia CIT/NAMI Conference on September 11, 2011

*CIT improves police interactions with people experiencing acute episodes of mental illness. The training is designed to educate and prepare law enforcement officers who come into contact with people in crisis, to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental illness and to respond effectively and appropriately to the individual. The goal of the CIT program is to reduce unnecessary restraint and incarceration of people with mental illness and to provide individuals with appropriate treatment in the community.*

#### **Highlights of our CIT in the last 5 years**

- Largest CIT Program in Virginia (covering 9 localities and University of Virginia)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> developed CIT in Virginia starting in 2006 (after New River Valley CIT). There are now 24 CIT initiatives across Virginia.
- Trained over 350 law enforcement officers in CIT in our state and region (not including trainings for Emergency Dispatchers, Magistrates, Train the Trainer for CIT Officers, Security Officers for Crisis Diversion Site.
- Over 70% of Charlottesville, Albemarle and University of Virginia Patrol Officers trained in CIT.
- Developed first CIT data / evaluation system in Virginia; nationally recognized
- Helped trained and mentored the development of multiple new CIT programs throughout Virginia and United States
  1. Henrico CIT
  2. Blue Ridge CIT
  3. Richmond CIT
  4. Virginia Beach CIT
  5. Hampton/Newport News
  6. Lynchburg CIT
  7. Chattanooga CIT
- Recognized by Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) as most advanced and comprehensive CIT program in Virginia
- Recognized for the last two years by DBHDS and DCJS as one of three CIT mentor programs in Virginia
- Awarded CIT International, **CIT Police Chief Award** to University of Virginia Police Department, Chief Mike Gibson, 2008
- Received the **Region Ten CSB - Consumer Advisory Council** Award in 2009 to Thomas von Hemert and CIT Officers for their commitment to the ideal of knowledge and sensitive intervention with individuals experiencing a mental health crisis
- Presented at last four CIT International Conferences on the topics of **PTSD with Combat Veterans** (with Combat Vets from Iraq and Afghanistan) and **Data/ Evaluation- Documenting the Success of CIT.**
- Awarded the CIT International Award for **Best CIT PIN of the YEAR** in 2010 .....Pin design located in upper left corner
- Developed CIT Monthly Team Meeting to pro-actively review and collaborate on potential mental health crisis cases.
- Awarded The Virginia Crisis Intervention Team Coalition Award for 2011 **CIT COORDINATOR OF THE YEAR** presented to Thomas von Hemert, in recognition of his achievements as a CIT Coordinator serving the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Thomas Jefferson Area CIT

***The best and strongest part of CIT is our TEAM.....***

***Read the incredible stories and work of the CIT Officers, Trainers and Community  
In the CIT Newsletter (see enclosed article).***