



Recovery Day: A Community Celebration

Our third annual Recovery Day was a resounding success! Thank you to each and every attendee. We'd especially like to thank our Cazenovia Recovery team, who worked so hard the past few months to ensure that the event went well.

Staff were at the park early to help set up, though it wasn't exactly bright due to dark clouds and occasional rain. Coffee was available to help warm up cold hands. Despite the uncooperative weather, turnout over last year was doubled with approximately 400 people in attendance.



Joshua Kellick, Housing Specialist for our Housing Program, and Venus Wiggins, Counselor for Visions Place

Thanks to the work of our program at Visions Place, Recovery Day featured a new children's tent that included activities for kids like arts and crafts, face painting, and a popcorn machine. Registration went smoothly, as t-shirts and programs were handed out by the staff members of our Supportive Living program.



Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples-Stokes served as our featured Community Speaker

To kick off the event, Sue Bissonette, our Executive Director, provided the background of Recovery Day and also the history of National Recovery Month. Sue Green, a member of our Board of Directors, and Al Halley, our Chief Operations Officer, each gave testimonials and encouraging speeches to the crowd. Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples-Stokes, who offered to serve as a Community Speaker for the event, proclaimed that people in recovery are "miracles" and that they have taught her that "anything is possible." Her speech helped to reaffirm the work that our agency does and that recovery truly is a reality.

Music played throughout McCarthy Park, providing the celebratory atmosphere the event intended to create. There were also a few running and walking races, an art show, and a number of vendor tables with information from our community partners.

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Staff Spotlight

Let's Congratulate:

Mary Beth McCormick for obtaining her Licensed Mental Health Counseling credentials (LMHC)!

Michael Dameron for obtaining his CASAC certification!

Promotions & Transfers:

Dominique Lane is now a Counselor Associate at Casa Di Vita.

Kevin Patterson is now the Facility Assistant at Ivy House.

Robert Hall III is now a Counselor at Supportive Living.

Let's Welcome:

Ivy House: Linda (Lynne) Hertienne (Program Secretary) & Michael Frazier (Counselor)

Liberty Hall: Andie Loranty (Case Manager)

New Beginnings: Debra Cannon (Site Supervisor)

Cazenovia Creators:

Scotty Burt, for starting the new Recovery Day Art Show.

Rachel White, for her positive attitude and for going above and beyond her assigned duties to assist the program residents and staff.

Cazenovia Catchers:

Debbie Wright, for helping to resolve a question related to required ink color for certain documents.

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Seemingly out of nowhere, the weather took a drastic turn for the worse. The wind picked up and torrential rains blew sideways. Some of our tents began to falter, but the crowd came together and ensured that inclement weather was no match for our determination. Thankfully, no one was injured. Jennifer Hatton, our Housing Program Director and overall Event Planner for Recovery Day, said that, “the storm only proved how resilient we are.”

Activities resumed once the excitement of the storm passed. Food was served, prizes were awarded, and the sun began to shine. Overall, the turnout from all of our programs was wonderful and our residents and staff got very involved in the available activities.

Our New Recovery Day Art Show

This year saw the introduction of a new art show that will become a feature of future Recovery Day events. Submissions were accepted from residents and staff throughout the agency, and Recovery Day attendees were given a ticket to vote for their favorite piece. Prize packages were awarded to the three most popular entries. In first place was Reese, a resident of Cazenovia Manor; Jennifer, a resident of one of our Housing programs, came in second; and the third place winner was Robert, also a resident of Cazenovia Manor. The winning pieces will be displayed at our Administrative Office.



Recovery Day Staff and Supporters



Clockwise from upper left: the second, third, and first place winners of the Recovery Day Art Show

Recovery Day Races

The range of fun Recovery Day races offered to attendees is often one of the most memorable parts about the day. This year, we introduced warm up and cool down yoga to the races, led by Catherine Zawodzinski, a certified yoga instructor. Our newly-nimble and stretched participants were able to participate in one of three races: an adult running race, an adult walking race, and a kids' race. Race participants ranged from staff members to residents to supporters of people in recovery. Dozens of people participated in the races. The first-place runner was Isaiah Fulgham, who has placed first in each of the Recovery Day runs for the past three years.



First place race winner, Isaiah Fulgham, and his father, Greg Fulgham, our Senior Housing Specialist

Cazenovia Creators & Catchers Awards

Thank you to everyone who participated in our first Cazenovia Creators & Catchers recognition campaign. Our Cazenovia Creators were: Jeff Pries, Angela Angora, Matthew Rzepka, Rachel White, and Scotty Burt. Meanwhile, our Cazenovia Catchers were Venus Wiggins, Sue Bissonette, and Debbie Wright. Congratulations to Rachel White for winning our first quarterly Cazenovia Creators & Catchers gift card drawing! Enjoy the gift card to Starbucks. Our next drawing will be in December.

