

THE CAZENOVIA Compass

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building futures



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Strong Throughout “Snowvember”

The staff of Cazenovia Recovery Systems certainly proved their dedication during the recent and unprecedented snowstorm. Stories came in from across the agency about how our employees worked tirelessly to ensure the safety of our residents.

At Cazenovia Manor, John Deabold, one of the program’s resident monitors, worked for three days straight on little sleep. O’Dell Hall, another resident monitor, wanted to help, but was not able to get close enough to Cazenovia Manor due to an extensive driving ban in South Buffalo. He ended up parking his car at Bailey and Clinton and walked for two miles in waist-high snow all the way to Cazenovia Manor to assist John. The program even went without hot water for a week

John Gleason, maintenance assistant, also helped out at Cazenovia Manor. According to our property manager, Jessica Teresi, “he was able to walk to the program and provided relief for staff.” He also checked in on and helped out with our various Supportive Living apartments throughout South Buffalo.

Despite the office being closed, staff members at Supportive Living (especially Kaitlin Lydo, Latera Hodges, and Ryan Zwan) “were all available to assist calling residents and made sure they were safe,” said Erika Caldarella, senior counselor.



Over 7 feet of snow fell in some parts of the area



A path at Turning Point House

The boiler at New Beginnings went down in the middle of the storm, and the program was temporarily without hot water. However, thanks to the quick and considerate work of Jeff Pries, the agency’s facility assistant coordinator, the boiler was replaced within an hour.

According to Briana Petersdorf, Visions Place program director, Amanda Lyon, Visions Place counselor, “covered an overnight shift on Monday night which then got her stuck in Buffalo. She was unable to return to her home until Friday and had to stay with relatives in the northtowns.” Kristin Harnischfeger, a fellow counselor at Visions Place, helped out by working 16-hour shifts and 13-hour overnight shifts.

Greg Fulgham, senior housing specialist, received a call from a resident of our Housing program on Tuesday morning during the brunt of the storm. The resident, who left for work at 5:30AM, found himself stranded on Walden Avenue in Cheektowaga by 11AM. Greg attempted to pick the resident up but found that Walden was closed past Transit Road. Greg then walked down Walden to meet the resident halfway in near-whiteout conditions. Once the two met up, Greg drove the resident back home.

Meanwhile in Eden, Turning Point House (TPH) saw snow later in the week as the storm moved further south. Matthew Rachwal, resident monitor, spent all week at TPH and while there, he shoveled very

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Staff Spotlight

Let’s Congratulate:

Rachael Donatelli from Visions Place on obtaining her LMSW credentials! She is now a QHP.

Debra Cannon for her feature in The Buffalo News and Business First of Buffalo!

Let’s Welcome:

Admin:
David Bowen
(Comptroller)

Ivy House:
Irish Scott, CASAC-T
(Case Manager)

Promotions & Transfers:

Debbie Franz, CASAC, ARCB, is now the Clinical Services Assistant.

Cazenovia Creators & Catchers:

Our next drawing to win a gift card for being nominated as a Cazenovia Creator or Catcher will be held in December.

Send in your nominations to Ed Cichon to help reward your fellow staff members.

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often. Raymond Woodin, counselor associate, “also worked around the clock and engaged residents in fun activities to help pass the time,” according to Maranda Villa, counselor. Maranda also worked multiple shifts, along with Michelle Harvey, medical case manager, who “was a huge help with additional coverage.” Some TPH residents were also generous enough to help out their neighbors in Eden by shoveling snow off of roofs.

Our staff are incredibly committed and the agency would like to extend its sincere gratitude to those who put the needs of our residents first. We truly stayed strong throughout “Snowvember.”

Housing’s Turkey Giveaway

On Friday, November 14, our Housing staff distributed turkeys and bags of food to residents of our various Housing programs. The food was donated so that the residents may enjoy Thanksgiving. During the 2013 holiday season, chickens were given to residents. This was the first year turkeys were the main feature of our holiday resident donation. In total, 127 turkeys were provided, which was quite a change from last year. On average, this year’s turkeys were around 15 pounds, and they were received from Steve’s Meats on East Delevan in Buffalo. Jaime, a resident in our Permanent Supportive Housing program, said that the donations were “greatly appreciated,” and other residents remarked that Cazenovia Recovery “always manages to give us help when we need it.”

Holiday Decorations Contest

In last month’s newsletter, we acknowledged the great Halloween decorations of one of our Supportive Living apartments. For the upcoming holiday season, we will be holding an agency-wide decorating contest and residents throughout the agency are encouraged to participate. One group-living residence, one Supportive Living apartment, and one Housing apartment will be chosen as winners and will then receive gift card prizes. The deadline for submissions is Friday, December 19 for decorations including Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa.

If you are a Supportive Living resident, please contact your counselor for more information. Meanwhile, Housing residents should contact their housing specialists, and finally, residents of our group-living residences should speak with their staff for more information. Participating locations will have their decorated exteriors photographed, and these pictures will be posted on our website and social networks.

WNY Holiday Partnership Toy Program

Help is available for residents unable to obtain toys for their loved ones. By contacting the WNY Holiday Partnership Toy Program, you may be able to receive children’s toys for the holidays. For more information on application sites, hours, eligibility requirements, and other topics, please call 2-1-1 or 888-696-9211. This program is being administered by the Olmsted Center for Sight and 2-1-1 WNY.



The entryway to Turning Point House



Housing Staff & Steve’s Meats



Holiday decorations

Residents of the Month

Cazenovia Recovery congratulates the following residents for their improvement in all life areas:

- Hector V. —HOPE
- Marsha C. — SL2

Keep up the great work everyone! You can help recognize more hard-working residents by contacting Ed at ecichon@cazenoviarecovery.org.