

THE CAZENOVIA *Compass*

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 11

building futures



DECEMBER 2014

Cazenovia Recovery's Year in Review

For Cazenovia Recovery Systems, 2014 was no less than a banner year. On the first day of the year, our agency grew by almost 30% when we took over programs that were once operated by another local organization. Now, at the start of 2015, Casa Di Vita, Ivy House, and the new Supportive Living beds are operating as if they have been a part of our agency for years.

Cazenovia Recovery grew once again in the spring when we began operating a new Housing program designed to serve young adults in recovery from substance use. The Young Adult Housing Program can serve up to 20 young adults simultaneously.

Staff and residents contributed to the community throughout the year, with a highlight being Hands Across Buffalo in May. Our agency saw dozens of staff, residents, and supporters join hands on East and West Ferry Streets throughout the city to help raise awareness about poverty and homelessness in Buffalo. Residents also volunteered at Meals on Wheels, the Food Bank of Western New York, the Buffalo



Erika, Dolores, and Latara (Supportive Living staff) at this year's Recovery Day



Cazenovia Recovery's Administrative Office

City Mission, Happy Trails Horse Rescue Farm in Eden, and many more places.

In September, we hosted our third annual Recovery Day. The event brought awareness to the stigma associated with recovery from substance use and gave our residents a platform upon which to celebrate their incredible achievements in recovery. In the lead up to Recovery Day, Cazenovia Recovery was featured on AM Buffalo, in the Buffalo News, and in many other local platforms. This year's Recovery Day was our biggest and most ambitious yet.

Most recently, the Homeless Alliance of Western New York recognized Cazenovia Recovery for the high quality work we do by awarding us with the 2014 Monsignor Henry J. Gugino Organizational Service Award. More information on this award is available on the next page.

We look forward to another positive and transformative year in 2015 filled with life-changing resident stories and supportive staff who are dedicated to the people we serve.

Staff Spotlight

Let's Welcome:

Turning Point House:
Becky Stefanik
(Senior Counselor)

Cazenovia Creators & Catchers:

Matthew Rzepka started a music group at TPH.

Scotty Burt (Housing) designed innovative new groups to increase the creativity of our residents.

Joshua Kellick created *Voices of Recovery*, our agency's first poetry collection.

Scotty and Joshua both received additional nominations for holding a training on preventing stress and fatigue at work.

Bonnie Marrocco collected donations from Dunkin Donuts, Pauly's Pizza, and Bohn's to make the holidays special for the veterans at Liberty Hall.

Debra Cannon strove to make New Beginnings the first program within the agency to have all their current residents access bus passes.

Michael Dameron from Liberty Hall and Raymond Woodin from TPH trained Ivy House staff on how to use E-docs.

Thank you to our creative staff and congratulations to Scotty Burt for winning the second drawing!

HAWNY Honors Cazenovia Recovery

On December 12, the Homeless Alliance of Western New York (HAWNY) presented Cazenovia Recovery Systems with the 2014 Monsignor Henry J. Gugino Organizational Service Award. The award is named after Monsignor Henry J. Gugino, who was incredibly passionate about serving the poor. The award recognizes the achievements of an agency that has provided outstanding service to homeless individuals while also helping to eliminate the causes of homelessness. Mark Poloncarz, Erie County Executive, served as the keynote speaker to the event. Al Halley, our Chief Operations Officer, accepted the award and noted that Cazenovia Recovery is “just a spoke in the wheel of services designed to eradicate homelessness.”



Left to right, County Executive Mark Poloncarz and Al Halley talk with attendees

Holiday Decorations Contest Winners

This year, Cazenovia Recovery Systems held a holiday decorations contest and our residents and programs went all out with their decorating. Three Housing program residents decorated their apartments, and their visitors were greeted with decorated doors and brightly-lit trees. Our programs got into the spirit of the season, as well. Trees, garland, lights, and other decorations were seen throughout the agency.

One agency program and one Housing apartment were each chosen as winners of the contest. Congratulations to Dexter, the winner of the Housing contest, and Visions Place, the winner of our programs contest! Bryan and Christa, residents of Visions Place, wanted to make sure that everyone at their program had a positive holiday experience. Together, the two decorated all of Visions Place for less than \$20 by using recycled materials. Thank you to everyone who participated.



Briana Petersdorf, Visions Place program director, and resident, Bryan C.

TPH Plays in a Basketball Tournament

This month, Horizon Village in Sanborn, NY invited Turning Point House (TPH) to play in a basketball tournament, which was designed to promote sober and clean fun for residents. Raymond Woodin, counselor associate, and TPH residents Ryan F., Beau K., Michael S., Michael B., Thomas S., and “Coach” Edwin V. played against Horizon Village residents and alumni. TPH won four games, lost one, and came in second overall. Mary Beth McCormick, program director, stated that “all the residents and staff had fun and cannot wait to do it again.”



TPH Residents & Staff after the tournament

Annual Consortium Luncheon

The Western New York Chemical Dependency Consortium held its annual luncheon this month at Protocol in Williamsville. Mike Dameron, counselor associate at Liberty Hall; Erika Caldarella, senior counselor at Supportive Living; and Bonnie LaForme, counselor at New Beginnings; were each recognized for obtaining their Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC) certification. Members of the recovery community throughout Western New York were there to witness the acknowledgement of our staff’s accomplishments.

Residents of the Month

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

- Hector V. – HOPE
- Marsha C. – SL2
- Thomas S. – PSH
- Amber M. – YAH

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