



## Expanding Into Niagara County

Somerset House in Appleton

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When Cazenovia Recovery Systems acquired Fellowship House's (FH) facilities and programs on January 1, Cazenovia expanded its reach into Niagara County and grew its adult bed capacity by 20 percent.



### Madonna House in Lockport

The transition of programs proceeded smoothly, as the two entities shared similar missions and services. "As a matter of fact, when FH started, they used many of Cazenovia Recovery's practices," Suzanne Bissonette, Cazenovia Recovery's Executive Director, said. "I came across Fellowship files containing many of our policies, procedures, and manuals going back to the early days of our organization."

Staff from both agencies worked closely for the past six months, with cooperation of the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) and Niagara County. "FH staff who have elected to stay and our staff have done a champion job to make this work," Sue said. "We immersed ourselves in understanding their operations, then spent the last quarter of 2015 training them in Cazenovia's practices and philosophies."

Now under the Cazenovia umbrella are Somerset House in Appleton and Sundram Manor in Niagara Falls, community residences for men and women; Madonna House in Lockport for women and women with children; and Supportive Living, apartments in Niagara Falls and Lockport, for men, women, and residents' children. FH's former administrative office at 625 Buffalo Avenue in Niagara Falls has become Cazenovia Recovery's Niagara County Clinical Office, which will relocate to Canal Terrace, 76 West Ave. in Lockport with Supportive Living on February 3, 2016.

Andrea Ocasio, Cazenovia Recovery's Director of Clinical Services, added that these programs "will allow services to continue that are desperately needed in Niagara County."

Tangela Watson-Bogan, formerly with FH, is Cazenovia's Clinical Supervisor for Niagara County. If Cazenovia had not taken over FH's programs, "they would have disappeared," she said. She noted that the transition has been hard work, but that positive changes are taking place.



### Tangela Watson-Bogan, Clinical Supervisor

"Because staff are better informed and because we now have more resources, our residents will be better served," Tangela said.

## Staffing Info

### Let's Congratulate:

Ed Cichon is now the Director of Marketing and Communications

Michelle Tipps-Ankrah is now a Counselor Associate at Casa Di Vita

Kyle Bell is now a Housing Specialist

Nicholas Manuszewski is now the Senior Counselor at Turning Point House

Falonia LaMar is now the Senior Counselor at Unity House

### Let's Welcome:

All of our new staff at our Niagara County programs!

Kanwalnain (Ginny) Bawa, Counselor at Casa Di Vita

Otis Williams, Jr., Residence Monitor at Cazenovia Manor

Tracy Hunt, Senior Counselor at Supportive Living

### Cazenovia Creators & Catchers:

The team at TPH nominated Raymond Woodin for his hard work streamlining electronic documents.

Alison Whou nominated Venus Wiggins for always being so positive and upbeat in everything she does.

Our next quarterly drawing will be held in March. Be sure to nominate your fellow employees to enter them to win a \$25 gift card!

## Niagara County Address Updates

Addresses for the Niagara County programs are currently:

- **Niagara County Clinical Office** (formerly the Fellowship House administrative office): 625 Buffalo Ave., Niagara Falls, NY 14303
- **Madonna House**: 5586 Niagara St. Ext., Lockport, NY 14094
- **Somerset House**: 7397 Lake Rd., Appleton, NY 14008
- **Sundram Manor**: 431 Memorial Pkwy, Niagara Falls, NY 14303
- **Supportive Living**: 1204 Niagara St., Niagara Falls, NY 14303

As of February 3, the **Niagara County Clinical Office** and **Supportive Living** will relocate to a combined location at Canal Terrace, 76 West Avenue, Lockport, NY 14094.



Sundram Manor in Niagara Falls

## Pizza Hut Donates to Madonna House

Every year, local Pizza Huts donate money to organizations that serve children throughout the area through their “Raising Dough for Kids” campaign. In the past, they have generously supported Madonna House, our Intensive Residential Rehabilitation program in Lockport that serves women and women with children. Thankfully, they are continuing to support the children at Madonna House this year. Pizza Hut donated \$1,682 to the program during a “Raising Dough for Kids” presentation at a Pizza Hut location in Amherst, NY. Sue Bissonette, Executive Director, and Kathryn Kaiser, Madonna House Program Director, both attended the presentation.



Sue Bissonette, third from right, and Kathryn Kaiser, far right, at Raising Dough for Kids

## Administration's Dress-Down Donations

Participating staff at our administrative office pay a dollar to dress down in jeans on Fridays. At the end of the year, these donations are given to two local charities of our administrative staff's choosing. Last year saw a total of \$510 collected. In December, the administrative staff chose to donate \$255 each to the Wounded Warriors Project, which helps wounded Veterans, and Friends of the Night People, which assists homeless individuals. Programs throughout the agency are planning on collecting similar donations in 2016.



Administration staff dress down on Fridays

## Principles of the Month

This month, we began highlighting different aspects of Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) in a monthly message from Sue Bissonette, our Executive Director. Collaboration will be the first TIC Principle of the Month in February. Employees received Sue's message explaining collaborative initiatives the agency is implementing. Be sure to look for Sue's News each month, which will feature tips and information as we continue our journey towards becoming a trauma-informed agency.

