

THE CAZENOVIA *Compass*

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building futures



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Building Futures Through Volunteering

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." - M. Gandhi

While Cazenovia Recovery Systems' program participants and staff might not have happened upon that quotation, many are living its wisdom by engaging in community volunteer work.

Last month, dozens of our agency's residents, family members, supporters, and staff were part of Hands Across Buffalo, which raised awareness about poverty in the Buffalo area. Thousands of Western New Yorkers held hands in an impressive line spanning Ferry Street – from East Ferry and Bailey Avenue to West Ferry and Niagara Street.



Cazenovia Recovery at Hands Across Buffalo

At Ivy House, a gentleman is helping out at the Salvation Army and another volunteers in the kitchen at Buffalo City Mission. According to Paul Shelton, Site Supervisor, one more person is waiting to hear from the Buffalo Pug and Small Breed Shelter, where he wishes to donate his services.

Food Bank Gardens, part of the Food Bank of WNY, drew the interest of Supportive Living staff, who volunteered with their families on May 24. Supportive Living Program Director Todd Winship said that he is looking to have clients get involved the next time. Maintained solely by volunteer efforts, the garden's vegetables and fruit go to food pantries.

Since Case Manager Cynthia Taylor joined the Turning Point House (TPH) staff in February, she has been arranging volunteer opportunities. At the Ten Lives Cat Shelter in Hamburg, residents organized the warehouse and delivered cat food and litter.

At the Happy Trails Horse Rescue Farm in Eden, TPH residents fed and watered horses and cleaned stalls. Last month, *(continued on page 2)*



Todd Winship volunteering at the Food Bank Gardens

Jennifer Hatton, Housing Programs Director, and Cierra Smalls, the agency's Job Developer, planned Cazenovia Recovery's participation.

Deb Watkins, Housing Programs Senior Vocational Specialist, reports that Supported Housing Programs residents volunteer for Meals on Wheels and the Buffalo Food Pantry. One individual is a group facilitator at a rehabilitation program and another is an apartment maintenance assistant.

Staff Spotlight

Let's Congratulate:

Roger Glasgow, on his upcoming retirement. Although you have been employed by Cazenovia Recovery for only a few short months, the agency would like to thank you for over thirty years of service in our field. Enjoy your retirement!

Promotions & Transfers

Michael Ostrander is now a Case Manager at Supportive Living.

Let's Welcome:

Casa Di Vita: Dominique Lane (Program Secretary)

Ivy House: Paul Fletcher (Counselor Associate)

Supportive Living: Jessica McClendon (Counselor Associate)

Turning Point House: Lisa Smith (Counselor Associate) & Alana Winnert (Counselor Associate)

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they signed up to help out at the MS Walk at Buffalo's Canalside. On the June calendar is volunteering at the Food Bank of WNY.

Military veterans who reside at Liberty Hall on the VA Medical Center grounds in Batavia received a flat of vegetable plants from Harrington's Greenhouse after Residence Monitor Gene Lonnen told the Harrington family of the residents' wish to plant a garden. Gene is helping, too – he donated the use of his rototiller.



A new vegetable garden at Liberty Hall

Visit Our Brand-New Website

Our new agency website has been launched, and you can visit it at www.cazenoviarecovery.org. It includes in-depth information on each of our programs, the agency as a whole, specialty services we offer, and more. The site is a useful tool for prospective residents, community partners, and staff alike. While you are there, be sure to click on the Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn links so you can follow the agency on various social networks.



Cazenovia “Creators and Catchers”

Cazenovia Recovery will be starting a new initiative designed to promote and recognize creativity and innovation within the agency entitled “Cazenovia Creators and Catchers.” All agency staff are encouraged to participate.

A Cazenovia Creator is someone who has proposed an innovative idea, whether it is an exciting place to volunteer, a new way to save money, a way to better serve our residents, etc. A Cazenovia Catcher is someone who discovers something staff may have been doing mistakenly while assuming it was agency policy.

One example from years past involved staff members at a Community Residence who asked the Admin Office if their residents could watch basketball playoff games. They had assumed that an agency policy was in place that restricted residents from watching TV during the afternoons, which was not the case. After having checked with the Admin Office, they were told that no such policy exists, and so the residents were able to enjoy the games. A second example is the term “G.I. Cleaning” when referencing a house cleaning. Though it was originally a military term used since the agency began, it also comes with a certain unfortunate connotation. Since the description has been used for quite a while, new program staff often assume it is a required term. Luckily, it was never a term designated through policy, and as a result of a Program Director's suggestion, their program changed to a term that staff and residents felt were more suited to their particular site.

Each Cazenovia Creator and Catcher will be entered into a quarterly drawing to win a gift card. All-User emails will be sent out to recognize both accomplishments, and newsletter recognition will also occur. If you know of a fellow staff member who has done something worthy of the title of “Cazenovia Catcher” or “Cazenovia Creator,” email Ed Cichon at ecichon@cazenoviarecovery.org.



Casa Di Vita Hosts Alcoholics Anonymous

Casa Di Vita, our Community Residence designed specifically for women, will resume hosting The Women's West Side Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings every Friday evening from 7:30PM—8:30PM. The program previously hosted these meetings, though they were unfortunately halted due in part to the recent program transition. Many former residents have expressed a “strong desire” for the meetings to return, according to Annette Slaughter, the site supervisor.

This meeting is for women only and is open to the public. Casa Di Vita hopes that as many women as possible participating in other agency programs can come and support the meetings. Casa Di Vita is located at 200 Albany St., Buffalo, NY 14213.

Residents of the Month

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

- Sharon H. – SHP
- Kevin P. – SHP
- Shalika S. – SL3

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