



A Tribute to 23 Years of Dedication

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After 23 years of service at Cazenovia Recovery Systems, Al Halley, our Chief Operations Officer, will retire at the end of this year. Al's career with our agency has been a storied one, filled with success and compassion.



Al Halley, our Chief Operations Officer

He started as an intern on the weekends at Turning Point House (TPH), our Intensive Residential Rehabilitation program for men in Eden. He also served as a Van Driver, an Assistant Resident Manager at Cazenovia Manor, and an Alcoholism Counselor at Supportive Living after he obtained his CASAC in 1999. He later became Supportive Living's Program Director. In 2006, he began serving as the Director of Housing and Operations before assuming his current role of Chief Operations Officer. "I didn't expect this," Al said about his remarkable advancement. "I just wanted to be here and work."

Al considers his service "a privilege and honor" and he gladly notes that working for our agency has made him "a better person."

Above all else, Al has always appreciated working with the residents. He is particularly proud of what our residents accomplish after successfully completing treatment. Inspiring examples include a former resident who teaches at Buff State, while another is a business owner, and yet another rose through the ranks at General Motors and is now working for the company in Germany.



Turning Point House

Lately, though, Al has wanted to share his experience as someone in recovery in order to inspire and motivate others. He also hopes to remove the stigma attached to the disease. For this year's Recovery Day, he went on Channel 7's AM Buffalo and was very open about his journey. "I want to make sure that people understand that

Let's Welcome:

Alison Whou, Accounts Payable Coordinator at Admin

Sonya Jones, Residence Monitor at Casa Di Vita

Pamela Harper, Case Manager at Cazenovia Manor

Tina McCarty-Neveu, Program Director of Supportive Living

Nicholas Manuszewski, Counselor Associate at Turning Point House

Diane Lowe, Program Secretary at Turning Point House

Cazenovia Creators & Catchers:

Quinclon Davis nominated Bob Davis, Supportive Living's Vocational Specialist, for going the extra mile serving Supportive Living's residents. He volunteers to give them rides to job interviews and school intake appointments.

Be sure to nominate your fellow staff members by sending submissions to Ed Cichon. The next drawing will be held next month.

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people do get better,” he said. “I hope that people looking to recover see that they have opportunities.”

He feels very proud of what the agency has accomplished throughout his career. By expanding our continuum of care, we have provided residents with “an opportunity to avoid returning to bad situations,” according to Al.

Without a doubt, his presence will be missed. Sue Bissonette, our Executive Director, stated, “It is always nice to see Al’s smiling face and I enjoy his sense of humor in a very challenging field. The entire agency feels an overwhelming sense of gratitude and appreciation for his work. Our Leadership Team will not be the same when Al retires.”

As for goals during his retirement, Al is planning on finishing his master’s thesis. Once he has his MSW, Al hopes to teach classes in social work that focus on substance use. “Professor Halley has a nice ring to it,” he said with his typical smile. We couldn’t agree more.

Cadence Square Recognition

Last month, Cadence Square was awarded Residence of the Year from The Supportive Housing Network of New York. Meanwhile, it will receive the NYS Parks and Preservation Award next month. Cazenovia Recovery served as a development partner to create the program with The Finger Lakes Addictions Counseling & Referral Agency on the Canandaigua VA grounds to serve Veterans in recovery.

Honoring Our Veterans

On Veterans Day, Pvt. Leonard Post Jr. VFW #6251 honored Veterans of Cazenovia Recovery with an invitation to their annual ceremony. Veterans throughout the agency, both staff and residents, were invited to attend by Martie Kaeding, our Personnel Manager. She herself is a Veteran who served in the Army and currently promotes outreach in support of PTSD. Attendees came from Liberty Hall, Turning Point House, Unity House, and Administration. During the event, Martie gave a poignant speech, and noted that the nation’s Veterans “share several fundamental qualities: courage, determination, selflessness, and integrity.”

Voice and Choice

The Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) principle of choice is about the right to self-determination. TIC believes that clients should be provided options in their treatment and that staff should be given choices within the program. According to SAMHSA (2014), clients should be supported in shared decision-making, choice, self-advocacy, and goal setting to determine the plan of action they need to heal and move forward. Therefore, in a trauma-informed organization, staff are facilitators of recovery, rather than controllers of recovery. Choice also means that it is up to the individual to determine if and when they would like to address past traumatic experiences.



Al presents the the 2015 Recovery Day Recognition Award to Dale Zuchlewski of the Homeless Alliance of WNY



Cazenovia’s Lisa Kauffman (left) and Sue Bissonette (right) with Cadence Square’s Residence of the Year Award



Veterans of both Cazenovia Recovery and Pvt. Leonard Post Jr. VFW #6251

