



Our Most Successful Recovery Day Ever

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Cazenovia Recovery Systems completely reinvented Recovery Day for 2016. The fifth annual event moved to a new location that allowed for an even bigger celebration with more to see and more to do. Held at the Main-Transit Fire Department's Pavilion, the event saw over 500 attendees on August 26 and was our largest Recovery Day yet.

The agency's Events Committee, led by Lisa Johnston, planned this year's Recovery Day. The committee sought to bring "recovery" back into the celebration. Over a dozen fellow providers of recovery-oriented services were invited so attendees could see the amount of support and help our community has to offer.

Mark Poloncarz. Thanks to the County Executive's leadership, the Erie County Opioid Epidemic Task Force he created is already saving lives. "We are a model for the rest of the country," the County Executive said, serving as the event's keynote speaker. "It's so important that we're all here today," he said. "We are all on the road to recovery together."



Jeanene, Recovery Day Art Show Winner

Live music was performed by staff and residents. Over 40 people were trained to use Narcan, a life-saving drug for opiate overdoses, at the event.

There were also massages, catered food, a magic show, and the third installment of the Recovery Day Art Show. Seven expressive pieces were featured on the theme "Choose Beauty." Jeanene, a resident from Madonna House, was this year's winner.

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Staffing Info

Let's Welcome:

Quinclon Davis, Intake
Coordinator at Admin

Laura Crump-Hall, Program
Secretary at Casa Di Vita

Kiarra King, Case Manager at
Liberty Hall

Cazenovia Creators & Catchers:

Lisa Johnston was nominated
by Ed Cichon for leading the
way in reinventing Recovery
Day.

Jessica Clark was nominated
by Doug Werth for being so
positive in her interactions.

Paul Fletcher and Irish Scott
were nominated by John
Molnar for ensuring that
residents received quality care
and that charts were in great
shape while Unity House had
staff openings.

Kiarra King was nominated by
Ed Cichon for helping out with
face painting at Recovery Day.

Remember to nominate your
fellow coworkers before our
next quarterly drawing in
September.



From left: Cazenovia Recovery Executive Director Sue Bissonette, County Executive Mark Poloncarz, emcee Venus Wiggins, and Commissioner Michael Ranney

We presented this year's Recovery Day Recognition Award to County Executive

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Venus Wiggins, counselor at Cazenovia Manor, emceed the event. She is an enthusiastic supporter of people in recovery. “People who are in recovery have so much talent,” said Venus.

The last hour highlighted people in recovery and their personal stories. Introduced by Venus, each speaker shared powerful testimonials that showed that recovery truly is a reality. One attendee explained that she is currently participating in a Cazenovia Recovery program. “It’s the best experience I’ve had in my life,” she said. “I’ve never felt better.” Their stories were a wonderful way to close Western New York’s largest celebration of individuals in recovery.

Recovery Day Recognition

County Executive Mark Poloncarz was the recipient of the 2016 Recovery Day Recognition Award. Earlier this year, he created the Erie County Opioid Epidemic Task Force to address the opiate and heroin epidemic currently gripping Western New York. This crisis does not discriminate based on race, gender, income, location, or any other factor. Families across the area have found themselves involved. Thankfully, County Executive Poloncarz brought much-needed attention to this emergency. “We will continue to work on this matter to provide a better, brighter future for all,” he said at Recovery Day.

Casa Di Vita Residents Help Out

Lisa Johnston, site supervisor of Casa Di Vita, involved the residents at her program in the planning of Recovery Day. The women at Casa were eager to help and “couldn’t wait to go to Recovery Day,” according to Lisa. Together they assembled 80 kids’ gift bags, filled 100 water bottles with candy, put stickers on and stuffed 500 envelopes with raffle tickets, and made two large salads. They also helped with shopping, researched ideas for kids’ activities, and helped serve food at the event. Casa Di Vita’s assistance and enthusiasm were very important to the success of this year’s Recovery Day.

Choice at Casa Di Vita

Residents at Casa Di Vita can find an abundance of choices throughout their time in the program. They have a choice in when they will meet with their counselor, a choice in what they want to work on while they are there, and even a choice in some of the topics for group counseling sessions. The most impressive way Casa has demonstrated choice is through allowing both residents and staff to have a say in the program’s rules and consequences. The residents have government meetings to discuss house concerns and plan events. Promoting choice encourages engagement in our programs.



Cazenovia Recovery Day Staff Members



County Executive Mark Poloncarz



Casa Di Vita residents

