



Niagara County Supports Madonna House

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Kathryn Kaiser, program director at Cazenovia Recovery Systems' Madonna House, clearly states the program's purpose: "Our residents want sobriety and we are here to help them with that."



Kathryn Kaiser, program director

Madonna House will continue its residential treatment for women in recovery from substance use well into the future, thanks to Niagara County's decision to grant Cazenovia Recovery a long-term lease extension for the property. Madonna House is located in Lockport, NY.

Eileen Dietsch, Cazenovia Recovery's director of operations, said that the agency plans major capital improvements for the facility and now is able to seek funds from New York State's Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS).

"We want to invest in and significantly improve this property and OASAS would

only help if we had long-term site control," she explained.

Plans include additional recreation and leisure spaces, along with a larger kitchen for additional room for food preparation and storage. The childcare area will be enhanced, as well. According to Kathryn, "we will be able to separate infants and toddlers so they can have their own space for napping and enrichment." Staff offices and group rooms will also be renovated to include more confidential spaces for meetings and counseling sessions. Renovations will start later in 2018.



Jenna, a Madonna House resident

The Niagara County Legislature's vote to extend the lease followed a public hearing and two committee meetings. "The Legislature could not have been more supportive," Eileen said. "They are aware of the opioid crisis and proactively supported legislation to ensure the health and safety

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Staffing Info

Let's Congratulate:

Lakeisha Delk is now a counselor associate at Casa Di Vita

Let's Welcome:

Symone Robertson, intake coordinator at Admin

Suzanne Sisson, program secretary at Casa Di Vita

Demetrius Small, maintenance assistant at Admin

Mountilla Tomlin, counselor associate at Sundram Manor

Cazenovia
Creators & Catchers:

Carolyn Kirkwood

Bob Davis

Morgan King

Remember to nominate your fellow coworkers before September's gift card drawing!

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of their community. Niagara County Mental Health Services Director Laura Kelemen was a partner from step one, taking the initiative to champion our cause.”

For resident Jenna, the dedicated staff, structure and “sober supports” at Madonna House guide her daily. Her goal after completing the program is to gain custody of her two children. “I am changing my entire lifestyle after using for 15 years,” she said. “I feel very safe here and comfortable to express my true self. I’m getting focused on changing thoughts and behaviors. It is making me a better person. “



Madonna House’s interior

Sundram Manor Garden Walk

Residents at Sundram Manor have been hard at work preparing their program for their neighborhood’s garden walk. Together, they trimmed hedges, mulched, and performed other landscaping work. Their efforts were even featured in the Niagara Gazette. After seeing the article, Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster and his wife visited the program. Mayor Dyster expressed his pride in Sundram Manor. He also said he was glad to have the program in Niagara Falls. The program’s landscaping endeavors were well-received by neighbors, as well.



Sundram Manor residents Rich, Garrett, and Mike

Housing Fair

Our Housing program held a fair this month that “brought together different activities into one event,” according to Latoya Reid, mental health counselor. Latoya, who coordinated the fair, sought to inspire residents to engage in new pursuits. “We wanted them to try something new that they might not have tried before,” she said. Crafts were featured and residents helped out with grilling and food preparation. The fair also included a “fitness challenge” that included push ups, jump rope, and other exercise activities.



The fitness challenge at the Housing Fair

Safety at Housing

Our Housing program places a strong emphasis on safety for residents and staff alike. The program employs mobile alert devices that staff take with them while they are working in the community. If a safety concern occurs, staff can simply press a button to notify the local police department. Meanwhile, open conversations encourage a sense of emotional safety throughout the program. Residents and staff are both educated on how to address potential safety issues that may occur at an apartment or an office. Staff and residents then collaborate to identify solutions to any safety concerns they may have.

