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GAUDENZIA

ADDICTION TREATMENT & RECOVERY SERVICES

Gazette

Editor's Note: Dr. Dale Klitzker, President and CEO, addressed the rapidly evolving situation that Gaudenzia faces with the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.

Gaudenzia's Response to COVID-19

Gaudenzia has been working diligently to prepare plans and responses to this unprecedented situation. Here is what we've been doing:

- Gaudenzia was deemed a life-sustaining organization by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Therefore, our facilities remain open during this challenging time to serve those in need of critical behavioral health services. We are following the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) as well as state and local governments to keep individuals safe and protected.
- We have developed and are administering a screening tool to all new clients in order to identify those that may be at a higher risk for COVID-19. Staff and clients who are identified as at risk will not be admitted into our facilities.
- We have modified and expanded our Paid Time Off (PTO) policy for employees.
- We are communicating the most up-to-date information to our employees on a daily basis.
- Fact sheets regarding COVID-19 and prevention measures have been disseminated and posted in the programs. Clients are being educated by program staff, including nurses, on how to prevent transmission through proper hygiene measures.
- Our facilities have increased cleaning and sanitizing practices.
- We are temporarily suspending visitors to our programs.
- We have disseminated Gaudenzia's Preparedness Plan to all of our facilities.
- We will continue to monitor all updated information and take the necessary steps to ensure the safety of our clients, employees and their families.



Currently, Delaware, Maryland and Pennsylvania have all adopted stay-at-home orders in an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus. As a nation, we are in the midst of two public health emergencies: the opioid epidemic and the coronavirus pandemic.

As many clinics and recovery groups across our region have restricted access or closed altogether, public health officials have voiced grave concern that both active substance users and those in recovery are at a heightened risk for relapse and overdose.

Gaudenzia is committed to honoring its mission and believes that our clients and community need us now more than ever before.

To this end, we will continue to accept new clients across our programs and will continue to prioritize the health and safety of our staff and existing clients in the process.

As an agency, we are actively working each day to promote safety within our programs. We have been faithfully using our COVID-19 risk-assessment tool for staff and clients across all program settings since March 13, and we continue to seek guidance from trusted health authorities and sources.

AEDs Save Lives

To help safeguard the health of employees, clients and visitors, Gaudenzia is installing Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in each of our facilities. These devices have a proven track record of helping save lives. Additionally, the devices will enhance employee morale, provide peace of mind and improve public safety.

To become an AED machine sponsor, contact Jim Ingolio, Community Engagement Manager: jingolio@gaudenzia.org.



As of production, Gaudenzia gratefully recognizes these individuals, businesses and organizations that have supported this initiative with a monetary or in-kind donation. Thank you!

Allegheny Health Network
Berwick Health & Wellness Fund
Capital Blue Cross
Donna J. Shaw, AFLAC
The Erie Community Foundation
Jess Crate Furniture
Moe's Southwest Grill Western PA
Nicholas Chaban
Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health
Wilgro Services, Inc.



Brooke Ronan, left, a senior counselor at Gaudenzia Erie, Inc.'s Sharon Outpatient facility, recently attended Mercer County's first Drug Treatment Court Graduation Ceremony. Ronan gave a speech at the graduation ceremony for drug treatment court on behalf of Gaudenzia as well as client Leonard Friedman, who is also pictured.



Reaching New Heights

Gaudenzia's Park Heights treatment center was recently accredited by help.org as Baltimore's Best Drug & Addiction Recovery and Treatment Center for 2020. Regarding Gaudenzia, Joyce Collins, help.org's program manager, said,

"We are an organization providing empowering, evidence-based information to those fighting substance abuse and addiction. Our data highlighted that you are not only one of the best, but have given your patients a level of care that far exceeds generally accepted standards of care."

Gaudenzia recently launched a new platform called G-Speaks, which is a centralized tool for our staff that provides an avenue for individuals to keep connected and updated on newsworthy items on an agency-wide basis.

G-Speaks



G-Speaks is now the one place to find the most important facts and timely news about what's going on throughout Gaudenzia. Also, it contains educational information, industry news and alerts. To kick off this new platform, Gaudenzia recently held a series of regional events.

Gaudenzia helps women find 'Serenity' in Harrisburg

OPEN HOUSE

More than 70 people gathered recently to celebrate the opening of Gaudenzia's Serenity House in Harrisburg, PA. Dauphin County Commissioner George P. Hartwick III joined the Gaudenzia Board of Directors, program alumni, Gaudenzia staff and representatives from other behavioral health agencies at the dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony. Serenity House is a 16-bed halfway house for women with Substance Use Disorder (SUD). The program offers a safe and supportive atmosphere where women receive appropriate therapy, case management, educational services and the life skills necessary for a successful recovery.



From left: Yolanda Finger, Gaudenzia Delta Community Housing Case Manager; Joy Blake, Gaudenzia Serenity House Program Director; Angel Fox, Office Manager for State Rep. Patty Kim; George Hartwick III, Dauphin County Commissioner; Dr. Dale Klatzker, Gaudenzia Inc. President and CEO; and Florence Paige, Gaudenzia Central Region Director

Your Legacy...Our Future Charitable Planning Opportunities

You can help sustain the impact and quality of Gaudenzia's recovery services! Your commitment of a planned gift will ensure our work continues for years to come. Planned giving is, in its simplest form, a donation given over time or as part of a donor's estate.

Planned Gift Options put your assets to work with tax-efficient charitable strategies and other tax benefits.

With the help of an advisor, you can include language in your will or trust specifying a gift be made to Gaudenzia as part of your estate plan. The benefits are that you leave a lasting legacy to be remembered; you lessen the burden of taxes on your family; and you may receive estate tax savings.

Depending on the gift amount, it may be beneficial to use a charitable gift plan that provides guaranteed



lifetime income, plus an immediate charitable income tax deduction, using a charitable gift annuity.

If you are considering a future gift of any size, please let us know. We'll invite you to join our Legacy Society and assist you in creating a meaningful and personal legacy gift. All information is held in strict confidence.

For more information, contact: legacy@gaudenzia.org

Gaudenzia can not provide legal or financial advice. Consult with a professional advisor before making a charitable gift.



A Crowning Achievement

Former Maryland First Lady Kendal Ehrlich, who is currently the deputy director of the U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), recently visited Gaudenzia's Crownsville facility. During her visit, the former First Lady presented the staff with a tray of cookies.

Kendal Ehrlich, former Maryland First Lady, and Anthony Brown, Gaudenzia Vocational Specialist

Heroes Helping Heroes

Gaudenzia's Road to Recovery recently partnered with the New Castle County Police HERO Help Program to conduct outreach in several Claymont, Delaware, communities.

From left: Allen Herring, NCCPD Lieutenant; Dan Maas, HERO Help Coordinator; Samantha Prince, Gaudenzia Delaware Program Director; and Kim Jones, Gaudenzia Delaware Division Director



Gaudenzia launches new service in Philadelphia

Gaudenzia's new Coming Home Program provides case management, housing, medical services and wrap-around services to more than 250 homeless women and women with children, thanks to a five-year Center for Substance Abuse Prevention grant.

The Coming Home Program provides women and their children with the support that they need as well as follow-ups to ensure that the family is getting the help that they need when they need it.

After an individual completes the program, their next goals are to obtain permanent housing and either become employed or have income coming in via Social Security or disability. If an individual is not employed, they are expected to utilize outpatient services and be working intently on their recovery.

In addition, they will also have a 12-step program, home group and a sponsor as well as participate in daily activities that are deemed beneficial. While some of the women are still actively working on reunification by completing parenting classes or other requirements, as defined by the Department of Human Services, others have already been reunited with their children or have visitation permission.

Finally, the participants of Gaudenzia's Coming Home Program are also encouraged to enroll in school or set goals to obtain their GED.

Grace Presbyterian Church

in Jenkintown partnered with three other churches on Martin Luther King Day to pack donated purses with feminine care products and notes of love and encouragement for homeless women in Philadelphia



to support Gaudenzia's Coming Home program.

Dr. Lynnette Crews, Gaudenzia Program Director, on right; and Lousie King, Gaudenzia Case Manager, were the driving forces behind this innovative program.

Emergency Grant Aids Roof Repair

Gaudenzia Erie, Inc. received a generous \$7,400 "Urgent Grant" check from the Erie Community Foundation that allowed Gaudenzia Erie, Inc. to repair significant roof damage at its Crossroads



facility, including repairing the bedroom and stairwell that impacted the facility's capacity.

Presenting the check were Rachel Cacchione, Erie Community Foundation Program Officer, left; and Patrick Herr, M.S.W., Erie Community Foundation Director of Community Impact, right; with Jason Kisielewski, Gaudenzia Erie, Inc. Community Affairs Manager



Todd Rebich, of Rebich Investments, benefactor of the event with G-League referees

Gaudenzia for the Win!

New Orleans Pelicans Affiliate Night with the Erie BayHawks was held on February 22 at the Erie Insurance Arena. Gaudenzia Erie, Inc. was selected as the beneficiary for the game, which included a special pre-game presentation and the players also wore jerseys with Gaudenzia's name and logo on the back of them. The BayHawks also auctioned off the



jerseys with all of the proceeds going to benefit Gaudenzia Erie, Inc.



A Kindred Spirit

Janae Carter, an Art Therapist student at West Chester University, visited Kindred House recently to conduct a class on how to incorporate art into recovery.

The goal of art therapy is to expand people's forms of communication so that they can better express their experiences. Through art therapy, the clients use their creativity to help them connect emotionally and productively.



Edgewell Personal Care made a generous donation of feminine care products to the residents of Gaudenzia's programs in Delaware.

From left: Edgewell Civic Team members Jose Roman and Michelle Packard dropped off donated items to our programs in Delaware.

Let's Dance!



Gaudenzia's Central Region received a large in-kind donation from the Arthur Murray Dance Studio in Lemoyne, PA. The staff and dance students contributed various items, including personal care items, towels, sheets, diapers and non-perishable canned foods, for single-parent families who were homeless and are transitioning into supportive housing through our DELTA Community program in Harrisburg.



Members of the Arthur Murray Dance Studio with Jim Ingolio (third from left), Gaudenzia Central Region Community Engagement Manager



Alumni Spotlight

My name is James, and I am a person in recovery and have been without drugs or alcohol for about three and a half years.



If you're reading this, I doubt that I have to explain much of a "drunkalog," which is when we would do what we needed to do to get the next one. The paths that led us here are different, but the feelings that keep us here (in recovery) are very much the same. We don't want to feel the way that we did on that last day, and what we learn to feel in recovery is better. These feelings include the ways in which we learn to cope with life on life's terms, the relationships that we build, and the feeling of knowing that we can live a happy and functional life without the use of drugs or alcohol.

When I went to my first treatment facility, I took none of that away from it. I had every intention of continuing to do what I was doing, but I wanted to calm everyone down and find a way to use and drink without getting discovered. Obviously, that was not going to go well, and it didn't. After more criminal activity, my family decided to take the reins and tip off the police as to where I was, and that led me to this part of my recovery.

I was in jail for 10 months and still had no intention of staying clean at that time. I just wanted to find a way to use without consequences, but a higher power had a better plan. I was accepted into drug court, and I figured that I would find a way to still use and when the heat got too hot, I would stop. It wasn't

until I entered another treatment facility, Gaudenzia, that I began to realize things about myself. A counselor said to me, "James, you never have to use again!" and for the first time, I believed that. I ended up not using and found myself in the rooms of AA. Initially, I was sure that everyone was faking happiness, but the more I came around, the more I saw their genuine happiness and contentment.

I built relationships that told me to keep coming back, got a sponsor, and now have had multiple sponsors that showed me a new way of life. Eventually, the pain of remaining the same was worse than the pain of change, and that is what has kept me here. I found a higher power that I've learned loves me unconditionally and I've come to rely on.

James S.



The clients at Gaudenzia Erie, Inc.'s House of Healing have been busy working on a service project to boost morale during the COVID-19 crisis. Recently, the clients made Easter cards for the residents at local retirement homes.

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