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PLACES, Inc.
Quality Housing and Support Services for the Mentally Ill

Happy Birthday!

12/13 - Andria F.	01/12 - Marie K.
12/23 - Michelle U.	01/12 - Isaac C.
12/24 - Matthew H.	01/13 - Brianna T.
12/24 - Delilah T.	01/19 - Jenise T.
12/27 - Bruce W.	01/20 - Stephanie W.
12/28 - Tia Y.	01/26 - Angel S.
01/01 - Jackie W.	02/07 - Judith P.
01/04 - Concetta W.	02/10 - Saundra R.
	02/23 - Byron B.

Happy Anniversary!

12/04 - Quentin S. (2)	01/22 - Nicole S. (2)
12/10 - Julie C. (2)	01/24 - Andria F. (2)
01/02 - Michelle U. (2)	02/07 - Janae A. (3)
01/10 - Letitia S. (3)	02/09 - Rob J. (17)
01/13 - Isaac C. (4)	02/13 - Tracey J. (15)
01/16 - Barb S. (8)	02/13 - Angel S. (2)
	02/26 - Teresa D. (9)

Welcome to our New Hires!

10/19 Lonyea Leavell (SLP Advisor)
12/18 Judith Watkins (PSH Advisor)
12/28 Alfred Hodge (Residential Advisor)
01/04 Harvey Weaver (SLP Advisor)

Personal care
Life skills
Advocacy
Community
Education
Service

Vision Statement

PLACES will become the statewide leader in quality housing and quality housing support services for the mentally ill.

Mission Statement

The mission of PLACES is to use best practices to promote and enhance the community living skills and to provide quality housing options to the disenfranchised who are mentally ill and/or homeless in order to promote independence.

Values

- ♦ To promote individual potential
- ♦ To provide a safe environment for all to grow
- ♦ To work together with the community to provide a humanistic approach to meeting people's needs
- ♦ To operate with respect, dignity and compassion for all
- ♦ To provide a family atmosphere for residents, clients and staff
- ♦ To follow through with all commitments
- ♦ To remain focused on the people we serve

Serving Montgomery County since 1988.



Coming Up in 2010

By Judith Patterson

PLACES' Activities Committee is planning the annual Recognition Reception. The reception honors those residents, tenants and clients who have taken action to improve their lives and enhance its quality.



Each of PLACES' programs presents a very special recognition to those residents, clients and tenants who have achieved the greatest degree of improvement during the year just past. Each Resident of the Year, Client of the Year and Tenant of the Year is presented with a special memento to commemorate the event. All award recipients receive certificates of accomplishment.

Residents, tenants and clients are recognized in these areas. The Vocational Achievement Awards are presented to those who were employed or in a job training program for all or part of 2009. The Educational Achievement Awards goes to those who were enrolled in an education program, such as GED study, credit or non-credit college courses or traditional high school attendance. PLACES presents the Community Service Award to any resident, tenant or client who is volunteering his or her time to the community.

In addition to honoring those who have worked, gone to school, helped their communities or achieved a milestone in recovery, the Supportive Living Program (SLP) recognizes those individuals who have achieved their independent living goals by "graduating" them from SLP. Some of those who graduate volunteer for PLACES Client Advisory Board. Currently, one graduate sits on PLACES' Board of Trustees.

Not all actions that enhance recovery fall into the categories listed above. For the multitude of other actions, large and small, that contribute to recovery, PLACES presents Reach for Recovery Awards.

This year's Recognition Reception is scheduled for Friday February 26, 2010, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at David's United Church of Christ, 170 W. David Rd. Kettering OH.

2009 Holiday Party

A large crowd gathered on December 10th at the Ponitz Center for PLACES' annual Holiday Party. Following a greeting by Executive Director Roy Craig, the event kicked off with a fashion show. Directed by SLP Advisor Nadine Wysinger and narrated by PSH Coordinator Wilma Woodfork, residents, clients and tenants strutted their stuff for the audience and were rewarded by enthusiastic applause. Then came a dinner featuring new menu items from Sinclair Community College, including gorgeous dessert tables with everything anyone could crave. Don Wright provided music, and many people danced off some of the calories.

Special guests for the evening included a number of families of PLACES residents, clients and tenants; PLACES' Board of Trustees, members of PLACES Heart and Home Legacy Society, and representatives of the very generous sponsors of the event - Fifth Third Bank, Rankin and Houser, McGohan/Brabender, Centerville Pharmacy, and Pickrel, Shaeffer and Ebeling.

In MEMORIAM:
Four members of PLACES' family left us during 2009
George Dunham, David Leonard,
Williazene Norris, Lowell Williams

Executive Director's Corner Au Revoir 2009, Bienvenue a 2010

By Roy Craig

2009 finally ended! This New Year, 2010, means the beginning of a new decade, and most people are happy to see the first decade of the "aughts" in their rear view mirror. The past decade brought two separate and unique financial crises. The first occurred at the beginning of the decade after the bursting of the dot.com bubble. The second one began in 2008 and is blamed on a housing bubble and Wall Street. The remnants of the current global financial crises continue to negatively impact individuals, businesses and all levels of government. Non-profits are no exception, and most are facing reductions in all funding, including philanthropic giving.

Given the financial tumult of this decade, PLACES strategically identified which expenses were linked to client, resident and tenant care and are likely related to positive outcomes. Then PLACES focused on reducing its spending in all other areas. As a result, PLACES is now a more efficient company and, given its mission, has maintained its effectiveness.

In 2009, PLACES' programmatic effectiveness, as measured by program outcomes, remained excellent. PLACES met or exceeded most of the programmatic goals for its three service lines: Adult Care Facilities, Permanent Supportive Housing - Housing First and the Supportive Living Program. When programmatic goals fall below expectations, they become future priorities for improvement.

Programmatic effectiveness is important, but PLACES exists to provide services to indigent mentally ill and substance abusing adults so it is important to highlight and celebrate individual successes. Here are a few highlights from 2009 grouped according to PLACES' three service lines:

Adult Care Facility (ACF) - PLACES ACF's provide housing and support services to 36 residents with severe and persistent mental illness in four homes.

One resident left the ACF and moved into independent living in the community. Five residents are currently employed. One has been working for over 25 years at the same location! Many residents attend therapeutic groups and take advantage of the social opportunities provided by the behavior healthcare system and in the community at large.

A resident's family member donated flowers, bushes

and mulch and brought a work crew who worked an entire day hand in hand with the staff and residents to beautify the yard. The residents looked forward to the care of the gardens for the entire summer. The landscaping really made the yard more pleasant for the staff, residents and neighbors.

The residents at another home helped to prepare the house and yard for a fall tailgate party for all the ACF residents and their families. The residents really worked hard to provide a wonderful setting for the event. The tailgate party was very well attended by the residents' family members, and everyone enjoyed a beautiful fall day, a wonderful dinner and the many games and activities that the residents had prepared.

PLACES clients, residents and tenants, a group of over 70 people, attended a Dragons game late in the season. Everybody had a wonderful time. One highlight was near the end of the game. As a group of residents from one home was leaving and walking just behind the left field fence, a Dragons' player hit a home run that landed right near the group. You would not believe how big the residents' eyes were as they watched the ball and a throng of fans coming towards them. Then the two giant scoreboard Dragons' eyes lit up, roared and blew smoke!

Housing First Programs - PLACES Housing First programs provide housing and supportive services to 26 tenants, all of whom are disabled and were chronically homeless. HUD's definition of disabled includes mental illness and substance abuse and all tenants have a primary disability of mental illness. Many also have substance abuse issues. These three programs operate in three apartment buildings. The newest just opened in October, 2009.

Often the first priority for formerly homeless people who are permanently housed is addressing their health as most many have serious, chronic illnesses. In addition to attention to their health, many tenants have enrolled in behavioral healthcare services, mental health and alcohol and drug services, and almost all have been in vocational training programs.

The tenants are all thankful for having a nicely furnished permanent home. Over time, most have reconnected relationships with family members. A stable residence allows people to focus on long term goals like finding employment and getting sober.

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Here are a few quotes from the tenants: "I have lost weight and improved my assertiveness;" "I have hope back;" and, "I am attending college and taking charge of my health issues."

PLACES opened a new Housing First program in October. The tenants meet all HUD's criteria previously mentioned with an additional focus that they were all "unsheltered homeless" (i.e. they lived in various tent cities, under overpasses, etc.). Four have already enrolled in behavioral healthcare services, and one tenant has received an eye-exam (pro-bono) and free glasses. Another tenant was ecstatic that his family could come to his home for the holidays.

Supportive Living Program - PLACES SLP program provides wrap around case management services to primarily mentally ill clients who are housed in the community. At any one time there are usually about 150 clients receiving services.

Every year at the annual PLACES Recognition Event about 20 SLP clients, who have met all of their individual goals, graduate from the SLP program. One SLP client recently got a job from a supportive employment program and moved into another apartment that he located. His apartment is tidy, and he is very proud that he is able to purchase his own furniture. Another former chronically homeless man is enrolled in classes at Sinclair and recently found a job.

Legacy News



PLACES' Annual Holiday Party was the major end of the year event. At this event, Legacy members were honored for their participation in the endowment program, and members present at the holiday party were acknowledged with a dated crystal heart as a token of our appreciation. The picture is of Dr. Pat Donnelly receiving his appreciation gift. This year the committee is working to host a number of events and will continue to offer the informational mailings as in the past. We will keep you posted!! Have a happy and prosperous new year.

The individual, successes, big and small, of the residents, clients and tenants served is the reason that PLACES exists. PLACES looks forward to the challenges that the new year and decade will bring. I am confident that PLACES will meet these challenges with the same energy and commitment that has been evident as we faced the opportunities and setbacks of the last decade.

Thank you for all your support!

During the Summer 09', residents and staff worked hard to create this beautiful flower garden for the Linden facility, thanks to a resident's family member who donated the flowers.



Winter Safety Tips

Provided by: Wilma Woodfork

With its cold and often stormy weather, winter presents many safety challenges both indoors and out. Being prepared and following simple safety tips can help you stay safe and warm this season.

Avoiding Slips/Trips & Falls

- ✱ **RECOGNIZING** the many hazards at work or at home
- ✱ **AVOIDING** hazards by walking around them

Practice safe walking skills

Wear slip-resistant shoes

Keep soles of shoes clean

Keep one hand free for balance

Don't walk on ice unless you absolutely have to

Be alert for icy patches underneath snow, "Black" ice, or hazard caused by freeze/thaw conditions

Pay special attention to slippery surfaces (ice or snow covered), which are not level or when going up or down steps

- ✱ **CONTROLLING** hazards by marking them clearly so others won't get hurt
- ✱ **CORRECTING** hazards yourself
- ✱ **REPORTING** hazards to someone who can correct them

Dressing For The Weather

✱ Dress for the weather wearing appropriate clothing such as; heavy coats, hats, gloves, thick socks, warm clothing, thermal wear, water proof insulated boots, etc.

REMEMBER THE COLD, HARD FACTS.

Winter safety prevents injuries!!

Happy New Year!

"We encourage PLACES' employees to think safety first everyday, to submit your safety suggestions that will make our agency as a whole to become a safe & healthier place to live and work."

- Wilma Woodfork, Safety & Health Chair