



**CBHCare**

# CONNECTIONS

COMPREHENSIVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, INC.

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CBHCare Board of Trustees

## Message from the Executive Director... CHAMP Program Expands

On Wednesday, October 28, 2009, the Morris County Freeholder Board voted unanimously to award the CHAMP Program the use of three currently vacant homes on Ruth Davis Drive in Parsippany. Granting the CHAMP Program the use of these three remaining homes on Ruth Davis Drive means that the program will occupy all nine homes on the block. Stating their pleasure with how the previous six houses have been utilized, the Freeholder Chair, commented on the good work of both Comprehensive Behavioral Healthcare and Community Hope, Inc. in their joint operation of the program and that they have successfully transitioned 48 seriously persistently mentally ill consumers from Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital to the program over the years. It was noted that since the program began in 2000, only seven consumers have needed to return to the hospital and 13 have been successfully transitioned to other community-based programs.



Peter Scerbo, MSW, LCSW  
Executive Director

### A Little History...

In 2000, the CHAMP Program consisted of two houses with five consumers residing in each. Those first consumers were primarily discharge-resistant with some co-occurring substance abuse issues and had been hospitalized at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital for extended periods of time due to their illness. In the second year of operation a third home was renovated and utilized as a partial care program where consumers could develop social skills and take part in group therapy and other treatment and recreational activities.

In 2005, the Morris County Freeholders offered the use of three additional vacant Ruth Davis Drive houses that were in a severe state of disrepair. The Executive Directors of CBHCare and Community Hope met with the Assistant Director of the Division of Mental Health Services (DMHS) of the State of New Jersey and requested funding for the operation of these houses that could serve an additional 15 consumers discharged from Greystone. DMHS indicated they would be able to provide the funding for the day to day operations of the houses, but did not have the capital funds for renovations.

The Directors then submitted an application to the Morris County Community Development Program which approved the project, but could only provide \$275,000 toward the cost of the renovations which were projected to cost \$435,000. The Directors then approached the Mayor and Council of Parsippany who agreed to provide the additional funding in lieu of municipal COAH credits.

In the fall of 2006 the renovations were completed and 15 additional consumers moved into the program increasing the total daily census of the CHAMP Program to 25.

### The Future...

Once again, the agency Directors have requested and received renovation funds from the Mayor and Council of Parsippany, in lieu municipal COAH credits, for the needed renovations

Continued from page 1

of the three new Ruth Davis Drive houses. The funds will be released pending the receipt of a new 10 year lease from the freeholders encompassing all nine houses on Ruth Davis Drive.

The plan for operational funding for the expansion of the CHAMP Program is to take advantage of a request for proposals (RFP) recently announced by the DMHS in early December. In this RFP, our agencies will request funds for a "supportive housing model" rather than a group home. The supportive housing model offers less than 24 hour supervision. The addition of these three homes at CHAMP are the final phase of a full "continuum of care" that will offer a less structured, semi-independent community living environment to an additional 15 consumers on Ruth Davis Drive. From our original ten consumers in 2000, to forty consumers in 2010, CHAMP has expanded, with your support, to serve the needs of the mentally ill successfully living in the community.



Peter Scerbo, MSW, LCSW  
Executive Director

## Jim Cooney Takes the Helm at Ocean Mental Health Services

After 31 years at Comprehensive Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. where he served as the Associate Executive Director for many years, Jim Cooney has moved on to become the CEO at Ocean Mental Health Services. Pete Scerbo, Executive Director, states "I always pictured that one day, I would turn the keys over to Jim and I would be off to the beach."

Pete and Jim were friends and colleagues for well over 30 years, having met when Jim was the Center Director at the Mt. Carmel Guild in Ridgefield Park. Jim joined the staff at CBHCare when Pete offered him the joint position of coordinator of adult partial care and residential services, knowing that Jim was thinking about leaving the Guild. Jim agreed to take the position, but said, "I will only do this for about a year or so to help you out." Needless to say one year became 31.

Jim and Pete made an excellent management team and over the years there were a number of significant accomplishments. Their biggest coup occurred in 1980 when they responded to an RFP issued by the Bergen County Mental Health Board to take over the service area formally served by Hackensack Hospital Community Mental Health Center. CBHCare was awarded the grant and almost overnight, went from a small agency serving the mental health needs of nine towns in South Bergen County to serving the residents of 22 towns in Bergen County, with offices in Lyndhurst and Hackensack. Other achievements followed, including the development of the Adolescent Suicide Awareness Program, Municipal Crisis Response Teams, Homeless Case Management Programs, ALSP apartment program and the Emerson Transitional and the Hackensack Long Term residences as well as Accreditation with Commendation by the Joint Commission.

Today, CBHCare serves 4,000 consumers annually, offers ser-

vices in Bergen, Morris and Hudson Counties. Pete Scerbo states, "Jim is a very special guy with limitless talents and we certainly will miss him. I know all the staff and the Board of Trustees at CBHCare wish Jim the best of luck and continued success in his new role as CEO at Ocean Mental Health Services."



## CBHCare's New In-House Pharmacy

Earlier this year, CBHCare contracted with Genoa Healthcare of Seattle, WA to establish an in-house pharmacy at our Hackensack location. CBHCare and Genoa have built a full service, on-site pharmacy to fulfill the medication needs of the consumers who attend all CBHCare's treatment programs.

According to Peter Scerbo, Executive Director, "This arrangement provides a one-stop-shopping opportunity for the individuals who come to our office in Hackensack for services. Not only will they be able to receive on-site treatment from our board certified psychiatrists, they will also be able to pick up their medication at the same time." The pharmacy also benefits consumers who are served at other CBHCare locations. Prescriptions may be faxed or emailed to the pharmacy and the medication will be delivered to that CBHCare location for pick up. Scerbo continues, "Having the Genoa full-service pharmacy on-site enables the pharmacist to work more closely with the prescribers and professional staff, providing our consumers with better service."

The business hours of the pharmacy coincide with the hours of CBHCare and a full-time pharmacist, licensed by the State of New Jersey, is on site each day to serve CBHCare consumers; an after-hour, on-call is available for emergencies. Genoa is an approved provider by Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance companies.

The Pharmacy opened for business on December 7, 2009.

### Services Include:

- Online access to medication records – insures continuity of care.
- Application and dispensing process for consumer assistance programs.
- Management of sample medication programs.
- Phlebotomy (blood-draw) services for consumers using Clozapine – for FDA-required blood monitoring.
- Medicaid, HMO, Medicare Part D and private insurance billing.

# CBHCare University

For over twenty years CBHCare has offered continuing education to staff and the community to provide access to CEUs for social work licensure. This long-standing tradition has engendered a culture of life-long learning and excellence. As part of our continuing education program we are proud to announce the launch of

[www.cbhcareuniversity.com](http://www.cbhcareuniversity.com)

- Workshop Dates
- Resources
- Fact Sheets
- And More!

*Look for More to Come in the Spring!*



## A Legacy of Great Leaders

*Distinguished CBHCare Alumni Include:*

**Kevin Martone**

*Deputy Commissioner of New Jersey Department of Human Services*

**Ann Portas**

*Deputy Director for the Division of Mental Health Advocacy, New Jersey Department of the Public Advocate*

**Robert N. Davison**

*Executive Director, Mental Health Association of Essex County, Inc.*

**Nadine Venezia**

*Program Director -Supported Living Services, Mental Health Association of Essex County, Inc.*

**Henry Acosta**

*Executive Director of the National Resource Center for Hispanic Mental Health*

**William D. Barry**

*Vice President-Support Operations, Steininger Behavioral Care Services, Inc.*

**James Cooney**

*CEO, Ocean Mental Health Services*

## Susan Devlin Named New Associate Executive Director



Susan Devlin, MA, LPC  
Associate Executive Director

Peter Scerbo, Executive Director of CBHCare, Inc. announces that Susan Devlin, MA, LPC, formerly the Division Director of Adult Residential Services, will succeed Jim Cooney as Associate Executive Director. Scerbo states, "I am happy to appoint Sue to this very important position. I know that she will do an excellent job. Over the past 19 years she has come up through the ranks at CBHCare and has handled some of this organization's most difficult assignments."

Sue came to CBHCare in 1990 when she first took on the role of Hospital Liaison to what is now called Bergen Regional Medical Center. In 1991 she became the Senior Hospital Liaison; and in 1992, the Senior Clinician in the Adult Partial Care Program, moving to the newly developed Intensive Family Support Services Program as the supervisor in 1997. In 1999, Sue became the Director of Adult Residential Services, overseeing the agency's largest division which includes 4 group homes and multiple supportive housing apartments in Bergen County as well as 13 group homes in Morris County. The Division serves over 200 consumers with severe and persistent mental illness.

Scerbo states, "I have worked very closely with Sue through the development of both the CHAMP and Partnership Programs in Morris County. With the success of both of these programs, Sue has distinguished herself as an excellent clinician, supervisor and overall program director. She exhibits a tremendous work ethic, excellent leadership skills and never falters in crisis situations."

Scerbo continues, "I know all of the Board of Trustees and staff join me in wishing Sue the best of luck and continued future success in her new role at CBHCare."



# CBHCare Foundation Raises over \$50,000 at 10th Annual Golf Tournament to Support Essential Services of Comprehensive Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.

The CBHCare Foundation's 10th Annual Golf Tournament, held September 21, 2009 at Wild Turkey at Crystal Springs, posted its most successful results in ten years. "We are thrilled with this year's outcome," said **Helen Kuruc**, Foundation President, Tournament Co-Chair and Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at Essex County College. "Our sponsors and golfers really stepped up to support us during challenging times. We are very grateful for their continued support."



CBHCare Board President Philip Bogle's foursome included: (left to right) Philip Bogle, Anthony Paolazzi, Joe Cifune, Dr. Joseph Diana.

Continues Kuruc, "We are most grateful to the many friends who supported us and would especially like to acknowledge this year's Tournament Sponsors **Gabe, Anthony and Michael Ambrosio**; Gold Sponsor, **The Bogle Agency**; and Silver Sponsors **The Becker Family, Durante Mason & Asphalt Paving and ChemTec Pest Control.**" Co-Chair **Gabe Ambrosio**, a Lyndhurst attorney, Foundation Vice President and former State Senator, said, "We especially appreciated the terrific turnout, we had a 40% increase in attendance over

last year's tournament. The weather was beautiful and we all had a great time."

Additional sponsors included **Boiling Springs Savings Bank**, Golf Carts; **Arlington Plumbing & Heating Co.**, Beverage Cart; **Mutual of America** and **Janet Czermak**, Practice Green; **Joe Nazare**, Television and **Helen Kuruc**, Driving Range. After an afternoon of golf, everyone returned to the clubhouse where they enjoyed a gourmet dinner and the presentation of the golfing awards plus the raffle and door prizes. All golfers were eligible to win a variety of contests and prizes.

The tournament also kicked off the beginning of the 40th Anniversary celebration for CBHCare. A gala is scheduled for May 20, 2010 at The Graycliff in Moonachie, NJ. Anniversary Sponsor for the Gala is **TD Bank**.



Foundation Vice President Gabe Ambrosio's foursome included: (left to right) Bob Jablonski, Ron Giaconia, Gabe Ambrosio, and Charles Cavadini.



First time Hole-in-One Sponsor and Independent AFLAC Agent, Vincent Morelli, with his mascot.



First time attendees, Monica McCormack and Marek Poplawski, of TD Bank. TD Bank is the Anniversary Sponsor for CBHCare's 40th Anniversary Gala on May 20, 2010.



Frank and Evelyn Pezzolla, of Frank's GMC, provided the car for the hole-in-one contest. Evelyn Pezzolla is a board member of the CBHCare Foundation and a founding trustee of CBHCare.



Silver Sponsors and long-time CBHCare supporters and friends, The Becker Family (left to right): Eileen and Anthony Becker with daughter, and son-in-law Ellen and Steve Trabor.

# Contest Sponsors

## Hole-in-One

Frank's Pontiac GMC – Pontiac G6 Sedan  
Laymen Global – Premium Electronic Package  
Essex Replacement Door & Window Co. – Premium Golf Equipment  
Otis Graphics Inc. – \$10,000  
Otis Graphics Inc. – Seiko Watches  
AFLAC – Vincent Morelli – Airline Tickets or Cruise

## Straightest Drive

Kearny Federal Savings

## Longest Drive

Johnson's Service Center

Spencer Savings Bank

## Closest to Pin

Mutual of America

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Steininger Behavioral Care Services

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In Memory of Joseph & Jack Navatta  
In Memory of Capt. James A. Motisi  
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## Prize & Gift Donors

Gabe Ambrosio  
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Café at the Meadows  
Jim Cooney  
Jan Damiano  
Frank's Pontiac GMC  
Denise Krieg  
Helen Kuruc  
Michael Leoce  
The Meadows Golf Course  
Joseph Nazare  
Otis Graphics Inc.  
Sacks Shell  
Peter Scerbo  
Staples  
TD Bank  
Village Supermarkets



# 40th Anniversary Gala Celebration

The **40th Anniversary Gala**, including dining, dancing, open bar, a large raffle and door-prizes will be held on **Thursday, May 20, 2010 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at The Graycliff in Moonachie, NJ.** We are thrilled to announce that **Rich Fritzky**, a long-time supporter and friend and former President and CEO of the Meadowlands Regional Chamber and Managing Editor of *Meadowlands USA*, has agreed to give the key-note address.

The **40th Anniversary Gala** honorees are: **Hon. Gabriel Ambrosio, Esq.**, former New Jersey State Senator and founding South Bergen Mental Health Center Board Member; Bud Feder, PhD, Clinical Psychologist and Founding Clinical Director of the agency; and Eileen and Anthony Becker of Franklin Lakes. Mrs. Becker was President of the Lyndhurst Jr. Women's Club in 1969 and a founding South Bergen Mental Health Center Board Member. All will be recognized for their long-standing commitment to CBHCare and their dedication to ending the stigma against the mentally ill.

In addition, we will be presenting the Advocacy Award to **Susan Donnelly**, the current Chair of the Bergen County Mental Health Board, in honor of her outstanding work supporting Community Mental Health.

Invitations for the **40th Anniversary Gala** will arrive in the spring. We hope you will join us in celebrating our forty years of service to the community.

## Gala Chairs

Hon. Richard J. and Mrs. Mary Jo Codey  
*Former New Jersey Governor and First Lady  
New Jersey State Senator*

Hon. Loretta Weinberg  
*New Jersey State Senator*

Rev. Dr. Vernon C. Walton  
*Former Bergen County Freeholder  
Senior Pastor, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church*

Rev. Jonathan B. Whitfield  
*Pastor, Trinity Baptist Church*

Anthony Scardino, Jr.  
*Former New Jersey State Senator, Mayor, and Executive  
Director of the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission*

James Kirkos  
*CEO, Meadowlands Regional Chamber*

Margaret A. Keyes  
*Vice President, The Bank of New York Mellon*

Vincent Micco  
*Vice President, Kearny Federal Savings; Bravo Company  
325th Military Intelligence Battalion, US Army Reserves*

Annette Bartone  
*President, Woman's Club of Lyndhurst; Founding Member,  
South Bergen Mental Health Center*

# Your Generosity Matters

Donations to Comprehensive Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. (CBHCare), Northern New Jersey's leading community mental health center, help us sustain the essential counseling and support services we provide each and every day to the over four thousand men, women and children we serve each year.

Your contribution **will make a difference** in the lives of the individuals who **rely on us** for hope in their recovery:

*Adolescents like Jackie, a 16 year old resident at KARE House. Jackie came to us after her second hospitalization. Jackie was removed from her parents' care at age 5 and bounced around until taken in by relatives. Initially very mistrustful and angry, Jackie blossomed under the structure and care she received from the dedicated staff at the KARE Residence. Jackie has now returned home and is receiving A's in school.*

*Seniors like Ann, an 87 year old participant at the Valley Brook Center, CBHCare's Geriatric Day Program. Ann is a widow and lives alone, her only child, Donna, works full time and worries for her mother's safety during the day. The Valley Brook Center provides a nurturing place where Ann can socialize and remain active. Our Geriatric Psychiatrist monitors Ann's progress and our nurses make sure she takes her medication. Ann no longer complains of loneliness and enjoys coming to the program every day.*

Individuals, whether they have spent months or years in public institutions, or hospitals experience renewed hope and recovery as a result of our programs.

When making a donation, consider that your gift can provide the following this year:

- \$125.00 pays for the gas for ONE WEEK for ONE transportation van bringing consumers to our programs.
- \$350.00 pays for the cost of food for ONE WEEK for 15 senior citizens (an average day) in our Valley Brook Center in Lyndhurst.
- \$532.00 pays for the treatment, 24/7 supervision and room & board for ONE DAY for ONE adolescent in our KARE Residence.
- \$1,326.00 pays the salary for ONE WEEK for ONE Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) who provides medical care for our consumers.
- \$2,640.00 pays the salary for ONE MONTH for ONE PATH homeless outreach counselor.

**Please make a difference today! Visit [www.cbhcare.com](http://www.cbhcare.com) to make a secure online donation.**

**A sustaining monthly pledge of \$10 - \$20 will help to provide ongoing compassion and recovery for New Jersey's most fragile citizens!**

Contact Laura Amerman, CBHCare Development Office, Annual Giving Program: 201-935-3322, Ext. 57 or [lamerman@cbhcare.com](mailto:lamerman@cbhcare.com) for more information on memorials, bequests and other ways to make a lasting impact.

*CBHCare is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible. Information filed under the New Jersey Charitable Registrations Act concerning CBHCare may be obtained from the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs by calling 1-800-242-5846.*

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## Solution-Focused Brief Therapy Presented at Fall Workshop

Over 150 professionals attended CBHCare's Continuing Education Workshop on Solution-Focused Brief Therapy (SFBT) held on Friday, October 23, 2009 at the Bergen Community College Technology Education Center in Paramus, NJ.

SFBT, a short-term goal focused therapeutic approach, was developed in the mid-1980's by Insoo Kim Berg, Steve de Shazer, and the team at the Brief Family Therapy Center in Milwaukee, WI. Mr. Dan Gallagher, the workshop presenter, served as a member of the Brief Family Therapy Center's core team for over 20 years.

During the workshop, Mr. Gallagher used discussion, exercises, role-play and video clips to demonstrate the practice of SFBT. The full-day workshop provided 6.5 Social Work CEUs. It was organized by CBHCare's Continuing Education Committee, a group of staff who volunteer to assist with professional development activities.



## CBHCare CONNECTIONS

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