



Mary Bair, conference organizer and also Gaudenzia's Director of Womens and Children's Services, welcomes the attendees.

GENERATION TO GENERATION: Impacting Addiction, Pregnancy and the Family

The **20th Annual Womens and Children's Conference** was held in Harrisburg on March 21-22, targeting healthcare professionals, social workers, drug and alcohol treatment professionals and health service providers. The goal was to promote healthier outcomes for pregnant women and families in high risk situations. Presentations spanned assessment, treatment, medical, legal and social impact of substance abuse. Focus areas promoted better outcomes for families, pregnant and parenting women, as well as children and adolescents with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD). Topic areas included HIV/AIDS, synthetic drugs, medication misuse, trauma, domestic violence, incarceration, women with co-occurring disorders and other healthcare and family related issues.



Dr. Michael P. Frost, Keynote Speaker on Addiction and Adolescents, discusses his plenary session presentation with Christine Abdur-Rahim, Eastern Region Division Director of Womens and Children's Services.



Tara Conner, Keynote Speaker, also Miss USA 2006, with Deb Browning, Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP).



Mary Bair; Judge David L. Ashworth, Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas; Amanda L., candidate for 2013 graduation; Jeffrey R. Martin, M.D. Associate Director of Family and Community Medicine, Lancaster General Hospital and Florence Paige, Division Director.



Grateful Parent: Bob Spurrier

Bob Spurrier Sr. knows that his son is a walking miracle and that drug and alcohol addiction doesn't care who you are or what your family background or socio-economic status is. According to Bob, "addiction is widely-diverse, from inner city kids to those growing up in a mansion, addiction is everywhere." He is also grateful to Gaudenzia for turning his son's life around.

Bobby Jr. was a very good athlete. That was before Bobby started experimenting with drugs. It started with pot, then prescription drugs, and heroin. He graduated

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SITE VISITS

Visits to Concept 90, Harrisburg



Visits to Vantage, Lancaster

On their March 11 visit, the Penn Manor Girl Scouts and Brownies donated 30 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies to the residents of the program.



On March 8, Patty Kim, PA State Representative was welcomed by Mark Sarneso, Regional Director for Gaudenzia's Central and Western Regions; Kelly Catherman, Division Director and Dan Deeley, Program Director.



On March 13, Kate Walker and Deb Brandt of Moxie House Publishing, producers of Fig Magazine, visited. Among the people they met was Sheri P., program graduate.



On March 1, Keith Wolfe, NASCAR crewmember, Dr. Michael Peck, Todd Peck and Dr. Sue Peck of Peck of Peck Motorsports toured the facility to better understand Gaudenzia's modality of treatment for recovering individuals.

On March 27, PA State Representative Mindy Fee learned about the benefits of treatment from Paula Kiernan, Program Director and Florence Paige, Division Director.



On April 2, Rob Teplitz, PA State Senator was welcomed by Paula Ruane, Central Region Director.

Visit to Tioga Arms, Philadelphia

On April 12, State Representative Steven C. Mentzer was received by Sheri P., program graduate and Cindi Reinhold, Intake Supervisor.



On February 20, Tom Blackwell, Community Liaison for U.S. Representative Bob Brady, toured Tioga Arms Apartments. Resident Cheryl W. shared the importance of stable housing for her family.

Visits to Fresh Start, Wilmington



January 30, Chris Grundner (left), President and CEO of Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement (DANA).



January 30, Leslie P., program graduate greeted Thomas Wren, immediate past Chair and Fred Sears, President and CEO, both of Delaware Community Foundation.



March 6, Dr. Harry Smith, DE Deputy Cabinet Secretary for Health and Human Services.



March 11, Tyrone Jones (right), Director of External Relations for AstraZeneca.

On March 1, Meg Diamond and Steven Heird, M.D., Harrisburg area volunteers, participated in a Community Education Breakfast to learn more about Gaudenzia's work.



In Lancaster, Diane Horton-Lewis, Marie Murray and Briana Rowe, Vantage staff members, sort through needed supplies that were purchased by contributions donated in loving memory of Heather Hrywnak, intended to benefit the residents of the program.

Proud Parent: Bob Spurrier continued

from high school but his life was consumed with chasing the high. He was on probation for two years and in and out of rehabs for five years.

The inevitable happened, Bobby overdosed. In the hospital, last rites were given, the doctor told the family to think about final arrangements, but somehow Bobby survived.

Struggling with his son's addiction and looking for a solution, Bob decided that his son needed long-term residential treatment and he was admitted into one of Gaudenzia's Philadelphia programs. Gaudenzia's continuum of care provided the necessary steps for Bobby to become the responsible and productive member of society he is today. When he was ready, he moved to another Gaudenzia program before continuing on to a transitional housing arrangement near his hometown. Today, Bobby drives to work at his full-time job; coaches his company's softball team and participates in his church softball league.

Bob Spurrier Sr. is grateful to have his son back and wants others to know there is hope for those who persevere.

ALUMNI

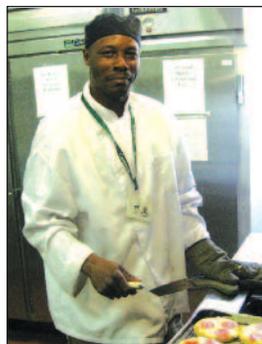
SPOTLIGHT: Justin V.



Justin V. is an executive chef. He returns regularly to Gaudenzia Fresh Start in Wilmington, DE, a residential program for 18 – 25 year olds, to serve as a role model and mentor for individuals there. He also visits his parents, is a responsible friend, roommate and employee.

But, life has not always been this way for Justin. He began experimenting with alcohol and marijuana at age 11 and had been arrested 30 times since age eight. After graduating from high school in 2004, Justin's life spiraled downward. He overdosed in his parent's home and remembers hearing his father pleading, "Don't leave us yet." Justin thought he could overcome addiction on his own but in a few months he was using heroin again. In December 2009, he was court-mandated to Gaudenzia Fresh Start. According to Justin, "Gaudenzia saved my life. If it wasn't for Gaudenzia, I'd probably be dead. I am forever grateful."

In June 2011, Justin became a Gaudenzia graduate. He is now a contributing member to his community and to Gaudenzia, presently serving on Fresh Start's 10th Anniversary Planning Committee. Justin recently presented his mother a family photo and inscribed this message on it; "When struggles turn into dreams, hate turns into love, things that didn't matter start to matter, problems turn into prayers, sadness turns into uncontrollable happiness, hopelessness turns into hope, the true meaning of life is taking place. Never give up."



Chesapeake Region: Update on Care Coordination

John entered treatment at Gaudenzia as part of his court ordered probation; but he was looking for help before he went to jail. He chose to enter treatment at Gaudenzia because he wanted a better life for himself. "Seeing people in treatment gave me the motivation to do better. I wasn't always down and out or depressed. I knew how it felt to live right, I just missed using and wanted to do it again." When he completed treatment last year, Gaudenzia's Care Coordination staff pointed him to community resources for job training and helped him obtain his ServSafe certification. When asked why he decided to come back to work for Gaudenzia, John responded that it was the people he met while he was here and wanting to give back to others beginning treatment. John intends to complete his graduation requirements and walk proudly across the stage at Chesapeake Region Graduation in October.



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On April 3, Ken Dickinson, Gaudenzia's Director of Marketing, was interviewed by Gary Scurka, Senior Investigative Producer at FOX 29 in Philadelphia about the risks of ingesting the herb Kratom. While not an illegal substance, use of the herb may lead to dependence and addiction. Research indicates withdrawal symptoms similar to those from opiates occurring in people who stop using Kratom.

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EDUCATING the Community



Leah Markowitz and Lauren Wagner of St. Christopher's Hospital; Karen Plowman, Bonita P., Michelle Woltz and Lynanne Schaeffer of Gaudenzia; Liz Horsey, Robin Capecci, and Shannon Kiry of St. Christopher's Hospital for Children Social Work Department.

On March 28, at a conference for social work students at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia, Karen Plowman, Prevention Supervisor at Vantage in Lancaster and Michelle Woltz, Director of Nursing for Gaudenzia's Eastern Region presented aspects of substance abuse and the resulting effects in the community. A personal illustration was provided by Bonita P., who only a few years ago was homeless. Today, she is a proud Gaudenzia graduate and resides in a stable, affordable housing unit that was recently developed by Gaudenzia. Bonita provided an inspiring message of recovery and hope, sharing her journey from the depths of addiction to her life in recovery as a grateful mother, deacon, entrepreneur, role model and responsible citizen. St. Christopher Hospital's check supporting Gaudenzia's services was gratefully received.

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