



## Heroin Use Reaching Epidemic Proportions

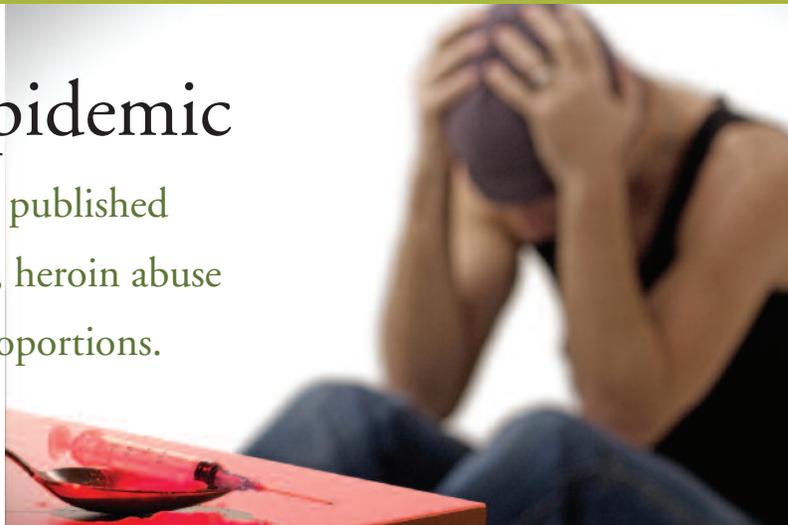
According to reports published in the Philadelphia Inquirer and other media, heroin abuse in the United States is reaching epidemic proportions.

Amazingly, the most recent surge is being fueled by prescription drug abuse. Compared to the cost of purchasing expensive, controlled prescription medications such as OxyContin and Percocet, addicts are increasingly turning to heroin. Officials are seeing bricks of heroin being laced with deadly substances such as fentanyl and even rat poison – dangerously raising potency.

A national report released by The Trust for America's Health indicated a quadrupling of deaths from heroin use over the last few years. It's no wonder that approximately half the admissions to Gaudenzia's treatment programs are related to heroin and opiate use.

Ken Dickinson, Gaudenzia's Director of Marketing, states that "This current epidemic is far beyond anything we could have imagined. Because heroin is so inexpensive, it has become more attractive to those not normally associated with heroin use; particularly middle-class 15 to 25 year olds." In response to the epidemic of heroin abuse, lawmakers and law enforcement agencies are working to stem the illegal trafficking of heroin in the community. Gaudenzia supports these efforts, stressing the need to maintain funding from all levels of government for treatment and recovery services. We also advocate better access to substance abuse treatment to help people overcome their addictions.

At Gaudenzia, people seeking treatment from the ravages of addiction are encouraged to embrace a culture of sobriety. We recognize that individuals can't do this alone. The network of services offered by Gaudenzia is designed to help people remain free of the need to use drugs and alcohol in a lifetime of recovery.

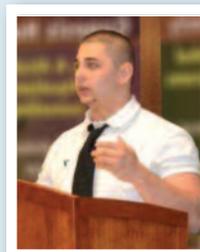


## Essay Contest Addresses Drug Abuse

Dauphin County Single County Authority recently sponsored an essay contest. Teenagers were asked to describe how family, school and community issues affect prescription drug abuse and how teens could become a positive influence on their peers to prevent substance abuse.

Teenage residents undergoing treatment at Gaudenzia's Chambers Hill Adolescent Program in Harrisburg participated in the essay contest. Three of them were awarded the contest's top three prizes for their entries, and a fourth individual in our care received a runner-up prize.

*Hunter C, First Prize recipient, addressed the award ceremony guests following a presentation from George Hartwick III, Dauphin County Commissioner*



# in Loving Memory

## Working Toward a Better Future; Gaudenzia Residents Receive Their GED

Thanks to a grant from the **Connelly Foundation**, computers and educational software packages were provided to Gaudenzia's Eastern Region Women and Children's programs, enabling the women to prepare for GED tests and learn computer skills.

On March 21, a celebration for five single-parent women was held in Philadelphia honoring participants from Gaudenzia's Tioga Arms Apartments, WINNER program and House of Passage.

According to participant Aja W., "It boosted my confidence all along the way as I passed the five modules of the GED. It showed me that I can accomplish whatever I set my mind to." Aja is one example of success. Prior to treatment, Aja had been addicted to prescription pills and lost custody of her four children. With the support of Gaudenzia's treatment and recovery services, Aja is now living drug-free in her own apartment and has re-united with her family. She is enrolled in classes at Philadelphia Community College to become an ultrasound technician. She credits the GED earned while in Gaudenzia's care for making this possible. "Things keep getting better," remarked a beaming Aja.



Joan McMillian, Case Manager (center), congratulates GED recipients LaShonda E. and Aja W.

## John Calvitti,

longtime supporter, vendor and volunteer. John founded his own general contracting company, and helped to build Gaudenzia's first warehouse that was later named after him.

## Joan M. Gaughan,

Gaudenzia's Director of Compliance and Governance. Joan had over 20 years' experience in the private practice of law, specializing in ERISA litigation and benefits administration.

## Willis W. Shenk,

prominent community leader, businessman and former editor of the *Lancaster Intelligencer Journal*. Elsie Shenk Outpatient Center bears the name of his late wife, Elsie. The Shenks had been major supporters of Gaudenzia's work.

## Jack Weinstock,

former Board Member, Gaudenzia Foundation. A businessman, Jack was the owner of Afro American Press in Philadelphia.

## 9th Annual Hearts and Minds Film Festival

On April 25, a film festival was held in Wilmington, Delaware, promoting civic engagement through the cinematic arts. In the "Human Resilience and Recovery" category, works relating to overcoming substance abuse were featured. Gaudenzia professionals participated in a panel discussion that followed, fielding questions from the audience while raising awareness about Gaudenzia's work in Delaware.



## Administrative Professionals Day

On April 21, administrative staff in Gaudenzia's Central Region gathered for a lunch at the Central Region Office. They were recognized for their service to Gaudenzia.



Event volunteers from Gaudenzia, PECO, Independence Blue Cross and the community

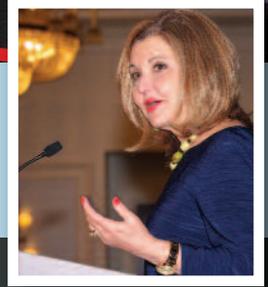


Craig and April Adams



**GAUDENZIA**  
*Gustave G. Amsterdam*  
COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD DINNER

Pat Ciarrocchi, CBS 3 News Anchor,  
Mistress of Ceremonies



Michael B. Harle, Gaudenzia President and CEO; Lynne Abraham, former District Attorney; M. Walter D'Alessio, Board Member and Honorary Event Co-Chair; Sheila Hess, Independence Blue Cross Foundation Manager; Peter Longstreth, former PIDC President

On April 29, Gaudenzia honored Craig L. Adams, President and CEO of PECO, with the Gaudenzia/Gustave G. Amsterdam Community Champion Award at the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel in Philadelphia. Lead sponsors included PECO, AmeriHealth Caritas, Independence Blue Cross and Riggs Distler. Approximately 280 people attended the event, raising over \$100,000 for Gaudenzia's treatment and recovery services.

Honorary Event Co-Chairs were M. Walter D'Alessio and Gerard H. Sweeney. Event Committee Co-Chairs Jeannie Day Roggio and Bob Roggio.



Jeannie Day Roggio and Bob Roggio



Guests from PRWT Services, Inc. and the United Negro College Fund enjoy the silent auction and reception

**Promoting a Healthy Lifestyle**

On May 2, staff at Gaudenzia's corporate office in Norristown participated in **National Walk at Lunch Day** to foster a healthier work environment.



**For the Love of Gaudenzia**

On February 19, at Fusion Fire restaurant in Camp Hill, PA, a dine-out activity was held benefitting treatment at Gaudenzia. The activity continued from lunch through dinner. Guests learned about Gaudenzia's work in the Harrisburg area, interacting with program alumni and treatment professionals.



Gary Tennis, PA Secretary of Drug and Alcohol Programs, with his wife, Kali

Sheila Ross, Board Member and Jim Ross greet their guests





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### Philadelphia Students Show Their Support

The Workshop School is a Philadelphia high school with a focus on doing projects that are challenging, meaningful and rewarding. Recently, the students held a bake sale to raise funds to purchase school supplies for the children in residence at Gaudenzia. Support from the community helps to remind the families in our programs that people are rooting for their recovery.



### Lancaster Volunteers Sponsor Ice Cream Social

On February 11, longtime supporters, Harriet Neil and Kim Rice, held an ice cream social for the women in residence at Gaudenzia Vantage.

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