

Branching Out

WINTER

What's Coming Up

Holiday Giving Drive
December 1-17

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What are you thankful for?

During the holiday season, more than ever, my thoughts turn gratefully to everyone who supports our mission. We can't thank you enough for sharing the warmth and joy of your heart with those served by our organization. As our organization grows, *so has your generosity.*



In 2014 we served over 11,000 people and opened several new programs to help meet the ever-growing need for services in our community. It is not enough for us to simply offer services to community members who come to us struggling with mental illness. Our job is to provide a consistent, compassionate support system to help individuals stay engaged through the life struggles they face and move on to lead full, productive lives.

So far this year, you helped us collect over 18,500 diapers, 340 prom dresses, 650 stuffed backpacks, and MUCH more for vulnerable children, adults and families in Twin Oaks programs. Your donations make an incredible impact on the lives of individuals and families in our programs. Families like the Coopers...

The Cooper family turned to Twin Oaks earlier this year after mom Janine faced life threatening complications following a surgery that put tremendous financial and emotional stress on the family of six. Janine was forced to leave her job and the family was left to deal with mounting medical bills on dad Matthew's salary.

Over the past nine months the Coopers have received family therapy and counseling at our Family Preservation Services program (FPS). The family learned behavior management skills and new healthy ways to cope with the mental and physical stressors in their lives. Janine said it best, "I no longer feel guilt and shame and understand that we have the power to make positive changes."

Although Janine's health has improved and she looks forward to beginning work again in the new year, the family will struggle to make ends meet this holiday season. You can help us spread joy and happiness to all of our consumers during the holidays by giving the gift of a child's toy, a warm winter coat or a bag of groceries. Each simple act of kindness will mean so much to someone vulnerable, suffering or alone.

As we move forward into 2015, your generosity is critical now more than ever. Whether you help by volunteering, making a donation or simply advocating on our behalf, we can't thank you enough for your continued support.

Best wishes for the holiday season,

Bob Pekar
Chief Executive Officer

SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER THIS YEAR

Do you want to help others in your community this holiday season?

Twin Oaks invites you to create holiday magic by taking part in our Holiday Giving Drive! For many of us, the festive holiday season is full of laughter, gifts and memories with loved ones. Unfortunately, for families struggling to make ends meet the holidays can be an especially challenging time of year.



Share YOUR Holiday Spirit:

- 1 Hold a Gift Drive.** Twin Oaks will provide you with the necessary tools to run your own gift drive from your home, school or office. Invite friends, family and co-workers to help!
- 2 Sponsor a family or group home.** Twin Oaks will provide you with a wishlist for a family in need or a group home. This will help ensure every Twin Oaks consumer receives a gift this holiday season.
- 3 Make a Monetary Donation.** No time to shop? We'll do it for you! Donate online at www.twinoakscs.org or mail monetary contributions to Twin Oaks Community Services, Attn: Development Office, 770 Woodlane Road, Mt. Holly NJ 08060



Donation Ideas

Please keep in mind gifts for teens and adults!

CHILDREN

- Board Games, Puzzles
- Books
- Arts and Crafts
- Educational Toys
- Musical Toys
- Basketballs, Footballs, Soccer Balls
- Sleds
- Skateboards
- Warm Clothing, Pajamas
- Coats, Gloves, Hats, Scarves

TEENS AND ADULTS

- Journals
- Warm Blankets
- Jewelry
- Board Games, Puzzles
- Hand-held Electronics, MP3 Players
- Personal Care Items
- Warm Clothing, Sports Jerseys
- Pajamas
- Coats, Gloves
- Scarves, Hats
- Purses

Drop off new, unwrapped gifts through Wednesday, December 17 at one of the following locations:

Twin Oaks Community Services
770 Woodlane Road, Suite 23
Mount Holly, NJ 08060

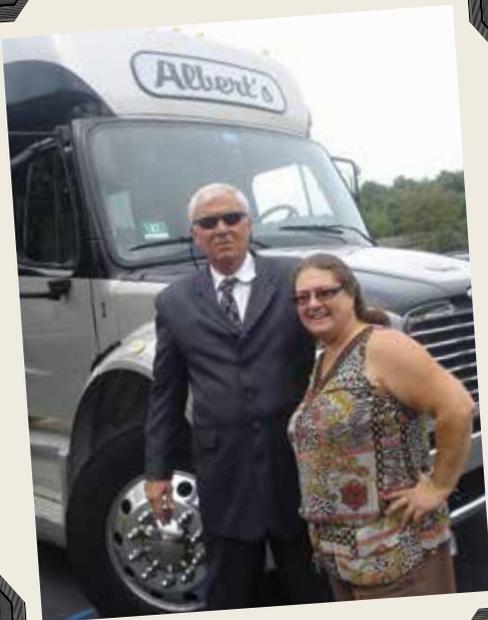
Twin Oaks Community Services
499 Cooper Landing Road
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

For more information or to sponsor a family or group home visit www.twinoakscs.org or call 609-267-5928.

Community Scrapbook



TD Bank employees (left and above) donated their time to landscape two Twin Oaks group homes. They weeded, planted flowers, mulched and more!



This summer, kids in Twin Oaks programs transformed into rockstars at **School of Rock in Cherry Hill!** Special thanks to **Albert's Transportation** for donating a limo ride and **Natalie Sannuti of Party Express** for donating her time and energy to do the kids' makeup for the event.



The team at **Lourdes Specialty Hospital of Southern New Jersey** held a backpack drive for Twin Oaks this August! Operation Fill-A-Backpack distributed over 650 stuffed backpacks to children in need.



HEALING THROUGH ART THERAPY



Crayons, construction paper, newspaper, water color paints, chalk... believe it or not, such simple tools can help children heal emotionally, psychologically and behaviorally.

The use of Creative Art Therapy continues to grow as a way to promote healing in our Children's Residential Programs. Sadly, poor relationships and low self-esteem is often learned through difficult childhood experiences. The therapy model uses art as the 'vehicle' that allows us to transport children to emotional safety.

When children enter the group home, an Art Therapist helps with the initial assessment in order to develop an effective treatment plan. The therapist alternates structured educational sessions with "Open Studio" sessions which empower children to create their own art in a positive, safe environment. Individual and group sessions give children a creative outlet to communicate their feelings and discover underlying thoughts which might be difficult to express in words.



For example, when children enter the group home they create a picture of a sea creature that represents themselves. The picture is added to a fishbowl which represents the group home. When children leave the home, their sea creature is placed outside of the bowl in the ocean area. The project becomes a rite of passage during a critical transition period as well as a source of inspiration.



The therapy model positively impacts many children in Twin Oaks residential programs including ten-year-old Cameron. Cameron came from an abusive home and the trauma he endured made him feel worthless. At first, he did not even want to try Art Therapy fearing he'd be bad at it. After the therapist explained that there is no right or wrong way to be an artist, he let his creativity shine through!

Cameron created birdhouses with sticks he gathered in the yard and developed an interest in mosaic art. When he completed his first mosaic painting from small scraps of cardboard, his confidence soared. Painting allowed him to express his negative feelings without making him feel weak. Introducing art into Cameron's life gave a child who once thought he would never be successful at anything, something to be proud of.



"The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance."
-Aristotle

Whether it's a rainy day to display a sad memory, a heart to show a good day or a dark scribble to express frustration, each child in our group homes can use their imagination to tell their story. As you can see from the drawings surrounding this article, art has become more than just an activity. It is the catalyst for healing and the pathway to a brighter future.



Twin Oaks 10TH ANNUAL
COMMUNITY SERVICES 2014

Moorestown

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Thank you

sponsors, hosts, chefs
and guests for making
our 10th annual Progressive
Dinner on October
17th a success.



THANK YOU 2014 Sponsors

Platinum Sponsor



Diamond Sponsor



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors

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- Hampton Behavioral Health Center
- Holman Automotive Group, Inc.
- Innovative Compensation & Benefits Concepts
- Kennedy Behavioral Health
- Moorestown Mall
- Susquehanna Bank
- UBS Investments



Thank you

attendees, volunteers,
and sponsors for making
our 3rd Annual Touch A
Truck a **BIG HONKING
SUCCESS.**



Proceeds from both events
benefit the Twin Oaks Food
Pantries which serve over
600 families every month.
To view event photos, visit
www.twinoakscs.org.



770 Woodlane Road
Mount Holly, NJ 08060

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Twin Oaks Community Services provides behavioral health and social services to vulnerable children, adults and families throughout New Jersey.

If you or someone you know needs our care, please call our confidential point of entry: Access Center 1-800-963-3377

Stay Connected with Twin Oaks www.twinoakscs.org    



SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER THIS YEAR

Look inside to learn how you can make this holiday season special for children, adults and families in your community.



HOLIDAY
Giving Drive
December 1-17



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