

Branching Out

FALL 2013

What's Coming Up

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December 1-18

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Engagement: The Core of Our Mission

I often find myself thinking about our mission and what makes it work from the inside out. Engagement is key to our organization's foundation and our core mission of helping people. It is at the heart of the treatment principles we use to provide critical services to the mentally ill population.



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 engage individuals in the treatment process so they can move on to recover and lead full, productive lives. The number one priority must be focusing completely on the consumer and listening to their wants and needs. Once engaged, individuals can begin to participate effectively in their own care, reduce isolation, make healthy choices and move toward wellness and recovery.

Our goal is to provide a consistent, compassionate support system to help individuals stay engaged through the life struggles they face. We commit to making our services easily accessible and providing not only the highest quality clinical services, but also exceptional customer service to make the experience a positive one. In addition to treatment, we offer services such as housing, job training, emergency food assistance and linkage to follow up resources to help increase engagement.

We must understand that when individuals do not initiate mental health treatment or drop out prematurely, it is not about their unwillingness to change. Many people don't engage with the treatment process and exit supportive relationships with others because of fear of rejection or failure. Other obstacles to engagement such as poverty, unemployment, addiction, lack of support from loved ones and physical health issues only fuel the situation. These barriers can keep individuals trapped in a cycle of disengagement.

It is essential for us to break that cycle. Engagement with every consumer provides a hopeful path to success.

Thank you for your support.

Respectfully,

Bob Pekar
Chief Executive Officer

SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER THIS YEAR

The hustle and bustle of the holiday season is already sneaking up on us! While many of us are celebrating with family and friends, finishing up last minute shopping and putting the finishing touches on the holiday decorations, others are facing much bigger challenges.

Every day Twin Oaks works with individuals learning to manage a mental illness or developmental disability, families struggling to put food on the table and children coping with the trauma of abuse.

We invite YOU to help make the holiday season special for over 3,000 children, teens and adults in need in our community.



3 Ways YOU Can Spread Cheer

- 1 Make a Monetary Donation.** Visit www.twinoakscs.org to donate online!
- 2 Hold a Holiday Gift Drive.** Gather friends, family and co-workers to help collect new, unwrapped gifts for children, teens and adults.
- 3 Sponsor a family or group home.** Twin Oaks will provide you with a wish list for a family in need or a group home. This will help ensure every Twin Oaks consumer receives a gift this holiday season.

For more information about holiday opportunities, contact the Development Office at 609-267-5928 x99836 or email keyanna.turner@twinoakscs.org.

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, Pajamas
- Sports Jerseys
- Coats, Gloves, Scarves, Hats
- Duffle Bags
- Purses

Drop off new, unwrapped gifts through Wednesday, December 18:

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

To view more drop off locations near you, visit www.twinoakscs.org.

Community Scrapbook



Local toy store duck duck goose and toy manufacturer Brayden's Bears have teamed up to donate teddy bears to Twin Oaks! For every teddy bear sold, Brayden's Bears will donate a bear to a child in a Twin Oaks program. Visit duck duck goose at 702 Haddon Avenue in Collingswood.



Girl Scout Jessica Dybus created a butterfly garden at a Twin Oaks group home to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award. Thanks Jessica!

Thank you to Jim Dunphy's Landscaping for donating mums to Twin Oaks to help raise money for the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey.



Kylie and Maddy Sager collected food from their neighbors for our Mt. Holly Food Pantry. Thanks girls! Visit www.twinoakscs.org to find out how you can hold your own food drive.

Connect with us on Social Media!



Find Twin Oaks on Facebook, Twitter and Flickr to learn about upcoming events, donation drives, success stories and more!



825 Backpacks Stuffed!

Thanks to your help, Twin Oaks collected a record number of backpacks and school supplies! Over 825 children and teens started the school year off on the right foot with backpacks stuffed to the max. All donations- backpacks, lunchboxes, highlighters, markers, notebooks and more- were sorted, packed and distributed to children in need of support in Twin Oaks programs.

We greatly appreciate the incredible volunteers who took the time to hold backpack drives in their companies, neighborhoods, churches and civic groups. A stuffed backpack provides more than just supplies, it helps a child return to school with the confidence needed to succeed.

For more ways to get involved, visit www.twinoakscs.org!



TD Bank employees Paul D'Antonio and Eric Motson drop off the donations they collected for the drive.



FACING AUTISM: *Teddy's Story*



Twin Oaks strives to recognize behavioral health needs within our community and make a positive difference. Current estimates show autism affects 1 in 49 children in New Jersey. To meet this growing need, Twin Oaks has opened 8 group homes in the last 4 years to serve children diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder.

Most importantly, we recognize that the residents are children first. Their disability and their special needs are second. Each child has an individualized treatment plan to meet their specific needs. Staff work with the children by utilizing Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) to address serious behavioral challenges. This best practice strategy

provides the care to achieve our ultimate goal- reunification with the family.

One of the children working toward this goal resides at our Fish Pond Group Home. Teddy moved into Fish Pond last year. In addition to being on the autism spectrum, Teddy expressed violent behaviors. He damaged objects in his parents' home during violent outbursts and put himself and others in danger. Teddy had trouble with authority figures and did not like going to school. His issues were only exacerbated by his unhealthy weight.

Upon entering the program, Twin Oaks staff developed a personalized plan to help Teddy with his behavioral and health issues. Teddy learned to work through his issues with authority and now looks forward to attending school every day. Over time his relationships with adults have greatly improved. Although he still struggles with change, Teddy now engages his coping skills whenever he feels overwhelmed. Teddy also became more active, losing 50 pounds within 8 months, and is now on the road to a healthier lifestyle.

We are proud to say that Teddy is making remarkable progress and maturing into a wonderful young man! His story shows that with the right services and support system, children with autism can live full, healthy and meaningful lives.

THANK YOU

Thank you hosts, chefs and guests for making our **9th Annual Progressive Dinner** on October 18 a success! Proceeds benefit the Twin Oaks Food Pantry and children and adults with developmental disabilities.

9TH ANNUAL -2013- MOORESTOWN PROGRESSIVE DINNER

 **Twin Oaks**
COMMUNITY SERVICES



Chefs

Amis Trattoria
Caffe Aldo Lamberti
Capital Grille
Cathedral Kitchen
The ChopHouse
Farm & Fisherman Tavern & Market
Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar
I Love this Food!, Personal Chef Service
Garces Catering
Georgetti's Pasta & Sauce Market
Kuzina by Sofia
Nunzio Ristorante Rustico
Sensational Host Caterers
Severino Pasta Company

Hors D'oeuvres Hosts

Jon and Loretta Runyan

Dessert Hosts

Jim and Maureen Brennan

Dinner Hosts

Joe and Marianne Aleardi
Joe and Alicia Aristone
Bill and Linda Burris
Peter and Theresa Hovnanian
Carlos Hoz de Vila
Calvin and Orsula Knowlton
Steven and Cindy Kramer
Edward and Barbara Omert
Peter and Laurie Palko
Steven Pazienza and Sylvia Bidwell
Scott and Linda Schaeffer
Tom and Beverly Tranovich
Lee and Sharon Tsao
Glen and Lori Walton

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Lammy & Giorgio
Moorestown Mall
UBS Investments



A Big Honking Success

Thank you to our attendees, volunteers, and sponsors for making our **2nd Annual Touch A Truck** event on September 29 at the Moorestown Mall a big success.

Kids of all ages got the chance to see, touch and explore over 30 of their favorite vehicles- Idaho Potato Truck, Krispy Kreme Cruiser, fire truck, military humvee and more! Visit www.twinoakscs.org to view event photos.





770 Woodlane Road
Mount Holly, NJ 08060

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Twin Oaks Community Services, a merger of Family Service and Steinger, 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

Find out how YOU can help make this holiday season special for over 3,000 children, adults and families in need in your community.



HOLIDAY
Giving Drive
December 1-18



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