

Branching Out

WINTER 2016

What's Coming Up

Haddonfield Progressive Dinner
April 29

Diaper Derby
March 15 - April 15

Project Dress Up
Now - March 31

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Committed to Change in Camden

Poverty. Crime. Violence. Trauma. Unfortunately, these are the harsh words frequently used to define the city of Camden, New Jersey. We believe it's our job to look beyond these words and see that Camden is a community with the strength and resiliency to push past these challenges. Most importantly, we see the opportunity for change and commit to providing essential services to children, adults and families right in the heart of Camden. While we have had a presence in the city for over 50 years, in 2015 we expanded that footprint significantly.



At the start of this school year, Oaks began providing support to students in 7 different Camden schools through our School Based Youth Services Programs (SBYSP). Each week, the program enriches the lives of approximately 300-400 students through a multitude of health and social services on site during and after school. In a city where less than half of students graduate high school, SBYSP strives to help youth complete their education, obtain skills to lead to continuing education or employment and graduate healthy and drug free.

This past summer, we had the incredible opportunity to train nearly 300 members of the Camden County Police Department on how to help a person in psychiatric distress. Police often respond first to a person experiencing a mental health crisis. Training helps law enforcement learn to cope with these difficult situations and increase safety for everyone involved- officers, individuals in crisis and bystanders. In 2016, trainings will expand to give police dispatchers the knowledge and skills necessary to identify a caller in crisis and respond effectively.

Our Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program continues to increase outreach at transportation hubs, shelters, soup kitchens and drop in centers to individuals who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. PATH places individuals with a serious mental illness in appropriate housing and links them to formal mental health treatment.

Additionally, Children's Mobile Response responded to nearly 600 families in Camden experiencing a crisis in 2015. CMR offers immediate in-home crisis stabilization services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The family focused approach helps defuse the immediate crisis, maintain a safe living environment, prevent inappropriate hospitalizations and link to follow-up services.

Our job is not done. The challenges may be daunting but they are not insurmountable. Moving forward, we plan to strengthen these programs and expand our reach to serve more children, adults and families in Camden. You can work hand and hand with us by donating, advocating and volunteering to make it a safer, healthier city for citizens to grow and thrive. Let's take advantage of the opportunity as a community to see the potential and commit to true change in Camden.

Respectfully,



Bob Pekar
Chief Executive Officer



DIAPER Derby



One in three families in the United States struggle every day to provide a basic need for their babies – clean and dry diapers.

JOIN THE RACE!
MARCH 15 –
APRIL 15



JOIN OUR RACE TO COLLECT 15,000 DIAPERS AND OTHER BABY ITEMS FOR FAMILIES IN NEED! Diapers directly impact a family's ability to thrive and be self-sufficient. Unfortunately, many families in our programs cannot afford to pay for necessary baby items. Although safety net programs such as SNAP and WIC help with the cost of food, they do not cover the cost of diapers. Your donation to the Diaper Derby will help families like Melody's –

Melody's mother, Sara, has struggled with addiction her entire life. Melody was forced to grow up quickly, often worrying about her mother, when they would eat next and where they would stay at night. At seventeen, Melody found out she was pregnant and knew it was time to make a change.

Determined to provide a better life for her daughter, Melody relocated to her grandmother's home to secure a stable living situation and began participating in our Teenage Parent Program (TAPP). TAPP provides counseling, case management, peer support groups and education to pregnant and parenting teens and their families.

Five months ago, Melody gave birth to a beautiful little girl named Kendall. She obtained a part-time job and continues to attend high school and participate in an employment program to learn job skills. One day, her dream is to attend college and become a nurse. The diapers Melody will receive through our Diaper Derby will make a huge difference to this young mother striving to provide for her daughter and their future.

Ways to Give:



1. DONATE ITEMS

Drop off donations at an Oaks Integrated Care location:

770 Woodlane Road
Suite 15
Mt. Holly, NJ 08060

128 Berlin Cross Keys Road
Berlin, NJ 08009

499 Cooper Landing Road
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

31 Lexington Avenue
Ewing, NJ 08618

2. RUN YOUR OWN DIAPER DERBY

Involve your co-workers, classmates or community!

3. MAKE A MONETARY DONATION ONLINE

at www.oaksintcare.org or by mail to:

Oaks Integrated Care
Attn: Development Office
770 Woodlane Road
Mt. Holly, NJ 08060

Donation Ideas

- Diapers
- Toiletries (cream, etc.)
- Powder Formula
- Bibs/Feeding towels
- Bottles
- Car seat/High chair*
- Baby Wipes
- Stroller*
- Baby Food
- Crib*

**We cannot accept certain used baby items due to the possible recall. We do not want to put any child in danger.*

Questions? Please call the Development Office at 609-267-5928.

Community Scrapbook



The Burlington County Regional Chamber of Commerce's Young Professional Network sponsored a family in need this holiday season.



Thank you to the Nonprofit Development Center of Southern New Jersey for hosting a holiday gift drive for us!



Our friends from Beneficial Bank helped us sort and organize hundreds of gifts donated to our Holiday Giving Drive.



Stewart Business Solutions supported our Thanksgiving Turkey Drive again in 2015 by hosting a food drive.



TJ Maxx managers from the South Jersey region donated 25 bags of food and hours of volunteer time in our Mt. Holly Food Pantry.



We're on LinkedIn!

Connect to Oaks to stay up to date on job opportunities, events, drives and more!

#MAKE PROM POSSIBLE

Project Dress Up

Make Prom Possible

Give your dresses a second chance so deserving teens can attend their prom in style! This spring, teens in our community will have the opportunity to shop for their prom dresses and accessories. We accept donations of formal dresses in good condition of all sizes, colors and styles appropriate for a high school prom. Please also consider donating dress shoes, formal purses, clutches, shawls and jewelry.

Hold a Dress Drive

Get your classmates, co-workers or community involved. Oaks Integrated Care can provide you with a toolkit including collection bins, posters and email templates.

*This is a great activity for high school students!

Drop - Off Details

When:

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m - 5 p.m.
NOW until March 31, 2016.

Where:

Oaks Integrated Care Locations
79 Chestnut Street, Lumberton, NJ
770 Woodlane Road, Suite 23, Mt. Holly, NJ
128 Cross Keys Road, Berlin, NJ
1138 E. Chestnut Avenue, Unit 3A, Vineland, NJ
31 Lexington Avenue, Ewing, NJ 08618



Thank you to Whitesell for donating the amazing space for the shop again this year.



Questions?

Contact our Development Department at 609-267-5928.

foodwerx
Featuring Nicholas Caterers

foodwerx
3 Executive Campus #350
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002
856-231-8886
www.foodwerx.com

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

foodwerx

When it comes to food, there's no limit to Owner Nick Wall's imagination. Think bacon spoons topped with a special 'goo'- pretzels, caramel and salted peanuts for a punchy, savory and sweet delight. Or hanging charcuterie- little spears of beef suspended from a rack, enticing guests to have a taste.

Nick has a passion for food but he also has a passion for helping his community. Since the start of our Progressive Dinner fundraisers in 2004, foodwerx has participated as the cocktails and hors d'oeuvres chef in more than 10 dinners throughout Moorestown and Haddonfield. They go above and beyond with personalized menus served up with an added 'wow' factor that is always a delight to dinner guests. Throughout the year foodwerx has also donated lunches for Crisis Intervention Team trainings and our foster care program's "School of Rock" performances.

Thank you foodwerx team for your commitment to our organization and the community!

Finding a Place To Call Home

Homelessness in our Communities

Imagine trying to recover from a serious mental illness and not knowing where you will be sleeping at night. Or imagine the difficulty of managing a chronic illness such as diabetes or heart disease without a stable space to come home to. Unfortunately, situations like these are common in our communities.

The words "affordable" and "housing" often do not fit together in New Jersey, especially for those with special needs. In January 2015, 10,211 homeless adults and children were counted across the state of New Jersey during a "point in time" count which gives a snapshot of the homeless population. Forty two percent reported some type of disability, with more reporting mental health issues than any other type of disability.

Research shows that without a permanent, stable home to live in dignity, it is nearly impossible for individuals to move toward wellness and recovery. A home also provides opportunities for wraparound services, such as counseling and case management services which give people the chance to rebuild their lives. Inadequate housing can lead not just to homelessness, but also lengthy hospitalizations, frequent visits to psychiatric screening centers and ERs, and involvement in the criminal justice system.

We understand the critical need to provide housing that is not only safe, permanent and affordable but also accessible to community resources and transportation. Oaks Integrated Care currently houses 450 people in 114 supportive housing residences and 56 group homes in 46 communities throughout New Jersey. In addition, our PATH (Projects for Assistance in Transitioning from Homelessness) program in Camden and Mercer Counties places adults with a serious mental illness who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in appropriate housing and links them to formal mental health treatment.



As part of a collaborative effort to reduce homelessness in Camden County, Oaks recently partnered with the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers, a citywide coalition of hospitals, primary care providers, and community representatives that work together to deliver better healthcare to our most vulnerable citizens.

The Coalition received 50 vouchers from the NJ Department of Community Affairs to implement a Housing First project to support homeless individuals with two or more chronic health conditions. The Housing First model provides an integrated solution to care by stabilizing the living situation first which allows individuals to focus on other priorities, such as their emotional and physical health. This innovative, evidence-based approach has been highly effective in communities across the country.



Everyone deserves a decent affordable home to live a healthy life and enjoy a future. Housing and treatment can mean the difference between a person lost and a full meaningful productive life. **By working together as a community, it's possible to make permanent supportive housing accessible and give everyone the opportunity to attain the simple dream of "having a place to call home."**



Oaks
INTEGRATED CARE

770 Woodlane Road
Mount Holly, NJ 08060

Nonprofit Org.
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Permit No. 521
Bellmawr, NJ

Oaks Integrated Care 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 Oaks Integrated Care www.oaksintcare.org     



FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2016

You're Invited

7th Annual
2016  **Oaks**
INTEGRATED CARE

Haddonfield

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

The evening begins with a fabulous cocktail reception at the beautiful home of **Sam and Colette Gabriel**. From there move on to share an intimate dinner with friends prepared by a talented local chef in a Haddonfield home.

For more information about ticket sales or sponsorships, contact the Development Office at **609-267-5928** or visit www.oaksintcare.org.

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