

# Directions

Oriana House's Community Corrections

CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
VOL. 1, ISSUE 1, 2009

## Need a Speaker?

Oriana House can provide your group or organization a speaker to discuss community corrections and/or chemical dependency. Call 330-535-8116 for more information.

## CLEVELAND & AKRON ORIANA HOUSE & STAFF RECEIVE STATE AWARDS

### MISSION

ORIANA HOUSE PROVIDES  
QUALITY AND HUMANE  
CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY  
TREATMENT AND  
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS  
SERVICES TO CLIENTS  
WHILE CONTRIBUTING TO  
SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Oriana House is celebrating statewide recognition of its Halfway House program in addition to having one of its executives honored for her contributions to community corrections in Ohio. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) presented Oriana House with the Clifford Skeen Award for Halfway Houses, and the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections (OJACC) presented Oriana House Executive Vice President Anne Connell-Freund with the Dr. Simon Dinitz Award. The Dr. Simon Dinitz Award recognizes excellence and career achievement in the field of criminal justice research and education.

ODRC selected Oriana House's Halfway House program from 23 throughout the

state and commended Oriana House staff for being innovative leaders in developing research-based programming and for their commitment to providing the highest quality of service to clients. Oriana House operates the Community Corrections and Treatment Center in Cleveland and four Halfway Houses in Akron.

The Halfway House program provides a direct sentencing option for misdemeanor, felony, and traffic offenders and is also used as a transition program for some offenders who are near the end of their prison or jail sentence. Offenders are monitored and have more supervision as they integrate back into the community through Oriana House's case management services. Clients go through a risk/needs assessment and chemical dependency treatment is available when necessary.

Oriana House Halfway House facilities are accredited by the American Correctional Association and are licensed by ODRC and the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS).

"We are honored to receive this recognition in tribute of Clifford Skeen. I had great respect for Mr. Skeen, and I think he would be impressed with our programs," said Oriana House President/CEO James Lawrence.

The Clifford Skeen Award was initiated by former Governor George Voinovich's administration to demonstrate commitment to community corrections as a viable alternative to incarceration. The award is in honor of the late, eight-term Ohio Representative, Clifford Skeen, who sponsored the Community Correction Act in 1979 to reduce the number of non-dangerous offenders sent to prisons.

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) present Oriana House, Inc. (OHI) staff with the Clifford Skeen Award for Halfway Houses.



Left to Right: Linda Janes, ODRC; Amanda Skelton, OHI; Terry J. Collins, Director, ODRC; Anne Connell-Freund, OHI; Jennifer Cutler, OHI; James Lawrence, President/CEO, OHI; Joyce Allen, OHI; Nicole Kendall, OHI; Carrie Benham-Daniel, OHI; Bernie Rochford, OHI; Lydia Maurer, OHI; Rebecca Callahan, OHI; Illya McGee, OHI; Barbara Gough, OHI; Tammy Jenson, OHI; Phil Nunes, OHI; Victoria McGee, OHI; RoEllen Sinkewich, OHI; Kelly McCarthy, OHI (hidden); Alicia Handwerk, ODRC; Mike Randle, ODRC.

## STANDARDS FOR EXCELLENCE AWARDED TO ORIANA HOUSE

**O**riana House was recently awarded the Standards for Excellence recertification from the Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations (OANO). OANO praised Oriana House for meeting rigorous benchmarks for ethics and accountability to boost public trust.

“Oriana House has again demonstrated its commitment to excellence through OANO’s Standards for Excellence certification program,” said OANO Executive Director Jennifer Campbell Williams. “As the only community corrections program certified under the Standards in Ohio, the public can be confident

that Oriana House adheres to the highest level of ethics and accountability in Ohio.”

Oriana House underwent an extensive peer review process to confirm adherence to a comprehensive code of conduct. Organizations that achieve this certification reflect adherence to some of the toughest review standards in the nation.

According to Oriana House Executive Vice President Bernie Rochford, “The Standards of Excellence certification demonstrates that Oriana House is committed to quality operations and that we are good stewards of our nonprofit status.”

OANO has certified 30 nonprofit organizations throughout the state.

Rochford added that Oriana House also holds numerous accreditations from the American Correctional Association which recognize Oriana House for operating quality community corrections and chemical dependency treatment programs above the national standards.

“The OANO certification along with our numerous accreditations and awards confirm that we have a professional staff who is dedicated to managing high quality programs,” Rochford said.

## GUESTS MEET STAFF, TOUR CLEVELAND HALFWAY HOUSE

**M**any guests who attended an open house at Oriana House’s Community Corrections and Treatment Center (CCTC) in Cleveland last fall were moved by comments from a client who was being released from the program the next day, having successfully completed all requirements.

“Tomorrow when I complete this program, I’ll be out on the street corner not trying to buy drugs but waiting for a school bus to pick up my kids. That means the world to me,” the client said. “This program taught me to aim for goals and achieve them. It helped me to reunite with my family and helped me to get a job,” the 36-year-old client added. This was the first job he ever held and he was confident he would continue in his employment. “This place saved my life,” he said.

The Community Corrections and Treatment Center is a 228 bed facility that provides a range of evidence-based programming including case management, cognitive therapies, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, employment and housing assistance, 12 step programs, parenting skills classes, and family support services. Since opening in 2001, CCTC has provided correctional services to more than 5,300 people.

Roy Saenz, Deputy Chief of the U.S. Probation Office, commended Oriana House for its work in the community. “In our system of justice the community seeks justice for the wrong that has been done but the offender seeks mercy and it is our responsibility to strike that balance. I think Oriana House is a bridge that allows that to happen.”

*Oriana House’s Community Corrections and Treatment Center (CCTC) welcomed many guests to tour the facility during a recent open house. Left to right: Phillip Nunes, Oriana House Vice President of Correctional Programs in Cuyahoga County; Michael Randle, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Assistant Director; Natoya Walker, Deputy Chief of Operations for the City of Cleveland; James Lawrence, Oriana House President/CEO; and Craig Tame, Special Projects Director, U.S. Attorney’s Office, Northern District of Ohio*



**Oriana House operates the Summit County CBCF for men and the Cliff Skeen CBCF for women in Akron, and the CROSSWAEH CBCF in Tiffin that serves the counties of Crawford, Richland, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, Wyandot, Ashland, Erie, and Huron.**

**This letter is from a client of the Summit County Community Based Correctional Facility (CBCF):**

*“I first want to say that CBCF saved my life. I knew I wanted to get clean, but never had any treatment, therefore, no tools to do so. I had lost all hope of ever changing my life. I wished I were dead most of the time. I got into legal trouble for the first and only time in my life, and the judge allowed me the opportunity to go to (the Summit County) CBCF for 4 1/2 months. I had no idea they had such programs. I learned more than I ever thought possible. I am extremely active in Narcotics Anonymous, attend meetings often, have a sponsor, work steps. I currently have a job which I have had for seven months and I am doing wonderful. I am happier than I have ever been in my life and I owe it all to God and CBCF.”*

## CBCF TEACHES ACCOUNTABILITY

**C**ommunity Based Correctional Facilities (CBCF) provide a highly-structured living environment for adult felony offenders. CBCFs provide an opportunity for offenders to remain in their community while immediately addressing issues such as education, substance abuse, cognitive skills, employment, anger management, and other life skills. While a resident in a CBCF, offenders establish local contacts in the community of a positive nature, which are beneficial upon their successful completion of the program and re-entry into their community. The four-phase program can last up to six months.

Offenders are sentenced to CBCFs by common pleas judges and are restricted to

the facility for the first 30 days. They are assessed for substance abuse, education, employment, cognitive skills and other needs.

During the second phase, clients are permitted to leave for pre-approved activities such as job searching, registering for a vocational school or college, doctor visits, and narcotics and alcoholics anonymous meetings.

Once clients obtain employment or are enrolled in school, they may leave the facility on scheduled pass time. The client must contribute to payment of court costs, fines, and restitution.

In the final phase, clients prepare to re-enter their community. They seek suitable housing, establish

a savings account, and, if needed, develop contacts in the community for continued substance abuse counseling and GED testing and any other identified needs.

Upon successful completion of residential phases, clients are released for a one-week transitional pass. They are subject to random recall back to the CBCF for verification checkup and random drug screens. After seven days, they return to the CBCF and staff verifies their compliance with program rules during the transitional pass period. Upon successful completion of a transitional pass, the client is released and returned to community supervision by the county probation department.

## Open House Comments

*“Tomorrow when I complete this program, I’ll be out on the street corner not trying to buy drugs but waiting for a school bus to pick up my kids. That means the world to me.”*

*Successful CCTC client*

*“The community is better off for it (Oriana House). The individual is better off for it (Oriana House).”*

*Roy Saenz, Deputy Chief, U.S. Probation Office*

*“Thank you for all that you do every day to help so many. Oriana House and those who work there are wonderful.”*

*Judge Joan Synenberg, Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas*

# AGENCY OFFERS JOB OPPORTUNITIES

## In tough economy Oriana House provides employment for community and clients

JOB OPTIONS  
FOR ORIANA  
HOUSE  
EMPLOYEES  
AND CLIENTS  
CONTINUE TO  
BE GOOD

**D**espite unemployment numbers reaching staggering highs, Oriana House has proved to remain a viable employer, benefiting both the communities and the clients that the agency serves. In the first quarter of this year Oriana House has participated in numerous job fairs and has been featured on several local television stations as an employment resource. "Our 28-year history and the scope of services we provide have enabled us to maintain steady hiring," said Jodi Fabry, Human Resources Manager at Oriana House. "The most frequent hires are for degreed and non-degreed full time positions which offer health care and other benefits."

Agency wide, Oriana House employs approximately 520 people with a staff of just over 50 in Cuyahoga County.

Clients who are in Oriana House's community corrections programs have also been successful at finding and maintaining employment. Joan Davidson, Oriana House Academic/Employment

Coordinator, said 80% of the clients who are able to work find a job in an average of 11 days. "While these are mostly entry level positions," explained Davidson, "they allow the clients to gain experience and earn wages so they become self-sufficient and are able to pay fines, child support, and other court-ordered costs." Programming for clients includes job retention classes and a job search booster class that addresses the challenges posed by the current economy. Research shows that employment is a significant factor in the success of an offender's reentry into the community.

In addition to operating the Community Corrections and Treatment Center (CCTC) in the Hough area of east Cleveland, Oriana House also operates 16 other facilities located in Summit and Seneca counties.

It is the policy of Oriana House, Inc., to provide treatment to all clients regardless of race, ethnicity, age, color, religion, sex, national origin, veteran or military status, or disability.



### **Oriana House, Inc.**

#### **Community Corrections and Treatment Center**

1829 East 55th Street  
Cleveland, Ohio 44103

#### **Administrative Offices**

P.O. Box 1501  
Akron, Ohio 44309

[www.orianahouse.org](http://www.orianahouse.org)

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*Oriana House programming involves:*

**Treatment**

**Employment/Education**

**Accountability**

**Community Service**

**Housing**