

Directions

Oriana House's Community Corrections

VOL. 14, ISSUE 2, 2014

Need a Speaker?
Oriana House can provide your group or organization a speaker to discuss community corrections and/or chemical dependency treatment, or the local opiate epidemic. Call 330-535-8116 for more information.

HELP AND HOPE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST OPIATE ADDICTION

DRUG & ALCOHOL TREATMENT INFORMATION:

330-996-7730

DETOX, ASSESSMENTS & REFERRALS
SUMMIT COUNTY

567-220-7018

OUTPATIENT TREATMENT
NORTH CENTRAL OHIO

234-678-5721

OPIATE SPECIFIC
OUTPATIENT TREATMENT
AKRON AREA

"If it weren't for this program, I'd be in prison or dead." That blunt realization was shared by several men and women to a packed courtroom during graduation from the Turning Point (formerly Felony Drug Court) Program in Summit County.

Inside and outside of courthouses, hospitals, cities, and suburbs, the heroin/opiate epidemic in Ohio and across the nation has been in the headlines for months. Amidst the staggering statistics that show the drug's power to kill - an average of five Ohioans die every day from drug overdoses and Akron Police respond to about five overdose calls a day - there's a message of hope rising through the success stories of people who have triumphed over their addictions.

Marcia, 30 years old, had a good job and

a close family when she became addicted to narcotics that a doctor prescribed for her. She tried to detox, was introduced to heroin, and immediately became hooked. From that point she said she "was off and running." Her arrests on drug charges and heroin-related crimes landed her in court, and luckily for her, on the road to recovery. "I realized I would do whatever I could to get high," said Marcia. "So why wouldn't I do whatever I can to stay sober?"

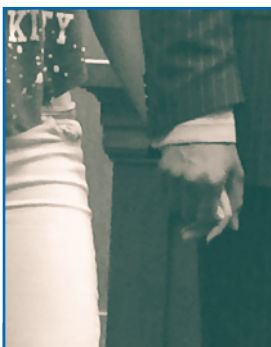
Chris, 26, had a long history of drug abuse and said his felony charges landed him in a residential corrections facility. It was during that time when he finally gained the strength and skills to achieve and maintain sobriety. Chris tells others, "They call it (heroin) your drug of choice, but it becomes a drug of no choice."

Nathan had a long standing addiction and had been in the penitentiary four times. His parents sat in the courtroom, as they did for all his court appearances. Despite his desire to stay clean he would go around people who use drugs and he'd start again. "I considered myself hopeless. But finally I realized I did this to myself. The people here really care for me and hold me accountable. I grew up with a great family and good values but due to my addiction and my lifestyle I created a false sense of reality."

Now Nathan has two jobs and is attending college to be a treatment counselor.

Whether on a personal or societal level, or both, the effects of substance abuse impact everyone. That's why it's important to know that recovery is possible. Research-based treatment helps change the thinking and

(see Fight Against Opiates on page 3)



(Left)- A daughter holds her father's hand in court as he expressed appreciation for the Turning Point Program. (Below) - Program Coordinator Emily Beers (R) describes the success of a graduate of Turning Point who said the program



gave her back her life. Judge Tom Teodosio presides over the Turning Point Program.

20 YEARS LATER: A CLIENT'S STORY OF HER JOURNEY FROM ADDICTION

The following e-mail was recently received from a woman who completed an Oriana House program in 1995.

I'm writing you to let you know that being at Oriana House changed my life completely. When I came to you, I remember feeling completely lost. I had a deep sadness that I couldn't seem to shake regardless of my conservative upbringing. I used substances, drugs and alcohol to numb the constant sadness that I experienced on a daily basis.

During my stay at your "house" I experienced love, respect, and consideration. Regardless of the trouble I had gotten myself into due to my use of supplementary aids, your counselors allowed me to express myself, and gently encouraged me to grow. I know now, that what you do works. I have been sober since I left Oriana House; this is due to the fact that you trusted me. That's a really big deal for someone who has abused substances, and it goes a

long way, once someone is truly ready, and looking for a change of their life's path.

One of the aspects of your treatment center that has meant the most to me is the total acceptance, while gently inviting me to grow. Also the fact that some of your staff shared their own stories with us; this gave me role models that I could believe. Mentors that were willing to be brutally honest with themselves, and us, and not just wax poetically from what they learned in a book. The willingness to do that goes way beyond a paycheck. I had never experienced this type of honesty and willingness from someone to bare their souls in an effort to show me the way back from my self-induced purgatory. Responsibility, for me also, was one of the things that struck me so brazenly. I began to understand that I am NOT my circumstances and I do not have to bend or be weakened by those circumstances. I always have the power to choose. There was no room for blame on upbringing, society.....I understood at

that point in my life that I am the one that makes the choices, and I have the power - everything I need, has been bestowed upon me - it is all within me. That was pinnacle for me. Yes, that and the self-respect and self-esteem that were fostered on a daily basis, even staff that had obviously never experienced the horrors of the drug sub-culture came across with empathy and compassion. I always had a sense that you all really, really liked me and accepted me! Imagine, even after all this time has elapsed I still go back to those positive feelings. It's incredible to me, and I remain grateful.

I have since finished my teaching degree and have a Master's in Clinical Psychology. I daily look for ways to give back and pay it forward. I am eternally grateful to you all at Oriana House- please pass this on, with love to all those who have been there, done that, and have lived another day, and pay it forward. That as well, keeps me strong.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY FACILITY EARNS COVETED AWARD

The Judge Nancy R. McDonnell Community Based Correctional Facility (CBCF) in Cleveland has been selected to receive the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's Clifford Skeen Award. The Clifford Skeen Award is presented annually to residential and non-residential programs in recognition of excellence in community corrections. This facility is operated by Oriana House and has diverted more than 1,860 offenders from prison with a 70% success rate since it

opened in 2011. The primary program components address certain behaviors, attitudes, and thought processes that are associated with re-offending. The program is highly collaborative with community and justice partners, and has earned excellent professional audit scores and reviews. The Clifford Skeen Award, first presented in 1993, is given in honor of the late eight-term Ohio legislator who sponsored Ohio's Community Correction Act.

COMMUNITY SERVICE HAS BENEFITS FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED

Community service is an important part of community corrections programs, in that it allows offenders to give back to the community, something they are often anxious to do as part of their treatment and restitution, and it opens the door to positive interaction between these individuals and the communities that they are preparing to reenter.

In north central Ohio, the St. Francis Spirituality Center permits female clients in the CROSSWAEH Community Based Correctional Facility in Tiffin to perform their community service hours there.

According to Sister Rosie Miller, director of administration and hospitality at St. Francis, "The women from CROSSWAEH help with housekeeping periodically and make it possible for us to quickly turn around our rooms for the next retreat.

Together, as women, we work, laugh, and tell stories of our joys and sorrows as we share a meal or ice cream break together that enriches all of us. I find the women to be professional, self motivated, and hard working and always look forward to the times they come."

Kara, a client from CROSSWAEH CBCF in Tiffin, Ohio, said the volunteer work with St. Francis Spirituality Center has benefitted her greatly.

"I feel truly blessed for the opportunity CROSSWAEH gives me to provide community service to places like St. Francis. I'm genuinely grateful the devoted, empathetic staff at CROSSWAEH understands my need to prove myself in the community and improve my self-worth. The people at St. Francis are equally amazing, kind, and dedicated to making the world a better place by helping those in need. I would like to thank all those involved in this program for giving me a second chance at life and believing in me when I could no longer believe in myself, in turn teaching me I'm worth the life God has given me."

FIGHT AGAINST OPIATES (continued from page 1)

behavior patterns that keep someone from being free of drugs and alcohol.

Assessments, individual and group sessions with a licensed and experienced counselor, peer support meetings, 12-step groups, and a family support program offer the multi-faceted approach necessary to bring about lasting changes.

Christopher, Marcia, and others who completed their treatment and maintained sobriety now give their time to help others do the same. Oriana House provides inpatient and outpatient treatment, treatment readiness classes, aftercare, special opiate specific treatment groups, and hosts many 12-step programs and support groups. Certified Recovery Coaches walk along side individuals to help them in their recovery.

A family support group, Family Matters,

meets weekly to provide education and support to the family and close friends of those who have addictions.

In Summit County, the ADM Crisis Center in Akron offers medically supervised detoxification, drop-in services, and assessments.

Facts about Prescription Drug Abuse

Medications can be effective when they are used properly, but some can be addictive and dangerous when abused. Prescribed medications when used in ways or by people other than prescribed—have the potential for adverse medical consequences, including addiction.

Three types of drugs are abused most often:

- Opioids—prescribed for pain relief (includes Codeine, Morphine, Percocet, Vicodin, Demerol)
- Depressants—barbiturates and benzodiazepines prescribed for anxiety or sleep problems (often referred to as sedatives or tranquilizers - includes Valium, Xanax, Ambien)
- Stimulants—prescribed for attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), the sleep disorder narcolepsy, or obesity (includes Adderall, Ritalin).

Indications of a substance abuse problem (drugs or alcohol):

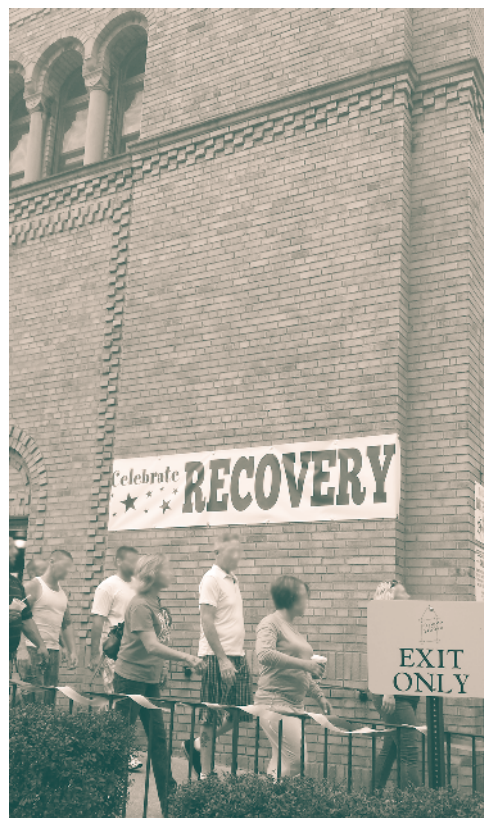
- A desire to cut down or stop using the drug but can't
- Spend a lot of time getting, using, or recovering from the drug
- Unable to manage responsibilities at work, home, or school because of drug use
- Continue to use a drug, even when it causes problems in relationships
- Develop withdrawal symptoms, which can be relieved by taking more of the drug
- Change in behavior such as acting withdrawn, frequently tired or depressed, or hostile
- Carelessness with grooming
- Loss of interest in favorite activities
- Change in eating or sleeping
- Deteriorating relationships with family members and friends.

Source: www.drugabuse.gov/

Change attitude Change thinking Change behavior

During National Recovery Month in September, Oriana House held two Recovery Fairs celebrating and supporting the efforts of people healing from addiction. Between the Cleveland and Akron events, 500 people attended, and 50 individuals were recognized for their hard work in maintaining their sobriety. Speakers shared personal stories of recovery, words of encouragement, and information on local resources. One speaker explained how he previously worked for the state and then became a ward of the state, saying he now has six years sobriety with the assistance of Oriana House programming. Parents and loved ones also spoke on the impact addiction has on the entire family and how support systems for the family are vitally important.

Each fair provided food, music, and art showcasing the talent of Oriana House clients. Sober supports, including 12-step programs, were present to provide literature to assist clients and families in their journey of recovery.





Oriana House, Inc.

P.O. Box 1501

Akron, OH 44309

www.orianahouse.org

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AKRON, OHIO
PERMIT NO. 1464

Oriana House programming involves:

Treatment

Employment/Education

Accountability

Community Service

Housing

Oriana House, Inc. is an affiliate of the
County of Summit



Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board

It is the policy of Oriana House, Inc., to not discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, sex (wages), genetics, gender, sexual orientation, HIV status, retaliation, and military/veteran status.

ORIANA CEO JAMES LAWRENCE AND PROBATE JUDGE ELINORE MARSH STORMER RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL HONORS

EXPERTS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE CAME TO CLEVELAND IN SEPTEMBER TO PRESENT ON NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN REENTRY, RECIDIVISM AND EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH. NEARLY 500 PARTICIPANTS INCLUDING RESEARCHERS, POLICY MAKERS, CRIMINAL JUSTICE PRACTITIONERS, AND THE FORMERLY JUSTICE-INVOLVED ATTENDED.

Two local professionals received accolades from the International Community Corrections Association (ICCA) during its annual conference in Cleveland this September. As part of ICCA's 50th anniversary conference, individuals and organizations that have contributed significantly to the field of community corrections were recognized.



*James J. Lawrence
President/CEO
Oriana House, Inc.*

James Lawrence, president and CEO of Oriana House, Inc., received the 2014 ICCA President's Award. Lawrence was recognized for his commitment and contributions to the ICCA. Lawrence founded Oriana House in 1981 and has been active with ICCA since 1978.

The 2014 ICCA Judicial Award was presented

to Judge Elinore Marsh Stormer of the Summit County Court of Common Pleas for her exceptional leadership and outstanding support of the use of community corrections programs for offenders. Judge Stormer was instrumental in establishing many of the community corrections and treatment programs in Summit County as well as Drug, Mental Health, and Reentry Courts in the area.



*Elinore Marsh Stormer
Judge
Summit County
Court of Common Pleas*

ICCA presented its highest honor, the Margaret Mead Award, to U.S. Senator Rob Portman.

The ICCA is dedicated to promoting community-based corrections for adults and juveniles to enhance public safety.