

Serenity House of Volusia Inc.

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Linda Baden - Editor

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Check us out on the web!

www.serenityhouseofvolusia.org

www.givemethatharley.com



“The Clinical Corner”

L. Sue James, LCSW, CAP, *Clinical Director*

Frequently Asked Questions about Assessments

- Q.** I called to talk to someone about my family member who is in treatment and was told that nothing could be discussed. Why can't the counselor talk to me?
- A.** *Serenity House wants your help to treat your family member, but federal and state law and HIPAA requires the person to give us written consent to speak with anyone, including family members. If you were advised that the staff could not release any information it means that the client has yet to sign a consent for release of information form. Be assured that the counselor will discuss your request with the client and ask the client to sign permission for us to talk to you.*
- Q.** What if my family member doesn't give written consent?
- A.** *If the client does not desire staff to talk with a family member and refuses to sign a consent for release of information, staff is prohibited from discussing anything with you. Please be patient though, the counselor will work with the client to determine what is causing their refusal and the client can decide at any time to sign a consent.*
- Q.** Can my family member stop staff from talking with me after a consent has been signed?
- A.** *Yes, a client can revoke their consent for release of information at any time they desire. Should this occur, staff will be prohibited from discussing anything about the client until a new consent is signed by the client.*

Serenity House of Volusia, Inc.

SERENITY

THIRD/FOURTH QUARTER 2004

A Note from the Editor's Desk . . .

Linda Baden

The Serenity House Safety Committee has achieved success once more! On August 12, 2004 the Safety Committee competed with various agencies throughout Volusia and Flagler counties at the 20th Annual Awards Luncheon and Celebration of Safety sponsored by the Sunshine Safety Council, Inc. at the Pelican Bay Country Club in Daytona Beach. Members enjoyed listening to the honored guest speaker, Mr. James Borders, OSHA Area Director of the Jacksonville area office. The Serenity House Safety Committee proudly accepted three awards; first place in "Excellence in Safety & Health", "Meritorious Achievement in Fleet Safety and last but not least, "Meritorious Achievement in Safety Committee Activity."

On August 31, 2004, the Safety Committee members proudly attended the August monthly BOD meeting and showed the Board of Directors and guests their awards and gave a brief overview of what the committee does. Board President Joel Greenstein presented "Commitment to Excellence" certificates to each member; Linda Baden, David Steele, Michael Blacklidge, Nikia Glenn, Marilourdes Perez, Beverly Wilson and Anne Baxter. As a member, I would like to personally thank Donna Dooley, Director of Quality Assurance for her leadership to reach our goals.

Message from Randy Croy, Executive Director

THE CHALLENGE OF ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN LIFE

Success is an issue that most of us wrestle with every day. We hope to achieve success in our family life and with our friends. We strive to achieve success in our employment. We hope that our children and loved ones are successful. However, feeling truly successful in our lives is often elusive for many of us.

During my undergraduate studies as an English minor, I was exposed to some of the masters of the written word. One of my favorite authors, Ralph Waldo Emerson was a Renaissance man and founder of the American transcendentalist movement. Emerson was primarily an essayist who wrote eloquently on topics such as self-reliance, nature, fate, and success.

Emerson wrote "to be considered truly successful", a person must be able to:

- Laugh often
- Win the respect of intelligent people
- Earn the appreciation of honest critics
- Leave the world a little better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social situation
- Know that even one person breathed easier because you had lived

When I consider the achievements of Serenity House staff and Board members, I recognize that we are working not only for the success of the people who we serve and the improvement of our community, but to seek success as individuals.

What other job provides an individual with so many opportunities to help those truly in need? Where else, in the course of a regular working day, can someone have a lasting impact upon another individual's very existence? Especially in this current funding climate, we are challenged every day to remain steadfast in achieving success for those we serve and for ourselves as individuals.

I hope that each of us regularly asks ourselves how our lives are helping to others to "breathe a little easier" or how our actions have "redeemed a social situation". Have we won the respect of intelligent people or earned the appreciation of a critic? I know that it's easier for me to "laugh often" when I'm meeting some of Emerson's criteria for success.

I wish each of our supporters true "success" in their lives and hope that, through your support of our mission, we provide you an opportunity to build upon your personal success.

The holidays are once again approaching. Some of our clients have no family or friends to share the festivities, receive gifts from nor do they have resources to purchase gifts for their children or loved ones. If you would like to help a client, please consider donating stocking stuffers such as women's and men's socks, slippers, stuffed animals, stationary and stamps, art supplies, movie videos, books, etc. A gift certificate is always appreciated. Please consider helping make a difference in a person's recovery by making their holidays a little brighter. For more information on making a donation, please call Linda at 252-4228 ext. 26. Thank you!!

Message from L. Sue James, LCSW, CAP

Clinical Director

CAN MEDICATION CURE ADDICTION?

After working in the field for several years and teaching addiction courses at a local community college, I marvel at the strides that science has made in the field of addiction research. Science has identified specific neurotransmitters in the brain that interact with certain drugs and can pinpoint exact sections of the brain involved in creating the craving for drugs. Even with all of this, one simple question is repeatedly asked: "Why can't we just find a pill to stop addiction?" The answer to the question is as complex as addiction itself: Some treatment professionals debate if medications should be used in treatment, some 12 Step Fellowship groups oppose the use of medications, clients and family members are often confused about the role of medication, many physicians are not formally educated about addiction, there is inadequate insurance reimbursement for medications, and the FDA approval of medication can take 10-20 years.

Currently we have two medications primarily used to address cravings and addiction: Antabuse and Naltrexone. Antabuse, a medication that helps alcoholics remain in a state of enforced sobriety, was approved by the FDA approximately 40 years ago. Antabuse acts as an alcohol antagonist and causes physical illness if it is mixed with alcohol. In 1984 Naltrexone was officially approved and research continues on other promising drugs for opioid addiction. Naltrexone appears to block neurotransmitters in the brain that stimulates drug craving. Will these or any other medications cure addiction? Until the scientific community can give us additional answers, I agree with Dr. George Lundberg, M.D. "you don't cure addiction, you manage it just like any other chronic disease."

Message from Randy . . .

Executive Director

Similar to most everyone in Florida, Serenity House experienced some significant challenges during the recent hurricanes. As we often remind our clients, challenges are really just opportunities to prove our abilities in developing successful responses. I'm proud to report that our clients, staff, and programs not only withstood the storms without major problems but actually utilized our experiences to improve our system of care.

So many individuals contributed to this positive response that it would be impossible to recognize each person individually; thus we're sharing a message of gratitude sent by our Board President to our staff expressing our thanks. As you can see, our staff are compassionate and dedicated individuals who truly give of themselves for our clients.

Dear Serenity House Staff,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Serenity House of Volusia, please accept my most sincere thanks and gratitude for your incredible efforts in dealing with the many challenges brought on by the recent hurricanes. I understand that our clients and programs experienced significant stress prior to, during, and after the hurricanes. Without your leadership, vigilant attention to our clients' safety and your commitment to fulfilling our mission, our agency would not have successfully coped with the hardships created by the hurricane.

I understand that many staff members worked extra shifts and made additional sacrifices even while coping with difficult personal situations. This is an incredible example of your dedication to the people we serve and to our organization.

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for all you do and know that the Board of Directors is your partner in continuing to strengthen our organization in meeting the needs of our community's most vulnerable citizens.

Joel Greenstein
Board President

I personally want to express my special thanks to the following staff members who remained at our programs during multiple shifts in order to insure the safety of our clients and facilities: Charles Thompson, Billie Templeton, Michael Blacklidge, David Steele, Kia Glenn, Cynthia Gaston, Don Mann, Jessica Teems, Ruth Bray, Beverly Wilson, Sarah Burman, Sue James, and Linda Baden.

Editor's Note: Serenity House is proud to be linking with One Stop Career Center in a disaster grant program to employ temporary staff who were displaced from employment due to the hurricanes. This program is a win/win opportunity for both not-for-profits like our agency; particularly our clients, the temp workers, and our community.

Serenity House of Volusia, Inc. Countdown 25 Donors

Grand Benefactor \$25,000-Up

Anonymous Board Member
Madeleine Dionne

Benefactor \$10,000-\$24,999

Anonymous Board Member
Dex Imaging
Thomas Hoffman
PepsiCo
Wayne's Roofing & Sheet Metal

Champion \$5,000-\$9,999

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Deltona Lakes Baptist Church
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Dr. Chona DeGracia Wylie

DONATION WISH LIST

- Letter folding machine
- 4 drawer lateral file cabinets
- 5 drawer vertical file cabinets
- Facsimile machine
- VHS movies & educational movies
- Free passes to local movies, plays & events
- Arts & crafts supplies
- Daily motivational planners
- Notepaper, envelopes, greeting cards, pens & postage stamps
- Daily hygiene toiletries such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, shaving cream, feminine products, disposable shavers, flip flops, deodorant, shampoo & conditioner, body lotion, etc.
- Dish & laundry detergent

Memorials

Recent memorial gifts were given by:

Norma Washburn
in memory of Stoie Camp

Marvin & Phyllis Miller
in memory of Marguerite Woodard

What better way to remember a loved one than to contribute to a second chance at life for another?

Serenity House has agreements with local legal experts who will assist you, at no cost, in including Serenity House in your estate plan. Tax advantages are abundant. For assistance in accessing a legal estate planning consultant, call Randy Croy @ 258-5050 ext. 16.