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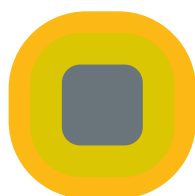


Graduates Prove that Treatment Works

Graduates celebrated their achievement with OASAS Commissioner Arlene Gonzalez-Sanchez.



(See page 7)



Odyssey House®
Where recovery lives



Odyssey House Wins Family Housing Award

Odyssey House has been selected by the New York State Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) to receive \$499,000 in annual funding to provide 20 permanent supportive housing apartments. The apartments will be for families who were homeless when they entered an Odyssey House residential facility and are now scheduled to complete their treatment.

Odyssey House President and CEO Dr. Peter Provet welcomed the support for families in treatment and said, "As we develop programs that address the needs of families in treatment, the provision of safe, affordable housing is a key component of a holistic approach to treating substance use disorders."

This innovative housing model will target chronically homeless families and those at serious risk of becoming chronically homeless in which the head-of-household has a substance use disorder. The goals are to ensure housing stability in a safe, supportive environment; improve family functioning and

stability; and enable families to achieve the maximum possible recovery and integration into the community.

Erika R. and Tamika B., in treatment at the Manor Family Center with young daughters, believe that stable housing is a priority. "Having a home of your own gives you confidence; it makes you feel accomplished and secure," said Erika. Tamika agreed: "Not having to worry about where we're going to sleep and being able to give and receive support from my community will keep me focused on my recovery."

The continuum of family services offered by Odyssey House extends through residential and outpatient programs to supervised, community-based, peer-led recovery services. The emphasis throughout is to support individuals and families in making a healthy and sustainable transition to independent and productive lives. ●

Getting a Jump Start on College



Teen Leadership student Brian W. works with his vocational counselor Camellia Carvey on his college requirements. Brian was accepted into college thanks to a new initiative at Odyssey House that encourages and prepares youths in treatment for higher education.

Brian W. knew he wanted to go to college, but he wasn't sure if he was ready. When vocational counselor Camellia Carvey told him about College Bridge, a free program that provides support to recent high school and GED graduates who want to attend college, he jumped at the opportunity. Now Brian, a 21-year-old in the Odyssey House Teen Leadership Center, has been accepted into Hostos Community College in the Bronx to study radiology.

College Bridge is a free New York City Department of Education program that helps students apply to college and for financial aid; place out of costly, non-credit bearing remedial classes; and develop personal management and communication skills for college success. The program also provides free metro cards and pays for college application and ACT registration fees, for students with 90 percent attendance or better.

Motivated to further his education after earning his GED while at Odyssey House, Brian enrolled in College Bridge and began taking courses in subjects like math, world literature and web design. "The teachers and the class work are challenging but in a good way – it's preparing me for the workload of a college curriculum," said Brian.

Ronald C., 19, is also enrolled in College Bridge and is taking courses in creative writing and web design in addition to financial aid sessions. The program "keeps me on track, provides guidance, and helps me believe in myself," Ronald said. Ronald will be attending New Community College to study human services.

When Ms. Carvey heard about the program, she knew immediately it would be a good fit for the residents. "Clients who hadn't thought they could go to college are now interested," said Ms. Carvey. "They're getting the help they need to navigate the application process and getting the confidence they need to succeed once they're there." Since starting the program in September 2011, she has enrolled four clients and has several more who are applying for future sessions.

College Bridge supplements the vocational and educational services provided by Odyssey House, which include bringing clients to college fairs and campus tours and sessions with a financial aid counselor. ●

Program Expands Outpatient Services to Bronx Families



A program with the New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS) and Odyssey House is expanding outpatient services in the Bronx.

This cutting edge service approach integrates coordinated care to children and families affected by substance abuse in the child welfare system. The benefits of such a partnership include seamless care and safety coordination as well as the elimination of barriers in accessing substance abuse treatment.

Since its kickoff, the service has provided ongoing assessments and referrals for clients in need of substance abuse treatment and is now offering onsite parenting workshops. ●

Volunteer Network ‘Rocks’ Recovery



OH ROCS mentors Angela Okoh, Michael Pendleton, and Kathryn Davenport found that keeping mentees focused on their goals helps them stay committed to their own.

Helping people in recovery stay focused and involved in positive activities is a proven formula that works for thousands of Americans with substance use disorders. At Odyssey House, we have taken this a step further with a new support program that links people who are established in their recovery with individuals who are in transition from treatment programs.

group of volunteers in recovery who wanted to help people new to the challenges of living drug-free adapt to and thrive within their new way of life. In contrast to some other volunteer-led self-help groups, the individuals who participate in this new program undergo formal training, are paid a modest stipend to offset their expenses, and pledge to abide by a mentor code of conduct.

“ It’s the mix of doing things together, whether it’s bowling or playing basketball or having a cup of coffee, that makes it work for all of us.” – Kathryn Davenport

Called OH ROCS (Odyssey House Recovery Oriented Care System), this is a new approach to helping people in recovery bridge the gap between completing treatment and incorporating sobriety into everyday life. The program is part of a national initiative funded by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration that connects people in recovery with flexible, community-based resources supportive of work and family commitments.

The self-help concept that underpins OH ROCS uses the best practice, peer-support therapeutic community model to create a robust, volunteer-led community that incorporates skills learned in treatment, from relapse prevention to maintaining a positive network, and applies them to life outside a structured treatment environment.

OH ROCS started a year ago with a core

Meet the Mentors

Kathryn Davenport joined OH ROCS in May last year. She said she wanted to be a mentor after attending an Odyssey House community event and learning about the new program. “I have been in recovery for eight years. Helping others stay focused on their goals helps me with mine. When the mentees and mentors get together we deal with real challenges, but we also have a good time. It’s the mix of doing things together, whether it’s bowling or playing basketball or having a cup of coffee, that makes it work for all of us.”

For Michael Pendleton, being in recovery is a way of life he is committed to after years of struggling with a substance use disorder that started when he was a teenager. As president of the mentor group, Mr. Pendleton is responsible for organizing mentor and mentee activities and is the liaison with Odyssey House clinical and administrative staff who manage the initiative. He says having a leadership role in OH ROCS “is

one of the most positive things I’ve done. I’ve never been a leader before. It’s a lot of responsibility but when I see what our group achieves, it makes me proud.”

Both Mr. Pendleton and Ms. Davenport (OH ROCS vice president) are in daily contact with their mentees and meet with them once a week or more, depending on the mentees’ recovery goals. Mentors typically have 3-4 mentees assigned to them at any one time and work closely with Odyssey House clinical staff for professional support and guidance.

For Angela Okoh, becoming a mentor was a goal she set for herself when she heard about the support group as a resident in treatment at Odyssey House. “I got a lot out of treatment. It really worked for me and I wanted to stay involved. I am currently mentoring four women. They can call me anytime, day or night. And if I can’t help, I know I’m not alone but can turn to another mentor or any of the clinical staff at Odyssey House.”

The mix of peer interaction and robust clinical support is what makes the OH ROCS such a successful intervention. Since the program started in January 2010, more than 120 mentees have been recruited and 90 percent were still in the program at the six-month follow up mark. According to Robert Anderson, director of outpatient services who oversees this program, this is very high for a community-based service where participants live independently and are not mandated to complete a treatment plan. It is also a major contributor to the 90 percent abstinence rate among participants and two-fold increase in numbers of mentees able to find work.

One of the key areas where mentees report a significant increase is social connectedness, which Mr. Anderson explains is crucial to a sustained recovery. “A remarkable 100 percent say OH ROCS provides them with a strong support system, improved self-confidence and a better quality of life.”

If you are interested in joining OH ROCS as a mentor, or mentee, contact Andrew Bushing at (718) 860-2994 x2030. ●

Housing First: an Investment in Community



Odyssey House is set to break ground this spring on two new housing projects funded by the New York State Office of Mental Health to provide permanent housing for 121 single adults living with mental illness.

Supportive housing programs give thousands of vulnerable New Yorkers the chance to live independent lives as members of the community. In the last decade, New York State has constructed more than 43,000 units of supportive housing for youth aging out of foster care, families with special needs, and individuals with mental health challenges and disabilities who in previous generations would have lived in institutional or hospital-based care.

“our pledge to be good stewards of the environment”



The Tinton Avenue building (above) is designed to bring natural light into the structure and create a sense of openness. The environmentally-friendly Soundview Avenue (opposite page) will be Odyssey House’s first LEED-certified building.

Buildings That Work for People and Places

Located in the south Bronx, the first project to break ground will be on Soundview Avenue, followed by Tinton Avenue shortly after. Each building will be supervised 24/7 by a program director who will oversee a team of case managers, security, administrative, and maintenance workers. Tenants will have access to Odyssey House’s comprehensive social services programs, including substance abuse and mental health treatment, community-based recovery networks, medical and dental care, educational and vocational services.

Smart Design for Green Living

In keeping with our mission to enhance the quality of life of the vulnerable people in our care and our commitment to being a good neighbor, we use as much “green” technology and energy efficient materials as possible to reduce environmental impact.

The five-story, 56-apartment Soundview Avenue building is an example of our pledge to be good stewards of the environment. Many active and passive energy conservation features are planned for the building, with the goal that this will be Odyssey’s first LEED certification (the

nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings).

The most noticeable green elements in the building are the large inverted L-shaped windows. These are designed to take advantage of the triangular shape of the building and direction of the prevailing winds as way of maximizing ventilation, reducing air conditioning use in summer, and optimizing passive solar heat in the colder months.

This building is creatively designed for optimal use inside and outside. The attractively designed structure has a transparent glass façade at the corner entry which brings natural light into the public areas and allows passersby to see through the lobby into the landscaped backyard. The openness and transparency of this design also serves as a passive “more eyes on the street” crime deterrent that enhances security for the people who will live in the building and people who live and work nearby.

All 56 studio apartments have a fully-

equipped kitchen, bathroom, and an ample sleeping and living area. Each floor has a communal lounge area and shared amenities, including dining, exercise, laundry and multipurpose meeting rooms, are located on the ground and cellar floors. The cellar level opens onto a private landscaped backyard with seating areas and a terrace leading up to the lobby. Ten percent of the apartments are adapted to accommodate individuals who use wheelchairs and, as with all Odyssey House’s facilities, the building complies with handicap accessible regulations.

In addition to using recycled and sustainable construction materials, Odyssey House is also reclaiming the land the building is on. The vacant lot was so heavily polluted by its previous business users – an auto repair business and gas station – it requires extensive remediation efforts (including removal of top soil) before construction work could begin. This task is now underway and Odyssey House is working with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation on a cleanup effort that will ensure a safe environment for the individuals who will live in the new building, as well as our neighbors.

Encouraging Neighborly Living

As with Soundview Avenue, the new 65-apartment Tinton Avenue supportive housing building is designed to make maximum use of the site and blend in with the cityscape surrounding it. Situated on a corner site in a bustling neighborhood, this six-story structure features an attractive glass and brick façade designed to bring natural light into the double-height tenant lounges and program spaces and create a sense of openness within the building and at street level. The streetscape will be further enhanced with new paving and landscaping along the side of the building and a private backyard that transforms a confined outdoor courtyard into a terraced seating and patio area for tenants and their families.

This building will also have the latest energy efficient and environmentally friendly features, such as high-efficiency heating and cooling pumps, soy-based insulation between the brick cavity walls, and recycled construction materials.

Both projects were developed by Urban Architectural Initiatives, and are expected to be completed in late 2013. ●

New Odyssey House Art Show Explores the Meaning of Home



“Sweet Home Brooklyn” by Jack C.

What does the word “HOME” mean to you? Is it a house, a community, a state of mind? These are some of the ideas the Odyssey House Art Project is exploring as it works on its seventh exhibition. The show will look at the concept of home using a variety of techniques, including sculpture, painting, printmaking, photography and film. The exhibition will include:

- A staged photograph, printed to mural size, that looks at the concept of home by exploring homelessness
- A series of images of houses using printmaking techniques
- A film titled “Haunted House” that will use the image of a house structure as a metaphor for the human psyche
- A project that explores the idea of “home” being something you carry with you like a snail carries a shell

The Odyssey House Art Project is comprised of children, teens and adults in residential treatment for substance use disorders and mental health problems. Creating art helps residents find new ways to access feelings and a new medium to express these feelings. Many residents, who were socially and culturally isolated by their addiction and mental illness, are encouraged to become engaged in the creative process.

“Home” will open to the public later this year at the Haven Art Gallery, 239 E. 121st Street in Harlem. Further information on the art show and the opening reception will be soon available at odysseyhouseinc.org. ●

Run For Your Life Celebrates Recovery for Sixth Consecutive Year



More than 1,000 people came out to Icahn Stadium on September 24, 2011 to show their support for men and women in treatment for substance use and mental health disorders at the 6th Annual *Run for Your Life* 5K Run & Recovery Walk. WPIX reporter Kirstin Cole emceed the event, which also featured a performance by the MABON Voices, children’s races and activities, and the presentation of the CASAC of the Year Award to Andre Matthews, recreational services coordinator at Odyssey House.

NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg, though unable to attend, sent a message of support: “Thanks to the hard work and dedication of professionals across fields, more of our residents are getting tested, getting treated, and getting their lives back on track. That is why we are proud to applaud Odyssey House, which, for more than 40 years, has provided invaluable support and services to the New Yorkers who need them most.”

Participants included clients from other NYC-based treatment agencies, friends and family of people in recovery, as well as representatives from the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) and our corporate partners. ●

Go to our Flickr page www.flickr.com/odysseyhouse to see more photos from *Run for Your Life*, and to get a glimpse of what the day was like, visit our YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/odysseyhouse.

Support Odyssey House

Give to the
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Odyssey Foundation
120 Wall Street, 17th Floor
New York, NY 10005
212-361-1600

Graduates Prove that Treatment Works



OASAS Commissioner Arlene Gonzalez-Sanchez had inspiring words for our graduates. With her are Odyssey House COO John Tavolacci and CEO Dr. Peter Provet.

Odyssey House staff, current and former residents, and friends and family members recently gathered at the Manor Family Center to commemorate a significant milestone in our residents' recovery: graduation.

Graduate speaker Harry Trapp thanked Odyssey House for "making this day possible" and addressed his fellow alumni, congratulating them for their accomplishments. "Graduates, stand and acknowledge one another, for you have proven that these types of programs are relevant,

To watch videos from the graduation ceremony and read the full text of Dr. Provet's speech, please visit our blog at <http://odysseyhouse.blogspot.com/>

and can and do work," he said. While a client in the ElderCare program, Harry completed the clinical counseling training program and is now working as a counselor at Odyssey House.

The ceremony included opening remarks by Odyssey House President Dr. Peter Provet and a keynote speech by NYS Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Services Commissioner Arlene Gonzalez-Sanchez.

In his address to the graduates, their families, staff, and supporters, Dr. Provet called the event "a night of achievement," both for the men and women who have overcome addiction and are now pursuing healthy and productive lives, and the continued role of long-term residential treatment in saving the lives of individuals with life-threatening substance use problems.

"With national health care reform well underway, all forms of substance abuse treatment are under review and discussion," said Dr. Provet. "There must always be a place for intensive residential treatment. You here today are living examples of its life-saving value."

Commissioner Gonzalez-Sanchez recognized Odyssey House as an "innovative national leader" in the treatment field. "Odyssey House is always in the forefront of developing new systems of care for the betterment of the people we serve." Commissioner Gonzalez-Sanchez also congratulated the graduates, saying, "Your recovery is a tribute to your strength and it is a tribute to programs like Odyssey House." ●

Financial Services Expert Joins Boards of Trustees



Odyssey House and Odyssey Foundation are pleased to add a new member to its Boards of Trustees: Joseph Giunta, Senior Vice President at Fannie Mae.

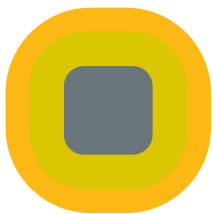
Mr. Giunta currently oversees mortgage operations, including loan acquisitions, delivery, and servicing, as well as credit loss management. In addition, Mr. Giunta oversees data warehouse operations,

and is leading a large scale transformation that includes the development of shared services to capture efficiencies.

Mr. Giunta has more than 25 years of financial services experience in roles that span capital markets businesses, operations, finance, treasury, and technology. His experience includes leading a global business transformation program, driving numerous change initiatives, conducting business continuity planning, managing corporate risk and controls, and serving as a financial consultant. Mr. Giunta earned

a Bachelor of Science in Finance from Fordham University.

"We are always aiming to build on the diversity of talent and knowledge on our Boards, to help further the success of our programs for individuals with substance use and mental health disorders," said George Rosenfeld, chairman of the Boards of Trustees. "Mr. Giunta's history of business leadership will be a valuable asset as we continue to develop innovative services that meet the needs of our populations." ●



Odyssey House®

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On the Horizon

*Odyssey House 7th Annual
Run for Your Life
5K Run & Recovery Walk
Saturday, September 29, 2012
Join us to celebrate recovery
in New York City!*



It is the mission of Odyssey House:

To provide comprehensive and innovative services to the broadest range of metro New York's population who:

- Abuse drugs
- Abuse alcohol
- Suffer from mental illness

To provide high quality, holistic treatment impacting all major life spheres: psychological, physical, social, family, educational and spiritual.

To support personal rehabilitation, renewal and family restoration.

In all of its activities, Odyssey House undertakes to act as a responsible employer and member of the community, and manage the assets of the organization in a professional manner.



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