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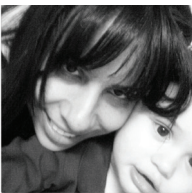
The Meaning of Home

Residents explore the meaning of Home through art. (see page 3)



Resident Profile

With the help of Odyssey House, Lorraine is learning to become a positive role model for her son. (see page 6)



Odyssey House Opens Two New Housing Programs in the Bronx

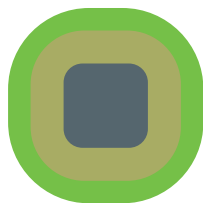
Two new supportive housing buildings, Odyssey House Soundview Avenue and Odyssey House Tinton Avenue, have officially opened in the Bronx. Funded by the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH), the buildings provide permanent housing for 121 single adults living with mental illness. Tenants have access to Odyssey House’s comprehensive social services programs, including community-based recovery networks, medical and dental care, and educational and vocational services.

“Helping people faced with the challenges of mental illness and/or substance use disorders is our mission,” said Dr. Peter Provet, President and CEO of Odyssey House. “With the opening this spring of these two new buildings, Odyssey House currently manages the housing and supportive

services needs of 171 formerly homeless New Yorkers who, despite serious mental health challenges, are now living in their own homes.”

More than 100 community leaders, government partners, Odyssey House board members, staff, and supporters attended each ribbon cutting ceremony, held on April 10th for Soundview Avenue and April 24th for Tinton Avenue. The ceremonies featured tenant-led tours of the buildings and speeches by NYS Representative Marcos Crespo, Moira Tashjian and James Lupoli of the NYS Office of Mental Health, and Cynthia Stuart of the Supportive Housing Network of New York. In addition, a tenant from each building spoke of her experience being homeless and how having a home has improved her life.

Continued on pages 4 & 5



Odyssey House
Where recovery lives

Artists Explore the Meaning of Home

“They say home is where the heart is but it’s more than that. Home is where you find the power to live your life!” — Loraine

Developing a new vision of “Home” is central to a strong recovery. Reaching a place of security and well-being within themselves prepares our clients to complete treatment and craft a functional and socially responsible life. Our latest art show explores “Home” as a place where we reside spiritually, physically, and psychologically.

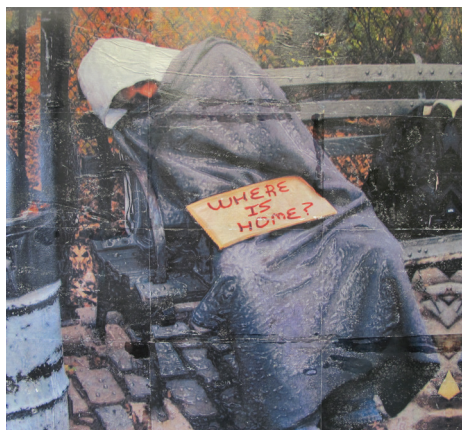
Members of the Odyssey House Art Project, artists in residential treatment for substance use disorders and mental health problems, explored the concept of home using a variety of techniques, including sculpture, painting, printmaking, and photography. ●

“Home,” the seventh exhibition by members of the Odyssey House Art Project, is now open to the public at the Haven Art Gallery, located at 239 E. 121st Street, New York, NY 10035. Please call (917) 492-2582 to schedule a viewing. Photos of the artwork can be viewed at flickr.com/odysseyhouse.



Cave Men, William S. & Carl Y. (ElderCare)

**“As long as I have my family I have a home. They are my home.”
— Sonny M. (Harbor)**



Where is My Home?, (6th Street Art Group)



Tara Revisited, Gwenn D. (Manor)



Throne in progress (6th Street Art Group)

Agency Leader Brings Expertise to Behavioral Health Organizations



Dr. Peter Provet

Odyssey House President & CEO Dr. Peter Provet has been appointed to the boards of two advocacy organizations that bring attention to a range of issues impacting individuals and families with

substance use and mental health disorders: The National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention (Action Alliance) and The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies.

“I am pleased to have the opportunity to contribute my knowledge and experience to two important organizations, both of which are providing high quality services to save the lives of the most vulnerable members of our society,” said Dr. Provet.

Dr. Provet is one of five new Executive Committee members who will provide

strategic direction and work to guide the Action Alliance in its goal to save 20,000 lives in five years. The senior leaders who comprise the Executive Committee are carefully chosen for their ability to advance the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention in diverse sectors and networks and are well-positioned to leverage significant changes in business, health care transformation, and substance abuse prevention and treatment while strengthening the Action Alliance’s impact.

The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies is the umbrella advocacy organization of New York’s behavioral health community, representing over 100 non-profit community-based behavioral health agencies that serve more than 350,000 clients in the metro New York area. Founded in 1972, The Coalition is membership-supported along with foundation and government funding for special purpose advocacy training and technical assistance projects. ●

SUPPORT Odyssey House



Donate to the “Friends of Odyssey House” campaign online at :

odysseyhouseinc.org

OR CONTACT US AT

Odyssey Foundation
120 Wall Street
New York, NY 10005
212.361.1600

Save the date

Celebrate Recovery Month with Odyssey House!



The **9th Annual Run for Your Life** event will be held on Saturday, **September 20th** on Randall's Island. Join us at Icahn Stadium for entertainment, Zumba lessons, children’s activities and more!

Online registration opens in July. Visit odysseyhouseinc.org for more details or to register. If you'd like to become a sponsor, please contact Susanna Miller at smiller@odysseyhouseinc.org for more information.

Investment in Special Needs Housing

Enhancing life through design

In keeping with our mission to improve the quality of life of the vulnerable people in our care and our commitment to being a good neighbor, both buildings were designed by Urban Architectural Initiatives to bring in as much natural light as possible and create a sense of openness within the interiors. Soundview Avenue and Tinton Avenue feature attractive facades that blend in with the surrounding cityscape and offer such amenities as community rooms and residential lounges; communal dining rooms; 24-hour security; on-site laundry and gym facilities; and landscaped backyards to encourage tenant interaction and activities. ●





Francisco Gonzalez, district manager of Bronx Community Board #9, NYS Assemblyman Marcos Crespo, and NYPD community affairs officer Eric Hernandez joined Odyssey House to show their community support.

“Odyssey House has been providing an outstanding level of service for some of the more vulnerable New Yorkers for many years...Today I rejoice, knowing that every aspect of this development project aims to uplift the spirit of its residents; knowing that each of these constituents, whether having dealt with substance abuse or mental health issues, can rely on the various on-site services, the staff, the amenities and even the inspiring art work by their peers that adorns the halls, all meant to renew their sense of worth and encourage a better tomorrow.”

— **Marcos Crespo, New York State Assembly, District 85**



“When you’re in a shelter, you’re not living – you’re merely existing. Now I have a chance at being more self-sufficient and reaching my goals. I can also think more clearly and take better care of myself.”

— **Adrienne F., Tinton Avenue tenant**



The consultants, funders, and Odyssey House management team responsible for the Tinton Avenue development celebrate the official opening. From left, Caren Abate, James Lupoli, Moira Tashjian and Budd Isaacson, NYS Office of Mental Health; Peter Provet, Ph.D., Odyssey House president and chief executive officer; Durga Vallabhaneni, Odyssey House chief financial and administrative officer; Kevin Hoffman, The Richman Group.

“Odyssey House continues to fulfill the mission and goals of recovery by providing supportive housing. Everyone needs a home to live in.”

— **Moira Tashjian, director, OMH Bureau of Housing Development and Support**



Ruth S., who has been living at Soundview Avenue since January, said being in a shelter made her feel insecure and unsafe but having a home has changed that. “It’s comforting to have my independence back and some stability in my life,” she said. “I still have bad days sometimes, but things are getting better.”

Resident Profile:

“Diapers or Drugs?”



Lorraine, 30, came into treatment in March 2013, a new mom in the midst of a relapse after almost a year of sobriety. Since entering treatment with her son, now 19 months, Lorraine has learned how to be a good parent and earned a certificate in paralegal studies from George Mason University. She is now working full-time and looking forward to a bright, healthy future with her son. Here is an excerpt from Lorraine’s story, written in her own words.

Diapers or drugs? This was the question I had to ask myself after my relapse. It wasn’t just me anymore – it was me and my son. I may not have known much, but I knew my addiction. I knew it would not support anything else but itself. Diapers were not something I would spend money on. My addiction did not support a baby. That was my first step, realizing the truth of my addiction.

I chose diapers. I called Odyssey House and they told me to get in a cab. So I did. I walked into the door scared, alone, and in need of a change. They did not judge me; they did not turn me away. They gave me a bed, clean sheets, a place for my son, and the support I needed to get up and start again. It gave me the chance to grow up, take responsibility, and become an active member in my own life as well as society. ●

To read more, visit the Success Stories on our website at odysseyhouseinc.org.

Integrated Health Care for Older Adults

A \$250,000 grant from the NYS Office of Mental Health will establish behavioral health care services for older adults through an internal partnership with our medical clinic. The goal of the program is to seamlessly integrate behavioral and physical health care for older adults through care management, patient navigation and treatment planning. Odyssey House will be able to provide services to 240 older adults, ages 55 or older, with mental health and/or substance use disorders over three years.

The primary objectives are to screen and assess older adult patients for mental health issues and substance use disorders; implement patient navigation and care management services in the medical clinic; and improve mental and behavioral health

in older adults. To that end, Odyssey House will hire a geriatric social worker, located at the medical clinic, who will meet with older patients to resolve unaddressed behavioral health care needs, which often take a toll on physical health. Together, the geriatric social worker and patients will develop a treatment plan outlining behavioral and physical health care goals and needs.

“This project provides an important opportunity to assure that the mental health services we offer to those 55 years and older remain well integrated within our primary care setting,” said Jeff Savoy, Vice President, Director of Clinical Services. “We expect the project to demonstrate improved health outcomes for

our patients that will be sustainable after the grant funding has ended.”

Odyssey House is one of 10 agencies awarded service demonstration grants authorized by the Geriatric Mental Health Act. These three-year grants will provide \$4.1 million to the nonprofit providers and focus on health integration. Because previous projects demonstrated that collaborative partnership models of integrated health care increased the probability of creating and sustaining effective programs, applicants were required to engage in at least one formal internal or external agency partnership in order to assure the on-site provision of integrated services. ●

Grants Expand Housing for Vulnerable Populations

“I believe once people who have a history of mental illness and substance use disorders achieve sobriety and permanent housing, their living situation changes for the best. Many of our residents who are living with mental illness, substance use disorders, and HIV/AIDS are stable today because they have a decent and safe environment to live in.” — Janice Slaughter, Director of Mental Health & Housing Services

As treatment programs evolve to support individuals within their communities, Odyssey House has been developing housing services that complement and extend the efficacy of our residential treatment. Three new grants will help us expand our housing offerings to the most vulnerable populations: individuals living with HIV/AIDS and families struggling with substance use disorders.

Meeting a critical need

As HIV/AIDS has evolved into a chronic illness, people with AIDS are able to live independently longer, but this brings other challenges, including an increased need for housing. Two new grants from the NYC HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA) will help meet this need by more than doubling the number of units available at Odyssey House. Together, the grants will help 103 homeless, chronically ill single adults access and manage their treatment needs and maintain their independence and quality of life for as long as possible.

The first grant, \$976,170 per year, will renew 43 beds at the Haven. Opened in 2001, the Odyssey House Haven offers permanent housing with wrap-around services for people with HIV/AIDS. Residents receive weekly, mandatory case management and receive referrals to community-based organizations for various service needs. Optional services include vocational rehabilitation, nutrition counseling, recreation, and weekly groups.

The second grant provides approximately \$1.4 million per year to fund 60 units of permanent supportive housing with wrap-around services for people with HIV/AIDS, for which 19 new full- and part-time staff will be hired. This new program, though still in development, will be modeled after the Haven.

Breaking the cycle of homelessness

The NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) awarded \$1.75 million in grants to Odyssey House and four other New York City nonprofits to provide permanent supportive housing for homeless families struggling with addiction to drugs or alcohol. Odyssey House will receive \$375,000 in annual funding to house 15 homeless families in Brooklyn. Tenants will receive ongoing case management, referrals to community-based organizations for various service needs, and vocational rehabilitation.

“A safe and secure place to live is essential for families in recovery from substance use disorders,” said Peter Provet, Ph.D., President and CEO of Odyssey House. “We are honored to work with OASAS on developing housing services for people who, with minimal support, can build on the relapse prevention strategies and behavioral changes they learned in treatment.”

“Permanent supportive housing programs are essential to breaking the cycle of homelessness for New York’s most vulnerable individuals and families,” said Governor Andrew Cuomo in making the announcement. “These programs provide

the vital support services necessary to help families maintain physical and emotional health, sustain healthy relationships, and generally improve the overall quality of their lives.”

The first priority for this program is families living in the NYC Department of Homeless Services shelter system. Families living in other transitional housing settings are also considered to be a priority population, including the families of women who are scheduled to complete their course of treatment at an OASAS-certified residential facility serving women and their children.

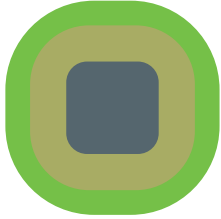
These awards mark the third round of permanent supportive housing grants for families, a component of the New York/New York III (NY/NY III) housing program. Odyssey House received grants in the first two rounds as well (for a combined 35 units). ●



The Keith Haring Foundation Inc.

In addition to the two NYC HASA grants, our HIV/AIDS services got a boost from the Keith Haring Foundation in the form of a \$10,000 grant. The money will be used for supportive services assisting tenants at the Haven.

The Keith Haring Foundation makes grants to not-for-profit groups that engage in charitable and educational activities. In accordance with Keith’s wishes, the Foundation concentrates its giving in two areas: the support of organizations which provide educational opportunities to underprivileged children and the support of organizations which engage in education, prevention, and care with respect to AIDS and HIV infection.



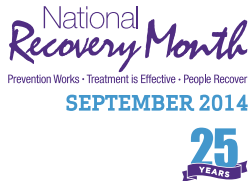
Odyssey House

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On the Horizon



Visit our blog for more news and updates from Odyssey House!

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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.