



Turtle Creek Valley News



TCV Agency Newsletter

Our New Website!

Visit Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR, Inc's new website at www.tcv.net! The site will provide a variety of information to those that are interested in the Agency, including employees, media, referral sources, individuals seeking general information, potential clients, prospective employees and volunteers, and potential funders. Those visiting www.tcv.net will be able to look at the site for information on the services that are provided, questions concerning mental health, mental retardation, D&A and family issues, events occurring at the Agency, locations, donor information, the annual report and job openings. Future newsletters can also be found in the News & Events section of the site.

Special thanks to those who helped with the project by proofreading, providing feedback and suggestions for your departments, etc. I hope that if you haven't seen the site yet, that you check it out and enjoy it!



Above: A view of the home page of www.tcv.net

Self Determination Award

On April 16, 2003 **Thomas Preisendorfer** received notification that he had been selected as a winner of the Celebrating Self Determination Award. Tom was nominated by Darlene Wisniewski of Mon Valley Supports Coordination. The award is being presented by the Allegheny County Department of Human Services Office of Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities. Tom lives in the Brinton Manor apartments in Braddock Hills and receives residential support through TCV MH/MR's Semi-Independent Living Program. Tom is employed as a steward at The Sheraton at Station Square and has been named to their Star Employee list. Tom was selected for the Self Determination award due to the obstacles that he overcame in order to live independently. Despite some road blocks, Tom has been able to achieve his goal of semi-independent living. Tom is a wonderful example of self determination as he makes all choices regarding his daily living, with some input from staff. Tom knows he is empowered and bases his life choices on this freedom. Tom will receive his award on May 16, 2003 at a ceremony to be held at CCAC North Side.

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The Quit Initiative

Congratulations to the Department of Family Services who received a grant for the proposed project called *The Quit Initiative*. This project will be funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Health through Tobacco Free Allegheny.

By fiscal year 2002-2003, Pennsylvania will have spent nearly a million dollars from a national tobacco settlement on a broad array of initiatives to improve the health of Pennsylvanians. With the grant from Tobacco Free Allegheny, the Prevention Department of TCV will be able to provide school-based and community-based prevention programs and services designed to prevent, decrease and stop tobacco use within Allegheny County. Specifically, *The Quit Initiative* will intervene with students through tobacco education classes and other school prevention activities, educate parents of the harmful effects of tobacco, and train teachers on the use of a tobacco prevention curriculum and health care providers on the use of clinical interventions to decrease and stop tobacco use.

According to the Center for Disease Control, it is shown that every day in the United States, more than 3,000 young people become regular smokers. *The Quit Initiative's* goal is to stop those youths before they start.



TCV Supports Our Troops

Many employees at Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR, Inc. have family and friends defending our country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. We would like to honor those brave men and women who risk their lives to give other countries the right to liberty that we have in the United States.

We pay tribute to these men and women of the military:

David Bianco	HM3, USN-USMC, CSSG-15 Health Service Battalion Echo Company – Iraq/Kuwait (friend) – <i>Michelle Thomas</i>
Bradley Brandt	Air Force, England – <i>Bob Zook</i>
Joshua Ferrilli	Sergeant, Specialist – Army/Infantry – Kosovo (family friend) – <i>Patti Friedrich</i>
Lawrence Ferrilli	Sergeant, Specialist – Army/Infantry – Kosovo (family friend) – <i>Patti Friedrich</i>
Jayson Garber	Lance Corporal – Marines (son) – <i>Robin Brown</i>
Matt Hergenroeder	Major, Battalion Commander – Baghdad (cousin) – <i>Janet Carroll</i>
Douglas McFarland	PFC – Army – Kuwait City, Kuwait (nephew) – <i>Felicia Simko</i>
ET2 Sean D. Meyerhoff	US Navy Electronics Technician – USS Curtis-Wilbur – Persian Gulf (brother) – <i>Anne Meyerhoff</i>
Douglas McFarland	PFC – Army – Kuwait City, Kuwait (nephew) – <i>Felicia Simko</i>
Dave Mintus	CMR 443th HQ DLA (brother) – <i>Fred Mintus</i>
Jon Mintus	SFC 319th Division (brother) – <i>Fred Mintus</i>
Allison Moser	Private – Army/Aviation – Kosovo – <i>Patti Friedrich</i>
Philip Wotherspoon	Specialist – currently stationed in Fort Lee, Virginia (son) <i>Thalia Wotherspoon</i>



Local reservist's card sketch fits Army to a 'T'

adapted from The McKeesport Daily News March 26, 2003

Thalia Wotherspoon's son, Specialist Phillip Wotherspoon, was honored for providing a morale booster for his unit currently stationed in Fort Lee, Virginia. It came in the form of a sketch that was drawn on a postcard to be sent to Thalia and her husband, Gary.

"I didn't really think my parents were getting the full picture during our phone calls of what it's like where we're living," the 19-year-old reservist with the 298th Transportation Co. said.

"So when they gave us a card with a lot of information on it and told us to address it to our family, I did a quick sketch."

The sketch was of a stick figure crying out in frustration in a sea of Army bunks.

Col. Steven Butler, Assistant Chief of Staff for Combined Arms Command and Fort Lee Reserve Affairs, had two t-shirts made from it and bought Philip a bicycle flag to mark his bunk, so he would be able to find it.

The sketch and t-shirts brought a great pick-me-up to Philip and all members of his unit.



Qualifacts and CYMA

~*Martha Zucco*

Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR, Inc., along with Family Services of Western Pa. and Allegheny East, will be implementing two new computer systems on September 1, 2003. **Qualifacts** will be the new Clinical, Billing and Human Resources system and **CYMA** will be used for Accounts Payable and General Ledger. In January 2004, we will move our payroll system to the CYMA System.

A series of kickoff meetings regarding the Qualifacts system was held the week of March 10th. A number of work groups have been established in order to ensure a smooth transition from CMHC to Qualifacts and CYMA. The following TCV staff are participating in these work groups:

- Steering Committee - **Martha Zucco & Michelle Saldutte**
- Intake & Scheduling - **Bob Zook, Janice Burruss, Martha Zucco, Michelle Saldutte & Linda Mallick**
- Accounts Receivable - **Janet Stanich, Karen Pruey & Kathy Proctor**
- Clinical Forms - **Bob Zook & Michelle Saldutte**
- CYMA - **Phil Ionadi, Bernice Rowe & Margaret Clapie**
- Quality Assurance - **Mark Mariaskin, Olivia Zitelli & Gail Burner**
- HR - **Olivia Zitelli & Pat Ogilvie**
- Medical Record - **Bob Zook & Linda Mallick**
- MR - **Gail Burner & Patti Pastor**
- MIS/Conversion - **Martha Zucco & Bob Wilson**
- Special Programs
- D&A - **Stephanie Vargo**
- MH FSS/ABC - **Laurie Barnett Levine**

TCV Family Picnic

Please mark Sunday, July 27th on your calendar as the day of the staff picnic at the VIP in South Park.

If anyone is interested in helping with the day or with planning the event, please contact Pat Ogilvie as soon as possible at 412-351-0222 x406.



Safety is a Priority at TCV

~Pat Ogilvie

The Risk Management Committee oversees the safety of the Agency and keeps an eye out for possible sources of injury. The main goal of the committee is to eliminate accidents in the workplace. Every Worker's Compensation incident is investigated thoroughly by the committee to find out why it happened and what can be done to prevent it from happening in the future. Each incident that requires medical attention is examined to make sure that the cause of the accident is identified and changed to make sure it does not happen again.

The State of Pennsylvania looks at Risk Management Committees so highly that a 5% discount is awarded to us on our worker's compensation insurance. The majority of the incidents that occur at Turtle Creek Valley are slips, falls and injuries while lifting or shifting clients. We have had workshops in the past, and will hold them again when we see the need.

The committee has been visiting various sites throughout the Agency to gain a familiarity with the locations discussed at meetings. Gaining a visual image of what the site looks like helps to understand possible problems presented from supervisors and staff.

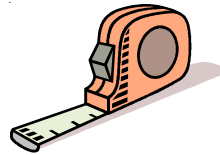
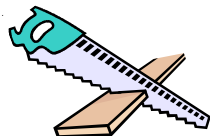
The Risk Management Committee is actively looking for new members. If you are interested in participating in the committee, please contact Pat Ogilvie at 412-351-0222 x 406.

Employees with ideas, concerns, or suggestions for improved safety in the workplace are encouraged to raise them with their supervisors or with a member of the Risk Management Committee. The Committee is listed below with their work numbers:

Pat Ogilvie	Human Resources	406
Cat Bruno	723 Maintenance/Fiscal	462
Helen Donahoe	Munhall Apartments	412-464-0674
Cindy Cwiklik	Community Link	412-351-2022 x104
Carrie Johnston	Homestead House	412-462-9901
Janie King	D&A	726
Dan Kostyak	Supported Employment	744
Linda Mallick	Turtle Creek OP	603
Kimberly Mroziak	Marketing	420
Dee Piskor	ATF	747
Erin Seeley	Special Services	504
Bart Vant	Southside DUI	412-488-6446
Adrienne Volpe	Community Link	412-351-2022

New Mechanic at TCV!

We would like to welcome **Joe Sipior**, who is a new maintenance person at TCV! He will be the mechanic for all of our Agency-owned vehicles. If you are experiencing non-emergency vehicle difficulties please either fill out a work order and send to the maintenance department or call him in the garage at 412-351-0222 x 455. If you are experiencing an emergency with the vehicle please call him in the garage at x 455 or page him at 412-272-3210. If you cannot reach Joe for either instance and you need to talk to someone directly, please call Cat at x 462. Welcome aboard, Joe!



Welcome to new employees!

Raymon Carrington - 804 ATF
 Julie Duch - Turtle Creek OP
 Dona Gunn - CHI MR Crestview
 Manaya King - CHI MR Main Street
 Raymond King - CHI MR Crestview
 Avi Kouzi - Homestead House ICM
 Alice Kwolek - CRRS Homestead House
 Barbara Norlund - SV COG PSR
 Joseph Sipior - 723 Maintenance
 Lawrence Thompson - CRRS HH



Goodbye and Good luck!

Diane Bauer - CHI MR Main Street
 Louise Brendza - CHI MR Main Street
 Jennifer Cambest - CRRS Munhall Apts.
 Brian Egan - CRRS Munhall Apts.
 Kirk Ferkett - CRRS Homestead House
 Gia Helsel - CHI MR 17th Avenue
 Anthony Jesse - Braddock ATF
 Virgil Jones - CRRS Next Step
 Tracey Little - CRRS Homestead House
 Beverly McElwee - Turtle Creek OP
 Kathy McPherson - SV COG D&A
 Teddi Lee Prettiman - SV COG ATF
 James Rawe - SV COG ATF
 Douglas Reilly - CRRS Munhall Apts.
 Robert Santoriello - CRRS Next Step
 Benjamin Sheets - CRRS HH
 Kristen Williams - 723 Fiscal



Consumer Fun Trip

~Kevin Maxwell

Consumers and their families were given the opportunity to spend the day at the Carnegie Science Center and UPMC SportsWorks facility on March 25th. There were twenty four individuals that attended the trip, including Child/Adolescent Resource Coordination staff members **Brian Johns**, **Kevin Maxwell** and **Dennis Robinson**. Highlights of the day included a tour through the U.S.S. Requin submarine, viewing an Omnimax theater movie presentation and participating in a few hands-on learning activities in the "Grossology" exhibit. The outing was sponsored through the Tickets For Kids Foundation and Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR, Inc.

Free Drug & Alcohol Consultations

TCV's Alternatives Treatment Program is currently providing free, brief education and consultation to individuals, clients, family members or employers who have concerns about the symptoms of Drug and Alcohol Abuse. If you would like further information, please contact Stephanie at 412-381-2100 x 261.

Andy Nodaros

Our deepest condolences to the family and friends of **Andy Nodaros**, who passed away on April 24th, after a long struggle with ALS. He was featured in the October 2002 TCV News for his determination and love for his job. He constantly interacted with clients who had various handicaps and diseases. Being diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's enabled him to personally understand the problems that his clients had to live with on a daily basis. He will be missed by us all. Anyone who would like to donate in Andy's name to his favorite charity should make a check payable to:

ALS/Therapy Development Fund
44 Glen Avenue, Newton, Mass 02459
Send to Cindy Cwiklik – 804 Braddock Ave.
(412-351-2022 x104) or Dan Kostyak – Steel Valley ATF-COG
(412-461-4100x744).



Judy Monahan Grystar, LSW
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To report duplicate mailings, provide feedback, or to be added to the Turtle Creek Valley News mailing list, please email Kym at KMroziak@tvmhmr.org

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