



## TCV Agency Newsletter



### Employee Appreciation Luncheon

On June 16 and 17, the Board of Directors hosted an appreciation luncheon at Banquets Unlimited in Wilmerding for all employees. The employees ate a buffet style lunch with scrumptious desserts.

After lunch, Board Chairperson, **Mike O'Donnell**, and other Board members genuinely thanked the staff for their tireless effort and dedication to provide the highest quality services to those that seek the Agency's support. Mike also stated that TCV wouldn't be the great Agency that it is without our wonderful staff. **Judy Monahan Grystar**, our Executive Director, then gave a short "State of the Agency" address, including information about the financial crisis in the State government, and how we are planning to position ourselves for the future. Her brevity kept things moving. One employee was overheard saying "It sure is nice to be recognized for all the hard work we do!" The employees appreciated the luncheon, and we thank the Board for their recognition. Thank you to **Mimi Silinski** for her hard work in planning a great afternoon!



### Restore Human Service Budget Cuts!

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, 50 employees and individuals of Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR, Inc. rode a bus to Harrisburg to participate in a rally advocating the restoration of Pennsylvania's proposed 2003-2004 Human Services funding cuts. The participants wore black T-Shirts that stated "I'm mad as hell" on the front and "I'm not going to take it anymore!" on the back. The busload gathered in the state capital rotunda to hear speakers, and also tried to visit elected representatives to urge reconsideration of budget decisions. They did get an audience with the Secretary of the Department of Public Welfare, Estelle Richman who stated that everyone needed to let the legislators know that the funding cuts to drug and alcohol and other human services is unacceptable and the funds need to be restored

State Senator Sean Logan could not meet with the group that day, but visited the Steel Valley COG site on June 20<sup>th</sup> to take a tour of the building and speak with consumers and staff. Senator Logan stated that the plan for the state budget was already complete, and the only way to decrease the deficit and stop the budget cut was to vote for slot machines at the race tracks, create a personal income tax and place a tax on cell phones, liquor and reckless drivers. The current state budget reduced Mental Health funding by 5-7%, Drug and Alcohol treatment by 50% and provide no cost of living increases for a second year in Mental Retardation services. Reorganization plans are currently being implemented by TCV to address the budget reductions. Please support Turtle Creek Valley by continuing your efforts to keep restoration of mental health and drug and alcohol treatment funding by letter writing and emailing your representative or sponsoring the organization through grants, and fundraising events.

**Turtle Creek Valley  
MH/MR, Inc.**

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## Toward a Brighter Future Golf Outing

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR, Inc. Golf Outing will be held on Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at Churchill Valley Country Club. As in previous years, we need the help and support of golfers and sponsors. Please join us by sponsoring at a level that best represents your support of the Turtle Creek Valley mission! Sponsorship levels include: Title - \$5000, Platinum - \$2,500, Gold - \$1,500, Silver - \$1000. There are also foursomes - \$475, individual golfers - \$125, dinner only - \$50, table sponsors - \$350, program ads - \$125 and hole sponsors - \$125. All golfers will receive green fees, cart, locker and bag service, two meals (lunch and dinner), door prizes and awards. If you have any further questions, or would like to participate, please contact me, Kimberly Mroziak at 412-351-0222 x420. A golf brochure can also be downloaded from the News and Events section of our website, [www.tcv.net](http://www.tcv.net).

We would like to get together a foursome or two of consumers and/or consumer family members to play. If staff members have contact with these people, please give the information to them. This is a very tough year for us financially, and the more participation that we get, the more we can help others. We hope that everyone will join us this year for a fun day!

## Qualifacts is Coming!

~Olivia Zitelli

TCV and two other agencies have agreed to select a software system that all three can use to boost efficiency in our respective agencies. Qualifacts system was selected because of the very robust clinical system, which will move the Agency to an electronic charting system and will automatically bill for services. Over the past few months, the staff from the three agencies have devoted countless hours to customize this software to the business practices standard in our three agencies, as well as customizing for the differences in each agency. The projected go live date is October 1, 2003. In the mean time, the staff at the three agencies have been attending computer training classes getting them ready for Qualifacts. New staff Mike Mariaskin and Tom Jacobs have been busy installing new computers and training the staff in preparation for the new system. Once employees get used to Qualifacts, they will wonder how we ever got along without it!

## TCV Agency Picnic

The Agency picnic was held on July 27, 2003 at the VIP in South Park. Employees of TCV visited with co-workers and friends. Staff and their families mingled with their fellow employees or participated in activities such as basketball, volleyball and miniature golf. It was a fun day like always!

This year we also honored Andy Nodaros, fellow employee who lost his battle to Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS) in April. A 50/50 drawing was held and the proceeds were donated to ALS.

The children and staff received prizes throughout the day including a vacation hotel donated by Burgunder Dodge, and lots of great gift certificates. Thanks to **Pat Ogilvie**, the **Risk Management Committee** and all who worked so hard to organize the annual event!

## Movin' On

~Gail Burner

The individuals and staff of the Braddock ATF made an exciting move on August 1, 2003 to the Robert Bellarmine School in North Versailles. Turtle Creek Valley will lease the school from the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh.

The new site offers a classroom setting which will provide additional space for the growth of the facility. Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR, Inc. is currently completing renovations which will ensure accessibility for everyone. The grounds will provide ample space for walks and other outside activities. Off street drop-off and pick-up will be available for the individuals. Stores, banks and recreational facilities such as the bowling alley and the YMCA will be just minutes away allowing easier access to the community for the participants of the program. Program operations will need to be modified due to the vast differences of the two sites.

An advisory committee made up of individuals, family members, supports coordinators, residential staff and day program staff will be meeting to discuss ideas regarding the new look and feel of the program.

An open house is in the works for the fall.



## Steel Valley ATF Flea Market

The Steel Valley ATF Flea Market was held on Tuesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> in the garden area on 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Homestead from 10 AM – 3 PM. The staff of the Steel Valley ATF would like to thank everyone involved for making the event such a success. Donations were provided by family, friends and staff of TCV MH/MR. There will be another flea market in September. If you have donations, please take them to the Steel Valley ATF.

If you cannot bring the items, arrangements can be made for pick-up by calling 412-461-4100 ext.3.

## Safety is a Priority at TCV

~Pat Ogilvie

The Risk Management Team has continued to visit various sites of TCV. This quarter they visited the CRRS Rankin and Wilmerding sites. They also had several meetings at 723 where administrative and learning sessions were held.

The committee's duty is to oversee safety in the Agency and to help prevent accidents from happening in the workplace. All Worker's Compensation claims are investigated to see what caused the accident and what changes should be made to improve the safety of our staff. If you have any concerns, please call a member of the committee and let them know what you see as a possible source of an accident. The next meeting will be held on August 20, 2003. The committee will meet at 723, and go to visit the St. Robert's site.

The Committee is listed below with their work numbers:

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

## Welcome to new employees!

Robert Boord - SV COG ATF  
 Joleen Chiaverini - Turtle Creek OP  
 Rosemary Foerster - Homestead OP  
 Christina Lipinski - SV COG PSR  
 Reuben Obiekezie - CRRS HH  
 Matthew Roper - CRRS Next Step  
 Jeffrey Szramowski - CRRS HH  
 Ricardo Williams - 723 PCCD



## Goodbye and Good luck!

Bari Benjamin - Turtle Creek OP  
 Robert Greene - CHI MR Crestview  
 Elizabeth Howard - Psych Supports  
 Thomas Jesick - SV COG PSR  
 Timothy Jones - SV COG Family  
 Alice Kwolek - Homestead House  
 David Negron - South Side D&A  
 Gail Stasik - CRRS Munhall Apts.  
 Nancy Stevens - CHI MR Crestview  
 Ramon Stolich - Munhall Apartments  
 Stephanie Surmick - SV COG D&A  
 Lawrence Thompson - CRRS HH  
 Stephany Yamada - CRRS HH

## The Employee Assistance Program

Do you ever feel that things aren't going right, and your problems just won't go away? Is your health, relationships or job performance suffering because of those problems? In order to help you deal with these difficult situations, Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR, Inc. has contracted Family Services of Western Pennsylvania to provide an Employee Assistance Program (EAP). This is a confidential resource for TCV employees that provides ready access to a professional counselor who can help you identify and assess your personal problems and offer you short term counseling. Once the nature of your situation is understood, the counselor will develop a service plan with you, referring you to the professional person or resource best qualified to deal with your needs. Then, the counselor will follow-up to make sure you received the help you need.

The services provided by the EAP include:

**Phone and Emergency Consultation** - 24 hour telephone availability of a masters level therapist for resource referral and emergencies

**Problem Assessment** - assessment and diagnosis of problems

**Short Term Counseling** - some problems can be resolved after a session or two with the EAP counselor. A referral may not be needed

**Resource Referrals** - with employees permission, therapists can refer individuals to appropriate community services

**Follow-Up** - after contact with referral services to ensure the continuance of supports

The EAP counselors can help you with a variety of concerns such as: marital/family conflicts, emotional/psychological concerns, drug/alcohol problems, financial distress, legal concerns and job related distress at locations in downtown Pittsburgh, Monroeville, Tarentum, McCandless, Bethel Park and East Liberty. **The services are completely confidential, and are not reported to anyone at TCV.**

**Call 1-800-TALK-EAP for help (1-800-825-5327)**

## Goin' For the Gold!

Congratulations to **Michael Girman**, from the Steel Valley ATF who was awarded four gold medals at the Special Olympics. The Special Olympics contributes to the physical, social and psychological development of people with mental retardation. Their belief is that through successful experiences in sports, they gain confidence and build a positive self-image, which carries over into the classroom, the home and the community.

On May 10, 2003 Mike participated in the Special Olympics of Allegheny County Summer Games at Baldwin High School. That day he won golds in the 50 meter race and in the 100 meter race. He also won two more golds in golf at the Seven Oaks Golf Course.

**Congratulations Michael!**



## Letter from the Editor

Thank you to those who submitted to the July edition of Turtle Creek Valley News! This issue contains events that have occurred since April, 2003. There are a lack of a few articles due to people who made commitments but were unable to meet the deadline. Please remember that article submissions and deadlines are very important to keeping Turtle Creek Valley News in circulation! The next issue will be in sent out at the end of October with a deadline for submissions October 24th.

I hope to see everyone at events supporting the Agency including the *Towards a Brighter Future Golf Outing* on September 9th! It's still not to late to sign up to sponsor, golf or come to dinner. Hope to see you there!

## Mental Health Awareness Concert

Tickets are now available for the 2003 Mental Health Awareness Concert (The Recovery Train) being held on September 13<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 PM. You may purchase advance tickets for \$4 each by calling Alby Gates at 412-461-4100 ext. 731 or tickets may be bought at the door for \$5. Questions regarding the Awareness Concert should be directed to Alby at the number listed above.

**Judy Monahan Grystar, LSW**

*Turtle Creek Valley*

*MH/MR, Inc.*

*Executive Director*

## ***Turtle Creek Valley News Staff***

**Kimberly Mroziak**

Editor/Layout

### **Contributors**

Gail Burner

Nancy Naulder

Dee Piskor

Pat Ogilvie

Olivia Zitelli

*Requests for additional information should be directed to Kimberly Mroziak, 723 Braddock Avenue, Braddock, PA 15104, (412)351-0222 x420, email: KMroziak@tvmhmr.org*

*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*

***Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR, Inc.***

723 Braddock Avenue

Braddock, PA 15104

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