



Turtle Creek Valley Mental Health/Mental Retardation, Inc. Agency Newsletter

NAMI Southwestern PA Regional Conference

~ Amy Sljva-Blystone

On Saturday, April 22, 2006, Amy Sljva-Blystone, Carol Roebuck, Sandra Kogut and Gail Gantt were presenters at the 2006 NAMI Southwestern PA Regional Conference at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott. The event started off with keynote speaker Lizzie Simon who is a nationally known author and mental health advocate. She wrote "Detour: My Bipolar Road Trip in 4-D". The workshop entitled, "Breaking Down Barriers: Peer Staff's Role in Recovery" provided participants with a greater awareness of the benefits of hiring consumers as peer staff. Peer staff shared the rewards and challenges of working in the mental health field. Information was shared from a supervisory perspective on working with peer staff. There was also a discussion about the minigrant that was received to provide outreach and education to local employers about the benefits of hiring someone with a disability and how peer staff played a key role in these efforts. Approximately 20 participants attended the workshop. They had a great time and look forward to any future opportunities that may be available.



Poster created by participants

8th Annual TCV Toward a Brighter Future Golf Outing

It's time to start getting ready for the 2006 TCV Golf Outing. We will be holding the outing at **Southpointe Golf Club** in Canonsburg!

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, **foursomes** - \$600, **individual golfers** - \$150, **lunch only** - \$50, **table sponsorship 1** (display your company's literature)- \$350, **table sponsor 2** (lunch table for 8 people), **program ad** - \$250 and **hole sponsors** - \$125, **beverage cart sponsor** - \$500 (includes 1 free golfer) and **putting contest sponsor** - \$500 (includes 1 free golfer).

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL! If you send in your paid registration by May 31st for a foursome or individual golfer, you get **10% off!** That means instead of a \$600 foursome, you get a foursome for \$540! Instead of \$150 for an individual golfer, you get to golf for \$135!

All golfers will receive green fees, cart, locker and bag service, free drinks on the course, two meals (breakfast and lunch), door prizes and awards.

If you have any further questions, or would like to participate, please contact 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.**

This is a very challenging year for TCV financially, with the Governor cutting our budget in several areas. We hope that you will be able to support us so that we can continue providing well needed services to our clients so that they can continue to strive *Toward a Brighter Future.*

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Do you need insurance?

Please visit TCV MH/MR, Inc.'s 5 main reception areas for CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) and Adult Basic flyers and applications during office hours (9-4 PM) on May 4th and 5th.

Main Office

723 Braddock Avenue, Braddock, PA 15104

Turtle Creek Adult Outpatient

519 Penn Avenue (2nd Fl.), Turtle Creek, PA 15145

Turtle Creek Children, Adolescent and Families Outpatient

519 Penn Avenue (3rd Fl.), Turtle Creek, PA 15145

South Side - Alternatives

70 S. 22nd Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Steel Valley COG

1705 Maple Avenue B1, Homestead, PA 15120

Congratulations Outstanding TCV MH/MR, Inc. Employees!!!

March 2006: Laura Halaszynski, Linda Holt, Rosemary Gregg and Pinky Danchak

April 2006: Bernie Galanko, Dee Guidish and Melanie Milko

Please call 412-351-0222 x420 for further information.

This year, the national awareness campaign for "Cover the Uninsured Week" will run from May 1-7, 2006. Allegheny County Department of Human Services, the Highmark Caring Foundation and the Allegheny County Health Department are utilizing organizations such as TCV MH/MR, Inc. to identify, refer, and enroll uninsured children and adults into the two state-sponsored programs, CHIP and adultBasic, that are administered by the Highmark Caring Foundation.

Thanks From Joanne Batyi (Breezewood CHIMR)

To all who called, sent cards and covered my shift hours during my recent surgery and recovery: Your graciousness, concern and get well wishes were greatly appreciated. A special thank you to **Marg Reefer** for giving up one of her off days during my recovery to take me out and treat me to a very enjoyable afternoon.

Employee Profile, Guinn Hebrank

Guinn Hebrank, MSW, started at Southside Alternatives as a Drug and Alcohol Therapist on December 19, 2005. Before working at TCV, she was the Supervisor of Counseling Services at Crisis Center North, a domestic violence counseling and resource center serving the northern parts of Allegheny County. She attended Washington & Jefferson College and obtained a BA in Psychology in 2000. She graduated in 2002 with a Masters in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work.

Guinn worked in other places related to her degree, including a partial hospitalization program for children and adolescents, a long term structured residence for adult schizophrenics and a day camp instructor. Guinn also worked at a floral shop, a dog kennel, a pizza shop, at Dick's Sporting Goods warehouse, and at Sony Corporation on the assembly line.

Guinn is originally from Greensburg, PA. She travels annually to Wilmington, NC where her family has relocated. She has a younger brother who is a junior at East Carolina University in Greenville, NC. She enjoys vacationing at the Outer Banks, NC, where she feeds her love of dolphins, plays beach volleyball, and sees her favorite color, blue. Her favorite things to watch on TV are Steelers, Pitt basketball, and Survivor.

Guinn is looking forward to being able to apply her knowledge of trauma and abuse to the chemical dependency field. She is one of the therapists that facilitate the Intensive Outpatient Program and really values the group dynamics on a therapeutic level. Recently, she presented "Domestic Violence 101" to the South Side team highlighting the different forms of abuse, the cycle of violence, and common myths and facts associated w/domestic violence.

D&A Free Workplace

Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR Inc. is committed to providing a safe work environment and to fostering the well-being of its employees. TCV is also committed to providing the best services to our customers.

TCV MH/MR, Inc. recently made revisions to its Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace policy. Beginning in April, all new employees will be required to take a drug/alcohol test on the day of Orientation at Quest Diagnostics on Murray Avenue in Squirrel Hill. If applicant's test is positive for any prohibited substance, he/she will not be employed, or if hired, will be terminated immediately

TCV Farm Stand

~ Amy Sljva-Blystone

TCV MH/MR, Inc. and Action Housing will be participating in the 2006 Farm Stand project sponsored by the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. The project will begin on June 14. The hours will run every Wednesday from 12-3 PM (June 14-November 15, 2006). TCV's farm stand will be located in the courtyard at the Turtle Creek Human Services building (519 Penn Avenue). Please stop by to purchase great fruits and vegetables at a great price while receiving excellent customer service by our volunteers. We accept cash, EBT, WIC and Senior/FMNP Vouchers. We look forward to seeing you. For more information about this project, please contact **Amy Sljva-Blystone** at (412) 461-4100 ext. 714.



Farm stand volunteers

Welcome to new employees!

Tom Conroy - SS Drug & Alcohol
Eugene Cook - CHI MR Crestview
Shawn Forbes - SV COG Mobile Ther.
Judith Gazda - St. Roberts
Jane Gyugyi - Homestead House RA
Christopher Hagle - CHI MR Crestview
Daniel Hearn - 723 Maintenance
Kelly McGee - Homestead House RA
Robyn Parker - SV COG TSS
Stacey Rebich - After School Program
Stacy Swenson - SV COG MT



Goodbye and Good luck!

Bill Bohin - 723 Maintenance
Uzoma Chibundu - CRRS Munhall Apts.
Tamara Diggs - CRRS Homestead House
Craig Goughnour - SV ATF
Linda Johnson - Homestead House
Mark Noel - SV COG Family Prevention
Tabitha Oliverio - CRRS HH
Curtis Plumb - SV COG ATF
Michael Sarsfield - CRRS HH
Michelle Stockunas - CRRS Rankin
James Unice - HH ICM

Above and Beyond

~ Linda Miller

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank TCV's Maintenance Department for going above and beyond what is expected of them. On April 3, 2006, I arrived at the Breezewood CHIMR and found an Equitable Gas truck parked in front of the house. One of their survey teams had discovered a leak in the service line that runs from the main line to our site. They had shut the gas off. Service could not be restored until a certified plumber replaced the gas line. I called **Jerry Potts**, Facility Manager, to tell him of our dilemma. To my relief, he immediately took over the arrangements for the repairs.

Jerry and the maintenance crew were out that afternoon in the pouring rain to dig up the gas line so the contractor could come the following day to replace it. **Jason Pingor** arrived at the house the next morning to wait for the contractor to arrive. Once the line was replaced and approved, the maintenance staff worked on filling the holes in the yard. The individuals only needed to be relocated for one night, thus lessening the stress and anxiety of not being in their home.

The hard work of the maintenance crew is greatly appreciated by the staff and the individuals at Breezewood Drive. I especially appreciate the cost-cutting work of the crew. Their efforts significantly lowered the expense of the repairs.

Tri Boro CTC honors Woodland Hills High Honor Students

The **Tri Boro Communities that Care (CTC) Project** would like to applaud these very special **Woodland Hills School District** students, living in Rankin, Braddock and North Braddock who have made the high honor roll. Congratulations to Qualenn Williams, Jessica Ankney, Julia Bost, Greta Brooks, Richard Galya, Dakira Jones, Noel Meckling, Shyann Meckling, Cory Merkel, Amanda Metz, Janie O' Brien, Kelsey Parsons, Deileta Pettus-Buckner, Marques Dykes, Kaylyn Jones

The Tri Boro CTC, along with the help of TCV MH/MR, Inc and Woodland Hills School District, recently posted the second set of billboards in the series of three to recognize positive youth development and academic achievement. The three billboards can be found in Rankin, Braddock and North Braddock and displayed WH school students of varying grade levels.

This community awareness activity has been funded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency under the Tri Boro Communities That Care Sustainability Grant. With the help of our valued community partners, we all come together to access greater resources and offer greater benefits to our children. The list of our community partners continues to grow. Become one today! If you or your company would like more information about participating in the Tri Boro Communities That Care, please call **Lisa Freeman**, 412-464-1522 x500 or by email LFreeman@tcvmhmr.org.

Tri Boro CTC Community Partners include: * TCV MH/MR, Inc. (Lead Agency), * Allegheny County * Department of Juvenile Probation, * Apostolic Faith Church, * Attorney Lena Henderson, * Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh, * Braddock Music Art's Center, * Calvary A.M.E. Church, * Carnegie Library of Braddock, * Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh – Family Care Connection in Braddock, * Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh – Injury Free Coalition for Kids, * Congressman Mike Doyle, * Dept of Human Services – Office of Children, * Youth and Families, * District Justice Ross C. Cioppa, * First Church of God in Christ, * Fourth Street Methodist Church, * Girl Scouts – Trillium Council, * Hill House Association's Out of School Youth – Braddock Office, * Heritage Health Foundation, * John Fetterman, Braddock Mayor, * Local Parents and Residents, * The New Pittsburgh Courier, * Partnerships for Youth Transition, * Pauline Abdullah, former Mayor, * The Pittsburgh Mediation Center, * Triumph the Church and Kingdom of God, * Rankin Christian Center, * Representative Paul Costa, * Resurrection Power, * The Salvation Army – Braddock, * Senator Sean Logan, * Union Baptist Church, * UPMC Braddock Hospital, * UPMC Avenue of Hope, * UPMC Braddock House of Hope, * UPMC for You, * Woodland Hills School District, * Youth in Braddock



Rankin Billboard (Miller/Gas Streets)



North Braddock Billboard (RT 30 twds Ardmore Blvd)



Braddock Billboard (Braddock Ave/6th St)

June 3, 2006 - TCV MH/MR, Inc. Children's Prevention Department 5K Walk/Run

TCV MH/MR, Inc., in collaboration with **The Mentoring Partnership of SWPA** and the **Braddock YMCA**, will be hosting an awareness event at the Homestead Waterfront on June 3rd. A 5K Run/Walk will kick off the day's activities. Please check on www.tcv.net or call Rick Williams at 412-351-0222 x421 for more information about the event and how to sign up for the run/walk.

Hoop It Up BBall Tournament

To raise awareness of the dangers of tobacco use and as a part of National Kick Butts Day, TCV MH/MR, Inc. partnered with the East End Cooperative Ministry for the championship game of the Tobacco Free Allegheny “Hoop It Up” Basketball Tournament on April 1st at Reizenstein Middle School. The tournament had multiple age brackets for children 8-14 years old. During breaks in the action, concessions were provided and Ciggy Butts (a cigarette character) entertained the fans by trying to compete against youth in basketball games. He choked and lost miserably because he was too short on breath. TCV MH/MR, Inc. also provided information on the harmful effects of tobacco using a tobacco jeopardy game. The basketball tournament was sponsored by EECM, and TCV MH/MR, Inc. through Tobacco Free Allegheny and the PA Department of Health.



Kick Butts Day participants playing Tobacco Jeopardy

TCV participates in the “Stomping Out Tobacco” Shoe Campaign

~Julia Thompson

On behalf of the Tobacco Prevention Team with the TCV’s Children and Family Services department, we would like to Thank everybody who contributed shoes to the Youth Quest 2006 Rally’s “**Stomping Out Big Tobacco**” Shoe Campaign. We collected a total of 124 pairs of shoes. 54 pairs were given to the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) for the Tobacco Free Youth coalition advocacy demonstration trip to Harrisburg on Wednesday, April 26th.



Some of the shoes on display at Homestead Carnegie Library

The number 54 represents the number of adults who die each day from tobacco related illnesses. Over **20,000** shoes will be dropped on the State Capitol steps to illustrate the lives lost from tobacco related illnesses each year.

Please check out our Tobacco Prevention local display using the remaining 70 pairs of shoes at the Homestead Library located on 10th Street. The display will be ready for public viewing on Monday, April 24 and will continue through Friday, April 28. After the campaign is completed, the shoes will be donated to Braddock Salvation Army.

Thanks again for your support and your contributions.

Big For A Day

TCV MH/MR, Inc., Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh and the African Methodist Episcopal Institute hosted the “Big For A Day” (BFAD) program on Saturday, March 18, 2006, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Calvary A.M.E. church in Braddock (441 Sixth Street).

At the event, the children engaged in various arts and crafts, and team-building activities with their BFAD volunteer. “I’m an Open Book” is the theme for the program in which each couple had the opportunity to explore their interests and dreams in a non-threatening and supportive way.

TCV’s community based mentoring project is a multi-agency collaboration. The main focus of “Big For a Day” was to recruit caring adult mentors for children between the ages of 6-13 who live in the communities of Braddock, N. Braddock and Rankin.

The Tri-Boro Communities That Care Faith Based Action Committee also participated by recruiting Faith based entities throughout the local service area and surrounding communities to participate in the one day mentoring effort.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this day a great success.

For further information on becoming a mentor for children living in Braddock, Rankin and N. Braddock, call Rick Williams at (412) 417-3518.



Children with their BFAD

Political Activities at TCV

~Tom Bach

As most of us are aware, the MH/MR industry is significantly affected by public policy at the federal, state and local level. The public policy in turn is affected by the party in power and their governing agenda. The major social programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and Public Welfare are the ones we are most dependent on for our funding. There has been a trend over the past number of years to cut government funding and intervention and to force social programs to be run as businesses, namely to have a bottom line mentality. In order to counter this trend and keep the funding we have, providers such as TCV have had to become more politically active. We should be educating our elected officials on the effects their decisions and votes have on the people we serve.

That is why TCV actively participates in the Conference of Allegheny Providers (CAP) and statewide in the Pennsylvania Community Providers Association (PCPA). CAP has a Government Affairs committee that specifically keeps its eye on legislation, budgets and changes in policy that are significant to MH/MR. For example, three years ago there was no cost of living adjustment (COLA) in the governor's or DPW's budget. They claimed they could not afford it. CAP and PCPA, along with other statewide organizations, put on a massive campaign to include a COLA in the budget since we had not received one in three years. All of the Allegheny County legislators were visited and the "facts of life" about MH/MR were explained. As a result there was virtually unanimous support for a COLA from Allegheny County officials and at the end of the day, the legislators found the money and installed a COLA. Since that time, the governor's budget has included a COLA and there is now pending legislation to make a COLA a permanent part of the budget. We do have a voice!

At the local level, CAP fought hard to prevent the living wage from being enacted by Allegheny County which would have burdened MH/MR providers to pay higher wages without any corresponding budget increase, a so-called unfunded mandate. Last year the County's attempt to pass a Report Card ordinance was likewise thwarted. This would have been another burden on providers from both a cost and duplication standpoint. This fight is continuing since the Report Card ordinance is back again this year. *(continued on pg. 9)*

Save the Date - TCV Employee Picnic

TCV MH/MR, Inc's Agency Picnic will be held on July 14th at the Riverplex, the picnic area which is adjacent to Sandcastle Waterpark. TCV employees will be eligible to purchase discounted tickets to Sandcastle for the day of the picnic. More information is to follow from Jen Brannigan in the HR Department.

Being A Peer Staff

~Sandra K.

Primarily, being a peer staff at TCV has given me purpose in my life. I've gone through 27 years of treatment off and on at TCV, but in the last 4 years since I've been peer staff, I have found my purpose: to help other people with mental illness. TCV has allowed me to use my skills and talents to be the best peer staff person I can be. I earned two Bachelor Degrees in Elementary Education and Human Services Administration, but I didn't know how to best utilize them in my life.

I started out as a Clerical Aide in the Psychiatric and Social Rehabilitation Department and then went on to be an Activity Assistant facilitating classes. Now I work in the Employment Services Department as the Outreach and Education Facilitator. In addition to my peer staff position, I'm also on the Agency's Steering Committee, a member of the Boundaries Work Group that developed the Consumer Employment Policy for TCV, and involved in the Center of Excellence. I'm a WRAP facilitator and a PennMap co-facilitator. Plus, I'm receiving further training from the Emerging Leadership Institute.

Over the last 4 years I've grown a lot, and I've learned a lot about myself and my illness. I've enjoyed working with the staff of TCV and feeling like a partner at the Agency. I think peer staff and staff working are working very well together help to create a really caring environment at TCV.

Safety Message

~Jerry Potts

Safety is a Shared Responsibility

DRIVE AWARE WE'RE OUT THERE

Many motorcycle crashes can be attributed to the driver of the other vehicle not seeing the motorcyclist. Why doesn't the average driver see a motorcyclist? Motorists tend to look for other cars and trucks. In addition, because of its smaller profile, a motorcycle is harder to see.

- **Look out for motorcyclists**
Be aware that although you may not see any cars or trucks, there may be an unnoticed motorcycle.
- **Anticipate a motorcyclists maneuver**
Motorcyclists may change positions in a lane to respond to road conditions, weather or other factors.
- **Signal your intentions**
Even if you don't see cars in front of you or behind you, look carefully in all directions for approaching motorcyclists.
- **Respect a motorcycle**
Treat motorcycles as a full-size vehicle with equal rights to the road. Give motorcycles a full lane.
- **Allow plenty of space when following a motorcycle**
The slightest contact could mean a spill and/or injury for the rider.

Bicyclists deserve the same respect and consideration as motorcyclists. Please practice defensive driving at all times.

Upcoming newsletter precursor message: **BANANA**

You will be missed Mr. Lovejoy

The Steel Valley A.T.F. lost a very special man on April 21st. Mr. Lowell Lovejoy was a big part of the program and his presence will be missed. He was an amazing man. He was a fire fighter for 50 years a deacon at his church. He assisted us with the garden, went on camping trips and helped out in any way he could at a moments notice. He was always kind, caring and very dedicated. He was an exceptional father to his son and took on that same role for the individuals at the program. He will be missed.



Employee Spotlight

Every newsletter will randomly profile an employee. Who will be next?

Employee Name: Jennifer Brannigan

Site Location: 723 Braddock

How long have you worked here?: about 8 months

What is your position? Human Resources Assistant

What do you like best about working at TCV? Getting to interact and know employees throughout the Agency, the independence and flexibility of the Agency and the learning experience!

What was your very first job? Banquet waitress at Edgewood Country Club

What is your favorite movie of all time? Pretty Woman or Girls Just Wanna Have Fun

If you could have dinner with anyone (living or dead) who would you choose? Oprah or Jesus

What three things can always be found in your refrigerator? Milk, mayonaisse and cheese

What is your favorite vacation spot? Camping at Raystown Lake

What accomplishment would you say that you are most proud of? My daughter Isabella (being her mom)

Whom do you most admire and why? My grandmother because she's had a tough life, but she still is so wonderful.



Computer Corner

How to Create a task or reminder in Outlook

Create a task from scratch

1. On the **File** menu, point to **New**, and then click **Task**.
2. In the **Subject** box, type a task name.
3. Complete any other boxes on the **Task** and **Details** tabs for information you want to record for the task. For help on an option, on the **Help** menu, click **What's This**, and then click the option.
4. To make the task recur, click **Recurrence**, click the frequency (**Daily**, **Weekly**, **Monthly**, **Yearly**) at which you want the task to recur, and then do one of the following:

Make the task recur at regular intervals

Select options for that frequency. Don't click **Regenerate new task** (task will not recur at regular intervals).

Make the task recur based on completion date

Click **Regenerate new task**, and then type a time frequency in the box.

5. If you want, set start and end dates for the task.
6. Click **OK**, and then click **Save and Close**.

Mark a task complete

1. Open the task you want to mark complete.
2. In the **% Complete** box, enter **100%**.

Note If the **Complete** field appears in the task list (as a check mark in the column heading), you can select the check box for the task to mark it complete. Or, if the **Status** field appears in the task list, you can click **Completed** in the list.

Add or remove a flag

Add a flag

1. In the message or contact, click .
2. In the **Flag to** box, click the flag you want, or type your own.
3. Enter a date and time in the **Due by** boxes.

Remove a flag

1. In the message or contact, click
2. Click **Clear Flag**.

Adolescent, Children and Families Open House

TCV held an open house on April 26th to celebrate the move of our Outpatient Services for Children, Adolescents and Families. The department moved upstairs to the third floor of our Turtle Creek site (519 Penn Avenue) in order to have an outpatient office just for kids and their families. TCV staff, board members, consumers, family members of consumers and the community all attended.

Children and Family Services treatment provides brief, family-focused mental health treatment to children, adolescents and their families. Treatment includes assessment, treatment planning and family, individual, couples and group therapies.

Services also include psychiatric evaluations, medication monitoring and psychoeducational testing. These services can be office-, school- or community-based through our intensive Wrap Around program. Prevention Services are also provided to children, adolescents and families to help individuals make responsible choices about the use of drugs and alcohol, cultivate the development of skills which enhance problem-solving, stress management and conflict resolution, and promote the idea of healthy individuals and strong families.

TCV MH/MR, Inc. will continue to offer Outpatient Mental Health and D&A services to adults on the second floor of the Turtle Creek site.



Children playing education games while snacking at the Open House

(continued from pg. 6)

Political Activities at TCV (cont.)

TCV has been active in getting staff and consumers involved with the political process as well. Many now write their legislators regularly to express their opinions. Visits to legislators now generally include staff and/or consumers from their district. Trips to Harrisburg have also occurred with regularity. For the past few years TCV has taken a bus load of individuals for a rally in support of MH/MR budgetary issues and we will be going back this year. Legislators are hearing our voices and they know we are not going away.

CAP has also supported legislative breakfasts and other events to get our message out. In April of this year a Forum was held for all the candidates for House seats, all of which are up for election this year. CAP members, on an individual basis, have contributed to the PCPA Political Action Committee which then makes contributions to individuals who are supportive of MH/MR issues. All of these activities keep our issues in front of legislators and ultimately help us be successful.

Many, many TCV staff, consumers and family members have participated in all of these political activities. To those individuals a great big thank you and keep it up. For those who have not participated please consider joining in. It is not difficult to talk to your own legislators. You are their constituents and they listen. In addition nothing could be greater than a bus ride to Harrisburg, touring the Capitol, visiting legislators and getting to eat some great food!!

Congrats

TCV's Risk Management Committee is receiving a Safety Award for its low loss ratio in the years 2004/2005. The award will be presented this summer at the Pennsylvania Community Providers Association (PCPA) meeting in Harrisburg. Three representatives from the Risk Management committee will be accepting the award. Congratulations!

Opportunity Is Knocking

~Gail Burner

Are you or someone you know ready to begin a new career? The Resident Advisor position in TCV MH/MR, Inc.'s Mental Retardation Residential unit may be the opportunity you have been looking for. Consider the statistics: The unit employs forty-two people, more than half of whom have been a part of the MR residential team for at least 5 years. Astoundingly, 20% of the staff have 15 years or more of service to the agency.

TCV has been providing high quality residential service to adults with mental retardation for over thirty years. The residential services and supports are offered in comfortable homes in the Plum Borough, Munhall and North Versailles areas. The sites have full licensure from the Office of Mental Retardation.

The individuals that live in the homes provide Resident Advisors with challenges that allow true creativity. Job duties include recreational activities, shopping, meal planning, personal care, transportation, documentation and household cleaning. Performing these duties gives the Resident Advisor the opportunity to share in the lives of fun loving individuals who have unique strengths and abilities.

When asked why she enjoys her job, Linda Miller, a twenty year employee of TCV who has served both as Supervisor and Resident Advisor replied immediately, "The best thing about working for TCV is that the individuals' health and happiness always comes first. That is not true of all agencies."

To become a part of TCV's MR Residential team, a high school diploma or GED is required. Experience working with individuals who have disabilities is preferred. A five day orientation is offered to new employees. On-going training is provided to Resident Advisors to assure the maintenance of job related skills.

TCV's Resident Advisors are paid a competitive wage and receive a full benefit package, which includes health insurance and paid leave time.

Interested? Forward your resume to Olivia Zitelli at 723 Braddock Avenue Braddock, PA 15104 or email humanresources@tcv.net. We are anxious to talk to you about this opportunity.

Donate your vehicle to TCV MH/MR, Inc.!!!

General vehicle preferred guidelines:

- Car in running condition with valid title and inspection.
- Minimal rust penetration (we have no body shop).

The rules are not set rules, but preferred guidelines.

We are generally not interested in "parts/salvage cars," as storage space is limited.

WE DO TAKE ALL CARS! Pick up is free. Your donation is tax deductible. We can also accept trucks, boats, campers, and motorcycles. TCV is partnering with Community Auto, a 501c3 PA nonprofit and licensed auto dealer to process your vehicle. Community Auto's mission is to sell reliable vehicles to needy persons for transportation to work. 75% of the vehicle proceeds, after expenses will be returned to TCV. **To donate a vehicle... Call us at 412-351-0222 x420.**

Please remember to ask your family and friends to designate Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR, Inc. as the recipient of their United Way gift through the Contributor Choice option when completing the United Way form, or donate online at

www.unitedwaypittsburgh.org.

TCV's United Way code is #136

A copy of the official registration and financial information of Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR, Inc. may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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

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TCV MH/MR, Inc. News

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