



# The Center for Great Expectations

Embracing change. Empowering futures.

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## Center News

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### The Power of Small

Mother Theresa once said, “Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.” Here at the Center, we find ourselves relying on, and forever grateful for, the tremendous efforts brought forth by our small volunteer groups, who always seem to help us out in the biggest ways!

It can seem intimidating, but forming your own group to help the Center can be done. Here are some tips to get your started, and remember to CGE:

- **Construct Your Team:** Your volunteer group does not have to be big. Two or 3 individuals can make just as much of an impact as 200. The key is making sure everyone on your team is on the same page—communication is the key!
- **Go Easy:** Your event doesn't have to be a lavish extravaganza. Make sure your end goal is attainable and then build on your successes.
- **Engage Your Audience:** Do you want it to be family friendly, engaging children in helping their neighbor? Women-only? Remember to make sure your event is geared towards those you want to attend—the more they are engaged, the more likely they will attend your next event.

Host a party or movie night at your house for your friends—attendees can bring an item on our needs list as an “entry fee.” Run a craft fair or bake sale at your church, school, or community center where proceeds will go to benefit the Center. Be creative with your event but more importantly, have fun!

Not quite ready to form your own group? Don't worry; there are other ways to give back. Volunteer at the Center, cook dinner for the clients,

or donate items on our needs list. Contact Noreen Whittemore, [nwhittemore@cge-nj.org](mailto:nwhittemore@cge-nj.org) or 732-247-7003x25 for more information.

In 2015 let us all remember to “be faithful in small things” – and thank you to those who have helped us!



## 2014 Gift of Hope Gala

October 24th marked the Center's 15th Annual Gift of Hope Gala held at elegant Fiddler's Elbow Country Club.

Over 220 guests joined in support of the Center and helped us honor Sanofi US as Humanitarian of the Year. Sanofi's commitment to the Center, dating back to as early as 2000, helped the Center grow from a 2 bedroom house to our current two 8 bedroom homes.

Our Outstanding Service Award was presented posthumously to Anthony Schoberl in recognition of his many years of leadership as a Trustee of the Center. Tony's presence at the Center was constant, and he was so committed to getting others involved and spreading the word to help our young mothers and children. We were delighted to award our Volunteer of the Year to Peg Clancy, who represents the best of a CGE Volunteer – always happy to help in the ways we need to be helped!

The highlight of the evening was a visit from a client who shared her personal story of success, thanks to the care and programming that she received from Center. She now resides in our supportive housing program at AvalonBay where she and her 2 beautiful children are starting a new, healthy life together.



## Adolescent Expansion Update

It has been a year since we announced the expansion of our Adolescent program and since then so much has happened!

Ground was broken in early November, and not too long ago, footings and floors were poured! Workers are busy fitting fixtures for plumbing so that the HVAC systems can be installed.



Everyone at the Center is extremely grateful and appreciative for all of the support we have received to make this expansion possible. To date we have received over \$1.26 million in cash and pledges but there is still more that needs to be raised.

Donate today to help with our expansion and become a part of the foundation to the start of new, healthy lives our mothers and their children will receive at

the Center. Click on the "Donate Now" button on our website, [www.cge-nj.org](http://www.cge-nj.org), or contact Jillian Gletow at (732) 247-7003 x33 or [jgletow@cge-nj.org](mailto:jgletow@cge-nj.org) to make a donation or get more information.



## Poetry In Motion

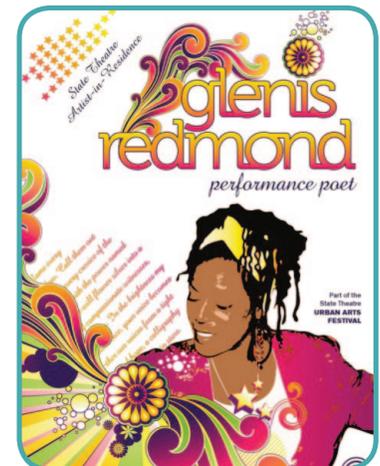
We were recently blessed to have the State Theatre's Artist-in-Residence, Glenis Redmond, come to the Center and perform her poetry for our mothers and staff.

This was the 3rd time Glenis visited the Center, and like last time, we were all in awe of her talent and ability to express herself through her words.

After her hour performance, Glenis engaged our clients in an open discussion about the importance of healing and how all forms of art—drawing, writing, dancing, etc.—can help release emotions that we sometimes find difficult to convey.

Needless to say, after listening to Glenis, everyone left inspired, rejuvenated, and honored to have been given such an amazing opportunity.

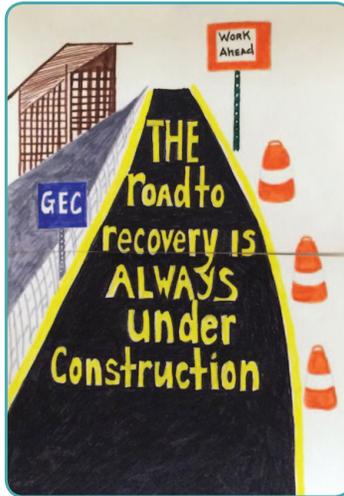
Thank you Glenis and the State Theatre of New Jersey!



## Outpatient Program Happenings

On July 8th the Outpatient Program held its first ever graduation ceremony! CGE staff, alumni, family, and friends came to celebrate and honor 6 clients who no longer need substance use services due to their hard work and commitment.

During the ceremony graduates shared poems and artwork they created throughout their journey that helped them to articulate emotions during moments of triumph and struggle. Their peers, family, and CGE staff spoke to the graduates and expressed how proud they were of their accomplishments.



A few months later, on September 2nd, the Outpatient Program hosted another inaugural event—the CGE first Annual Recovery Day!

Program staff created the event to kick off National Recovery Month to increase awareness, educate, celebrate recovery, and de-stigmatize addiction.

The day was a huge success and highlighted a

variety of speakers from community partners such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and A-Non who addressed critical topics like trauma, co-dependency, and domestic violence to community members, CGE clients, and staff.

We are incredibly proud of all the hard work our clients do to change the path they were down. And while they put in the effort, the opportunity to change may never have been possible without the help of our donors and supports—so thank you and take a bow!

Their success solidifies that the power of treatment can most certainly lead to change and new beginnings—we cannot wait to see just how far our graduates

and clients will go! We rely on the constancy of our donors to sustain our life changing programs.

Please consider making a gift or becoming a monthly donor by using the enclosed envelope or by clicking the “Donate Now” button on our website, [www.cge-nj.org](http://www.cge-nj.org). Every bit helps, and together, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of those we serve.



## Paying it Forward

How can the wonderful aroma of oatmeal, sugar and chocolate chip cookies be part of a service project to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?



On Monday, January 19th, our mothers made cookie dough, and carried cookie sheets of ready to bake cookies to our neighbors at McCarrick Care Center, just across our parking lot! For one client, not only was it the first time she baked cookies- she learned to make them from scratch, and boy, were they a hit!

While the cookies were baking, the mothers and their children socialized with the residents and read sections of the Emancipation Proclamation as well as Martin Luther King, Jr's “I Have a Dream” speech. In answer to a famous Dr. King, Jr. quote, “*Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’*”, we know the answer: ***no matter what is going on in our own lives, reaching out to help others is always the right thing to do!***

## A year in Review ...2014

- 10 newborns—6 boys and 4 girls
- 7 Mother/Baby Reunifications
- 4 Mothers attending High School, 2 will graduate in 2015
- 1 Mother successfully obtaining her High School Diploma
- 3 Mothers attending College
- 7 Mothers Successfully completing the Program
- 21 Outpatient graduates
- 16 Permanent Supportive Housing units filled
- 12 Mothers in PSH are successfully maintaining full or part-time employment

**RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS**

Residential treatment for homeless, pregnant adolescents, and their children; And homeless pregnant women with substance use disorders, and their children.

**OUTPATIENT PROGRAM**

Pregnant and/or parenting women with substance use and/or co-occurring disorders.

**PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**

16 apartment homes and supportive services for successful graduates and their children.



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If you would prefer to receive correspondences electronically, please email us at [info@cge-nj.org](mailto:info@cge-nj.org)



**2015 Calendar**

April 4	Run to Overcome 5K – Mercer County Park
May 10	Mother's Day
June 6	CGE Annual Reunion
July 9	Ken Daneyko Golf Classic
Sept 13	Grandparent's Day
Oct	Outreach Event, St. Mary's Stony Hill, Watchung
Nov 13	CGE Gala – Fiddler's Elbow CC, Bedminster
Nov	Outreach Event, Our Lady of the Mount, Warren

- Conduct a **Wish List drive** – diapers, wipes and crib sheets are at the top of our list, but just the beginning
  - Organize a **fundraiser** – donations & gift cards, host a party at home, run a car wash, collect change for the Center
  - Be an **Ambassador** – introduce the Center and distribute our newsletters to your friends, house of worship, workplace
  - Make an **online donation** now: [www.cge-nj.org](http://www.cge-nj.org)
  - **Matching gifts** from your employer can double your donations all year long
  - **Volunteer** - we have a need for your skills Engage your **children in stewardship** – looking for a school, scout, religious ed or mitzvah project? Give us a call!
  - **Join us** at our upcoming events – like the Golf Outing!
  - **Donate a car** to benefit the Center
  - **Planned Giving** - have you considered leaving a gift to the Center in your will?
- Email [info@cge-nj.org](mailto:info@cge-nj.org) or call (732) 247-7003 x32.*