



The Center for Great Expectations

Embracing change. Empowering futures.

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Center News

Volume 31, Fall 2015

CGE Recognized - Again!



In July the Center was the only awardee selected by the NJ Department of Children and Families to expand our Permanent Supportive Housing program by 10 more families! The new Women's Intensive Supporting Housing (WISH) program will add to our current 16 families at AvalonSomerset, as we try to locate ten safe, welcoming rental units in New Brunswick and other nearby locations – please let us know if you can help.

Early September brought great news for our Outpatient Program in New Brunswick, which has been serving CGE graduates and the local community for the last 5 years. CGE has been awarded a federal grant by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association (SAMHSA) for approximately \$500,000 a year for the next 3 years. This grant will allow us to expand critical services to over 100 adults from the greater New Brunswick area who are struggling with substance use and mental health disorders. We were the only organization in N.J., and only one of 24 in the country, to receive this grant!

Two soon-to-be-released documentaries will feature CGE – one from a Star Ledger videographer, and another from our friends at MSG Networks. Thanks to our great supporter and NJ Devil announcer Ken Daneyko, who made the latter introduction and recently visited the Center to meet our families and see how CGE has grown!

Learning to Change Their Future

If you can, imagine a childhood with incredible instability. You've been taken away from your mother – the only parent you've known. You're surrounded by strangers, including a foster care family; enrolled in a new school; your siblings are gone, you have no friends. Instead of receiving love and understanding, you are abused. You run away. And the cycle starts again, with new strangers, new school, more trauma.

This is a story shared by many of our adolescent mothers. The Center provides individualized, trauma-informed care to help each young mother realize her past does not dictate her future, and to assist her in developing the tools to change her life, and her child's future.

Celebrating Success! 2015 to Date

- 9 Healthy births!
- 5 Pregnant young women
- 7 Reunifications of mother & child
- 15 Successful Program 'Graduates'
- 4 Adult Moms awaiting PSH apartments
- 6 Adolescents attending Education, Inc.
- 1 Adolescent attending High School
- 1 Adolescent working fulltime

To respond to the needs of our current clients, our clinical team has selected Education Inc. to provide home schooling to our adolescent mothers. Education Inc. helps transition children from a clinical setting back into a public school setting without jeopardizing their education. We find the services being offered extremely rewarding for our clients especially those with extensive trauma, and who have lived in multiple locations. Erica Stanley, the program's Assistant Manager, tells us "the clients find the one on one interaction with the teacher valuable. I can foresee this boosting our clients' self-esteem through their classroom accomplishments! #EmbracingChangeEmpoweringFutures



Friday, November 13th – Join us as we celebrate “Building Bright Futures” at our 16th annual Gift of Hope Gala – call today!

A Day for Sharing instead of Spending

Giving Tuesday – if you haven’t heard, it’s the first Tuesday following those crazed post-Thanksgiving shopping days. This year its *Tuesday, December 1st* - a global call to action to stop and help, or make a commitment to help. A reminder of Thanksgiving’s “attitude of gratitude” as we head toward our holidays. Mark the date, and remember to either donate to CGE online, or reach out to CGE to see how you can help. It’s that easy!

*“We make a living by what we get.
We make a life by what we give.” – Winston Churchill*



Your Helping Hand is Needed!



AmazonSmile – Holiday or any day shopping?

*Here’s a simple way to direct Amazon donations our way! Just log on to smile.amazon.com, quickly sign up, and select CGE using our name or TID# 22-3560158. Your shopping experience is identical to Amazon, but for **every purchase you make, AmazonSmile will make a donation to Great Expectations!***

Monthly Giving – \$1 a day, or \$30 a month is about the cost of a daily cup of coffee or a casual dinner out. Be a constant source of hope and return this envelope with your information or go to www.cge-nj.org and sign up for a ‘Recurring Donation’.

United Way – You can direct your United Way campaign giving to benefit Great Expectations – use our Tax ID#: 22-3560158!

Matching Gifts – **Your company can double, even triple, your gift!** Chubb, BMS, ExxonMobil, John Hancock, IBM, J&J, Merck, Prudential, Tyco, Goldman Sachs, just to name a few.

Donation Drives – **Does your company, school, community group or house of worship do these? Whether its for holiday or any day, sign CGE up! We’ll help you along, and thanks to you so many more people will connect with our mission!**

Advocating for Adolescents



Meet Erica Stanley Pulliam, who in May 2015 became our new Assistant Program Manager of the Adolescent Program, after serving as a Residential Associate since December 2012. “I believe the opportunity to work in both roles with my teammates has given me the advantage to bridge Support and Clinical staff. I enjoy motivating both staff and clients. Back in June I started sending weekly motivation and self-care tips to our Adolescent staff. For CGE’s staff to be as amazing as we are to our clients, we have to take care of and spend time with ourselves.”

Erica oversees our new Education Inc. initiative, facilitates Morning Check-Ins and Life Skills groups with clients and has an overall responsibility for ensuring client safety and success. Additional responsibilities include tracking statistical data, monitoring policies and procedures, and

ensuring the program operates under all state contractual requirements.

A full time senior at Pillar College majoring in Psychology and Counselling, Erica looks forward to receiving her BA in May 2016 and plans for an MA in Marriage and Family Counselling.

“I believe I am at CGE to plant seeds in the client lives that we service. It is my hope daily that someone else will water the seed that I planted and within time they will blossom into their life purpose. My passions to help someone else reach their full potential and assisting them to find their self-worth drives me daily. The greatest reward for me at CGE is witnessing growth - from potty training, to a successful discharge from the program. One of my favorite quotes is from Maya Angelou - “My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.”



Fore!

The sun was shining on our golfers as they hit the course for a shotgun start at Suburban Golf Club on

July 9th. The fun included a putting contest, 50/50 raffle, closest to the pin, longest drive, and more. After the round, everyone enjoyed a fabulous dinner and exciting auction. Kenny Daneyko shared his commitment to CGE's families and was followed by a young mother from our adult program who shared her painful history and the challenges she has overcome with CGE's help. Her story, and the strong, loving bond between her and her daughter, was inspiring to all.

Doors Opening Soon!

We are almost ready to welcome four more adolescents and more children! Despite experiencing delays that were both out of our control, and somewhat costly, our expansion team (who we are honoring at our Nov. 13th Gala) has gone above and beyond. The exterior is complete, lighting fixtures are being place, and flooring is being laid. Watch for an announcement on a Building Dedication that should be coming soon! There are also many opportunities to assist – we need help preparing common rooms, study/computer hall, Katy's Place and more. Please contact us to find our more at (732) 247-7003 x33 or info@cge-nj.org.



Volunteer Highlight – Picture Perfect, in every way!



There's a special day each November when our homes are abuzz with excitement. Hairdryers hum as our young mothers help each other do their hair, then makeup and nails. Volunteers locate that special outfit for each mother and child. The energy is electric, because each November, for the past 5 years, Chris

Polacco of Picture Perfect Photography transforms our conference room into a professional photography studio. His patience and professionalism are a gift, as each young woman and baby receives their own photo session to find that perfect picture!

When Chris Polacco was selected to photograph our 2010 Gala, little did we know that the speech he heard that night, from a young mother who bravely shared her personal story of how CGE changed her life, would change Chris' life as well. "It touched my heart, and more importantly, moved me to take action."

Chris returns during our special December gift wrapping party, to give each mother a collection of her favorite image that captures this joyful time in her life. For all, this is a first. When Chris hands them their present – photos of all sizes, a CD of all their images, and a heartfelt note (inset)– huge smiles break out as they open their package and proudly share their cherished gift with all present.

Chris' generosity continues - he has donated a portrait and sitting (pets included!) to the Auction of our November 13th Gala, where he will once again capture our evening in photographs. As Chris suggests, "The hugs, the thank yous, the tears of joys, bring home what the season is all about, what we are all about. Love, service and helping each other. What can be better than that?"

To find out more about Chris, check www.PicturePerfectPhotoOnline.com, or call Chris at his Clinton location at (908) 730-0900.

"I wanted to include this little message to wish you and those you love, a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, and a Happy Kwanzaa. You have been given a very precious gift in the form of the little ones you now take care of and love. You have shown incredible bravery, and resiliency to seek the help you needed to give your little ones a better life. It's not easy to break the chains that were handed to you by your circumstances and seek something better for yourselves and your children, but you're doing it! You have touched my heart, and I am so proud and honored to be able to give you this small gift. It is my hope for you that you will always look at these photos with a sense of love, a sense of gratitude for the life that you helped create. You have the power to give that precious little one the things that weren't given to you, the power to make their world a place of love, security and possibility. God bless you and all the little children of the world."

Chris Polacco
Picture Perfect Photography

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

Homeless pregnant/parenting adolescents;
Homeless pregnant/parenting women with
substance use disorders; their children

KATY'S PLACE

On-site, licensed Child Development Center

OUTPATIENT PROGRAM

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

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Apartment homes and supportive services
for successful graduates and their children



If you would prefer to receive correspondences electronically,
please email us at info@cge-nj.org



Thank you! Falgi Carting; Raritan Self Storage; AvalonBay Communities, Woodbridge & Somerset; Sterling Pointe, Somerset; Rho Chapter Delta Kappa, Whitehouse; Molly Pitcher Stitchers; United Way Bridgewater; Community Baptist Church, Somerset; PSE&G; Conti Group, Edison; Kearns Funeral Home, Whitehouse; Oak Tree Quilters, Morristown; Earth Angels Prayer Group, Somerset; Rutgers Cancer Institute of NJ, New Brunswick; Empower Family Success, Somerset; Quarterback & Ziggs Battiste, Plainfield; Lumen Institute, Summit; GS Troop 60255, Hillsborough; Café Amici, Somerset; Wegmans Bridgewater; Healthy Mama Maternal Science, Inc; Knitting & Quilting Club, Christ the Redeemer Church, Manville; L'Oreal USA; MFG APSS, Monmouth Junction; Popup Beauty Shop, Highland Park; Janssen Pharmaceutical; Our Lady of Lourdes Religious Ed, Whitehouse Station; First Baptist Church Lincoln Gardens, Somerset; ShopRite, Somerset; Norwescap; Middle Earth Career Development

How You Can Help

- Sign up to receive our Critical Needs email blast – no obligation, maybe you can help!
- Holiday drives are coming – suggest CGE to your corporate HR or community outreach office!
- Be an Ambassador – introduce Great Expectations to your company, church and friends
- Volunteer - Join our Gala or Golf Committees
- Donate your car – it doesn't need to be working to help!
- Become a monthly donor – a small but constant gift is significant to us!
- Organize an event for CGE – call us with your idea (732) 247-7003 x33

Call Noreen at 732-247-7003 x25 or email nwhitemore@cge-nj.org for more information.

2015 - 2016 Calendar

- Oct 24/25 Outreach Event, St. Mary's Stony Hill, Watchung
- Nov 13 CGE Gala – Fiddler's Elbow Country Club, Bedminster
- Nov Outreach Event, Our Lady of the Mount, Warren
- Nov 26 Thanksgiving – an attitude of gratitude!
- Dec 25 Christmas – Our Babies' first – and Moms' too!
- May 1 Moms & Babies Luncheon, St. Matthias, Somerset
- May Run to Overcome 5K, Mercer County Park
- May 10 Mother's Day
- June CGE Annual Reunion
- July 14 Ken Daneyko Golf Classic

