



The Center for Great Expectations

Embracing change. Empowering futures.

19B Dellwood Lane
Somerset, NJ 08873
P (732) 247-7003
F (732) 247-7043
info@cge-nj.org
www.cge-nj.org

Center News

Volume 33, Late Summer 2016

A CGE Milestone!



We are so proud - Great Expectations just received a 3 year accreditation from CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) for our Residential Treatment Programs for Adults, Adolescents and Children, and Outpatient/Intensive Outpatient Programs!

This achievement is the culmination of an over 18 month project to prepare for the actual audit of organizational and programmatic processes and procedures. Our thanks to the dedicated staff that collaborated (here is a picture of just some of them!) with the support of Dr. Loran Vocaturo, CGE's Clinical Consultant. The mission of CARF is to "promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process

and continuous improvement services that center on enhancing the lives of persons served".

What does this all mean? "For our clients", Dr. Debbie Ruisard, CGE's Clinical Director, proudly shared, "accreditation affirms what we've believed all along – that CGE makes a specific commitment to putting the needs of our clients at the center of everything we do". Peg Wright, CGE Founder and President/CEO, continued, "CARF accreditation demonstrates that CGE is guided by internationally recognized service standards and best practices. We are committed to ongoing consultation and onsite reviews to assure the highest possible quality."

"We want all of our stakeholders to celebrate this – our clients; our staff and volunteers; our community and clinical partners; our local, state and federal government; and our incredible donors. When we say CGE is a 'safe place', it starts with our clients, and continues through to our donors and supporters, who can feel assured that their donations – from spare change to in-kind donations, from monthly sustainers to event support, from grants to major gifts – support our nonprofit that embraces being held to this high standard!"

Celebrating Success – a CGE Snapshot

Adult Program: 8 mothers in treatment

5 infants under 1 year old

1 pending reunification with 3mo daughter

1 newborn on July 29th – welcome Ayda!

Adolescent Program: 12 teens in treatment

3 teens expecting

3 teens preparing for GED

1 newborn on August 11th!

Supportive Housing: 28 apartment homes for 28 mothers and 51 children

Outpatient: Over 80+ Clients currently receiving treatment

From a Client at home in CGE Supportive

Housing: "If it wasn't for the blessings I received through CGE, I probably would have lost all hope and wouldn't be here. Instead, I get to be the mom my boys deserve. I love me." MS

Bright Futures

Saturday, June 11th was our **8th annual Reunion!**

Empowered former clients returned with their beautiful children and joined staff, current clients, volunteers and Trustees for an outdoor "Fiesta!" themed celebration that included a piñata, face painting, spin art, sno-cones, a delicious lunch and more! One current resident shared, "I can't believe that next year I will be able to come back to this reunion with my son. All these moms that came back today are so open in sharing, it's so nice not to feel judged. They are telling me that I can make it and I believe I can!" Each family received a special portrait to remember the day thanks to the generous time and effort of Trustee Bob Bridgeman and his wife Pat.

Faith, a client from 5 years earlier, arrived with her son Nick directly from his morning soccer game. As we thanked her for fitting the reunion in to her busy Saturday, she smiled, "**I would never miss this reunion. CGE is where my journey began and I am forever grateful. This will always be our home!**"



CGE Events - Funding our Families' Progress!



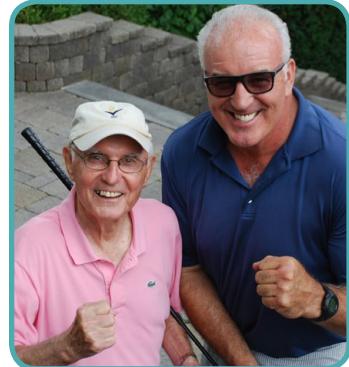
In addition to our fundraisers providing basic needs and programs for our families, did you know that they help introduce CGE to more people and businesses in the community? That's why we need your support!

Ken Daneyko Golf Classic

For almost 2 decades CGE friend Ken Daneyko, former NJ Devils defenseman and current NJ Devils broadcaster, has been behind our annual golf



fundraiser now named in his honor! This year over 100 golfers joined Kenny on Thursday, July 14th at beautiful Suburban Golf Club in Union, NJ, at the **Ken Daneyko Golf Classic** in support of Great Expectations. A great welcome was extended by the NJ Devil himself and NJ Devil's Fan Club President Trudy Stetter as golfers registered for a fun-filled day and headed to brunch, warm-ups, and the ever-competitive Putting Contest. By the end of the day our two 'hole-in-one' cars - thanks to Fullerton Ford and JMK BMW - were left unclaimed, but many other prizes were awarded, including a 50/50 and a new "highest gross score" that went to a proud but tired foursome who got the most swings in through 18 holes! The exciting auction included a Live Broadcast experience with Kenny,



a luxury box for a Devils game at the Pru Center, a Chef's Table for 6 at Verve, and more. Thanks to all event supporters, including Kenny's friends and our sports celebrities - the NJ Devil, Gerry Cooney, Bart Oates, Dean Gemmell, Brian Propp, Matt Loughlin, EJ Hradek, and NJ Devils Head Coach John Hynes and coaching staff Alain Nasreddine, Chris Terrieri, and Ryan Clowe. Always the highlight – our client MS, who courageously shared her battle with addiction, incarceration and homelessness, and the success she embraces today thanks to Great Expectations. **"I came into the program homeless, broken and scared. I left feeling loved, strong, full of life and most of all, confident."** A standing ovation from the room affirmed MS in her knowledge that the future is full of opportunities for her and her child!



Our thanks to Kenny and his friends for their support, and Ed Stankiewicz, our CGE Trustee for again leading this event.

Interested in getting involved with next year's event?
Call Ed at 908-930-9355 for more info!



Moms & Babies Luncheon Empowered women joined together on Sunday, May 1st, as friends from St. Matthias Church in Somerset hosted our **annual Moms & Babies Luncheon**. An exciting auction and delicious luncheon provided the perfect backdrop for a CGE mom who shared how our programs and clinicians helped turn her challenges into her successes today! Smaller events like these make an incredible impact – both in raising funds and awareness. Do you know



more compassionate women looking to make a difference with their time and talent? Email us today and let's talk!



Run to Overcome On Saturday, April 23rd, the **3rd Annual "Run to Overcome"** was held at Johnson Park in Piscataway, NJ. Our sincere thanks to our friends at Hamilton-based H4B Catapult who again planned and ran the entire event! Over \$8,000 was raised to benefit our families! We need your help in growing this now-local event, so watch for next year's date and bring your family and friends and join CGE's mothers, children, staff, Trustees and volunteers as we walk & run in support of the life-saving programs at the Center.





GIFT OF *hope* GALA

SAVE *the* DATE

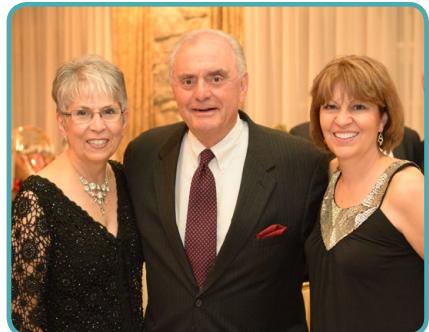
Friday, October 21, 2016

6:00 – 11:00 PM

Fiddler's Elbow Country Club
Bedminster, NJ



Make your reservation now! Friday, October 21st, for CGE's biggest fundraiser of the year – the Gift of Hope Gala! Exciting news - this year we are honoring the NJ Devils & Pru Center as Humanitarians of the Year; St. Mary's –Stony Hill for Outstanding Service; and Mary Jean DiRoberto, Whitehouse Station resident and parishioner of Our Lady of Lourdes, who is



our Volunteer of the Year. How can you be a part of this great event? Sponsor a table, bring your friends, buy an ad, and connect us with a great auction item – always exciting are event tickets, dinners to your favorite restaurant, vacation stays, electronics, and

more! Join us at Fiddler's Elbow to dance and dine the night away, bid on exciting auction items and raise funds and awareness for CGE. Please contact Allison Lavallato at alavallato@cge-nj.org or (732) 247-7003 x33 to make your reservation, and find out more about our events.



Prudential Center



Please sign up to help me & mommy today!

Critical Needs – Find out each month what shelves are empty! Just share your email with info@cge-nj.org and you decide when you can help.

Monthly Giving – Just \$1 a day or \$10 each month provides a constancy for our families – join our sustaining group of monthly donors – just return this envelope with your information or go to www.cge-nj.org and sign up for a 'Recurring Donation'.

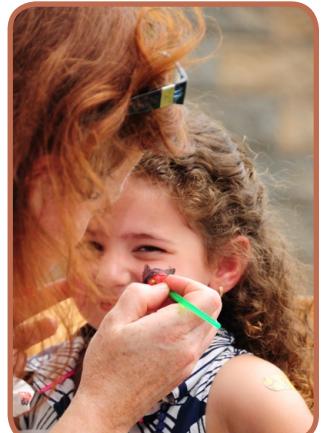
Car Donations – With very limited resources, our Supportive Housing clients need donations of used cars to facilitate their return to school or a new job. Can you help?

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 – and may even donate based on volunteer time! BMS, ExxonMobil, John Hancock, IBM, J&J, Merck, Prudential, Tyco, Goldman Sachs, just to name a few.

 **AmazonSmile** – Your online shopping through AmazonSmile will benefit CGE at no cost to you! Just log on to smile.amazon.com, 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!

Be an Ambassador – Share the opportunity to help Great Expectations! When you receive our emails, forward them to your children & friends. **Suggest CGE to your company's corporate outreach program, dress down days and donation drives!**



Embracing Change. Empowering Futures.

Volunteer Corner



Meet Rich Sroczynski - a new volunteer this year, introduced thanks to his wife Arlene, a long-time volunteer at Katy's Place, our Child Development Center. Rich has been assigned a very special mission – helping out with our toddlers! “I’m the new

kid on the block, and their acceptance of me has built my confidence with them. They are all adorable, all very loving, obviously well cared for...and just a joy. As we integrate supporting their developmental needs, the children are doing an amazing job - at teaching me how to play!”

Each day when Rich arrives there’s a certain young man who greets him with a yell of joy – and that’s Christopher, who with his mother Chardonney, joined us in 2013, when he was just 6 months and she had just turned 15 years old. As his mom earned her high school diploma, and learned the life and parenting skills needed for their future together, “Topher” has spent some of his early childhood days at Katy’s Place – and has developed a special connection with Rich, who shared how impressed he is with the amazing bond Chardonney has nurtured with her son. “Topher is full of life and energy, and has a natural inquisitiveness and curiosity that his mother continues to encourage. He has a bright future ahead of him.” No one believes this more than Chardonney. “I love that my son gets to spend time with Mr. Rich, who loves him and enjoys playing with him – Topher loves being adventurous and exploring everything outside.”

When the answer to “Is today a Mr. Rich day?” is “YES!”, Chardonney says Topher gets so excited. What does Topher like best about Mr. Rich? “Dump trucks and snakes!” he screams. Asked if Mr. Rich makes him happy, Topher smiled a HUGE smile.

Building a Bright Future – Together!

Congratulations to Chardonney on receiving her diploma from Franklin High School on June 23, 2016!

As Lisa Zaneto, CGE’s Adolescent Program Manager, tells us, “While at CGE, Chardonney has grown into an accomplished, loving, creative, and fun-to-be-around mother! Her dedication to her son shows daily in her perseverance to accomplish her goals. The past year she was asked to serve on the NJ Youth Conference Committee and was even given a conference topic to present to a group of her peers. Simultaneously, she was also elected president of the CDI Headstart Parent Policy Council of Somerset County, an honored position. We are so very excited for her next steps of attaining her own



apartment, although her presence will greatly be missed at the Adolescent Program!

What’s their next step for success? Our amazing clinical team, committed to supporting them in this next chapter, has secured a housing voucher that will provide a new home and case management services in CGE’s Supportive Housing program.

“We could not be prouder of what Chardonney has achieved – growing from the young teen mother we first met, to a young woman who is clearly so committed to her son and has excelled in her high school career. She demonstrates the hard work, trust, love and joy it takes to be successful.” With CGE’s Supportive Housing providing the safe, stable foundation for this young family to take the next right step into their future, Peg continued “This is why expanding the Center’s continuum of care is so critical – all of our young families deserve this: a safe home and the support they need to assure a healthy foundation and future.

In Our Clients’ Words

“This is the best thing to ever happen to me. CGE is a God-send. Thank you for developing such a great, supportive, intensive, nurturing and thorough program of recovery. I can’t thank you enough.”

~ Anonymous Client Survey

“If it wasn’t for the blessing I received through CGE I probably would have lost all hope and wouldn’t be here. Instead I get to be the mom my boys deserve. I love me.”

~ MS

“If it wasn’t for the Center for Great Expectations I wouldn’t have my daughter back in my care or be working on myself as a whole. I’m very grateful and would suggest this program to another woman that suffers from the disease of addiction.”

~ JP



Outreach Efforts Helping our Families!

- The energy and empathy of our young supporters never ceases to impress! We've been wowed by the Girl Scouts – including Troop 2224, led by Theresa Benvenuto and introduced by Amy DaSilva, who provided art supplies, introduced Wompy, a music program for children, and donated 20 'Birthday in a Bag' gifts complete with a small gift card for our moms; Aida and her friends, bringing the gift of music to Katy's Place, and Anna, who

created a reading nook for our children; or Ryan a student from St. Thomas in Old Bridge who took the initiative to collect donations of food, diapers and baby wipes for our moms and their children
Do you have an idea to help our moms and their children?

- During the summer our donations slowww down. This year we emailed out a call for help – announcing we were **"Desperate for Diapers – and other help!"** Many churches and organizations forwarded this news to their communities, and we were so grateful to those that responded. If you didn't get a chance yet, it's not too late! A Gift Card or cash donation will allow us to purchase exactly what our babies and mothers need, at the right time – thank you!



- Our Lady of Perpetual Help** in Bernardsville has selected Great Expectations to benefit from their stewardship in honor of this Year of Mercy. Multiple ministries, as well as the school, have already assisted us during the year, and continue to do so. Thanks you Monsignor Fell for this incredible blessing for our families and Ministries Coordinator Anne Lynch for her gracious support in organizing these ongoing efforts!

- Janssen** employee and long-time CGE friend Wendella Carryl not only connects us with Janssen grants, days of service, and product donations, she also volunteers with co-workers, providing our mothers with a special evening each month!
- Hunterdon-based Tournament Housing Services (THS)** has sponsored day trips for our Supportive Housing families to places like the Crayola Factory and Aquarium. From providing transportation, a little spending money for a souvenir, lunch out, and joining in on the fun, they are committed to helping our families make happy memories!
- Great Expectations was chosen to benefit from donations at the NJ Bankers' **Women in Banking** Conference on Wednesday, April 6th at the Somerset Palace. Peg Wright shared the mission of CGE to the few hundred in attendance, and we continue to connect with these empowered women with the goal of helping our families!

- Bill Spadea of NJ 101.5 has hosted CGE twice this year** on his morning radio program! April 27th CEO/President Peg Wright and Clinical Director Dr. Debbie Ruisard spoke on the heroin crisis, and on June 30th they again joined Bill as he interviewed Kenny Daneyko about his commitment to Great Expectations and our golf outing.



April also brought very exciting news from **Victory Subaru of Somerset**, who had selected CGE as their 'Hometown Hero' in Subaru's annual "Share the Love" Event... CGE was presented with checks totaling over \$30,000! Our thanks to the owners and staff of Victory Subaru, Subaru of America, and the many new Subaru owners who selected CGE to receive their Subaru donation.

- Upcoming Outreach: Janssen Day of Caring; AvalonBay Communities Day of Service; St. Mary's Stony Hill; St. Joseph's Hillsborough; MetLife-Bridgewater; Connect your group or organization, be the catalyst! Consider a gift card drive or contact Noreen with your idea nwhitttemore@cge-j.org or x25.

Want to keep on top of our news? "Like us" on facebook, follow us on Twitter and Instagram, and sign up for our newsletter at info@cge-nj.org !



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
- Donate your car!
- Become a monthly donor – a small but constant gift is BIG to us!

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

2016 Calendar

- Sep 9 CGE Staff Retreat
Sep 10 CGE Family Day
Sep 14 Janssen Day of Caring
Sep 16 AvalonBay Communities Service Day at CGE
Sep 22 "Women at the Wheel" sponsored by Citrin Cooperman, benefiting CGE
Sept 29 CGE Board Meeting
Oct 1-2 St. Mary's StonyHill weekend/Baby Shower
Oct 21 Gift of Hope Gala, Fiddlers Elbow, Bedminster
Oct 29-30 St. Joseph's Hillsborough weekend/Baby Bottle Drive
Jan 2017 Our Lady of the Mount, Warren weekend

Add to our calendar! Organize an event for CGE – call us with your idea (732) 247-7003 x33



Thank you to all who shared with our families including:

Falgi Carting; Raritan Self Storage; Tournament Housing Services; MMOG Friday Night Cooks; Community Baptist Church; Ancient Order of Hibernians; Girl Scouts; Boy Scouts; Our Lady of Victories Rosary Altar Society; Community Christian Academy & Preschool Somerset; Jacobs Well Church Somerset; NJ Bankers Association; Bank of Princeton; The Provident Bank Foundation; Gennaro's; Sunshine Committee Garden State Quilters; Molly Pitcher Stitchers; Christ the Redeemer Church Knitting & Quilting Club; NCADD; First Solar; Wendella/Janssen/ J&J Products; Catholic Daughters of the Americas Woodbridge; St James Church-Home School Assn Woodbridge; St James Rosary Altar Society Basking Ridge; St John Neumann Church Califon; St Mary's Church of Czestochowa-Bound Brook; St Matthias Loaves & Fishes; St Augustine of Canterbury Outreach Ministry/Giving Cross; St Augustine of Canterbury Columbiettes; Our Lady of Perpetual Help; School of St Elizabeth; Our Lady of the Mount; Sterling Pointe Women's Club; Mary Kay; Alpha Delta Kappa Int'l Fords NJ; Wegmans; The Ronald McDonald House; Café Amici; Brandeis; United Way of Essex and West Hudson; St Vincent de Paul Queenship of Mary; Knights of Columbus Queenship of Mary; Popcorn Zoo



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

Clients with substance use and/or co-occurring disorders

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

28 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

