



The Center for Great Expectations

Embracing change. Empowering futures.

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Center News

Volume 34, Late Winter 2017

CGE in the National Spotlight!



CGE's expertise in and commitment to Trauma-Informed Care has been affirmed! September 1st, 2016 brought the much-anticipated news that CGE was selected for a federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to become a member of the National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative! CGE is one of only three in the state, and 1 of 54 nationwide to receive this 5 year, \$400,000/year, award in 2016!

Under the leadership of Clinical Director, Dr. Debbie Ruisard, CGE will launch as a Community Treatment and Service (CTS) Center, delivering the evidence-based ARC (Attachment, Self-Regulation & Competency) intervention to CGE clients and improving access to these services for New Jersey families that have been exposed to traumatic experiences. *"We are excited to collaborate with other members regionally and nationally to train, develop and promote effective trauma treatment and services for this vulnerable population," shared Dr. Debbie* *"For the last 7 years, CGE has been leading with this innovative approach", said Peg Wright, CGE President. "CGE is honored to be selected as part of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN). This funding will allow us to refine and share our expertise in trauma-informed care, providing greater access to New Jersey's children, adolescents and families who have experienced traumatic events."*

Honored Guests & Holiday Visits!

At 11 a.m. on Friday, December 16th, Governor and First Lady Christie arrived at CGE, bearing gifts and sharing time. In addition to the much needed donations selected from our Needs List, they also sat with clients, staff, volunteers and Trustees, and listening: to the challenges of addiction and trauma, and how CGE's unique treatment model is successfully empowering clients. Just a few weeks later, Peg Wright, along with a client and her baby, were guests of the Governor at the State of the State address.



2016 Success

Residential – Adult & Adolescent:

Mothers served: 54
Children served: 46
Healthy Births: 17
Pregnancies: 23
Completions: 14

Supportive Housing:

Apartment homes: 28
Mothers served: 28
Children served: 56

Outpatient Treatment:

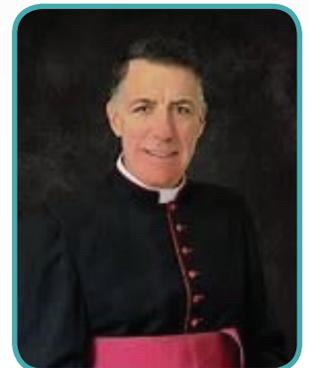
Client intakes (women and men): 225
Successful completions: 82

Miles driven in CGE vehicles during 2016: 82,796

A few days before Christmas, on December 21st, we were honored to welcome Bishop

James Checchio, recently installed Bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen, for a visit to our residential facilities in Somerset. Bishop Checchio graciously shared his Wednesday afternoon with a few Trustees and staff, before going on a tour of our facilities and meeting some clients along the way. In reflection, people shared their impressions: *"he seemed really interested", "great sense of humor", "he shared a great energy" and "truly genuine"*. His compassion and kindness were evident as he confidently held one of the babies in Katy's Place, our Child Development Center.

We feel blessed by his visit, and believe his gifts as a shepherd will have a life-affirming impact upon the diocese and our community.





Santa's Elves & Holiday Helpers

Late November and December bring busy days at Great Expectations! And we know that for those groups and individuals that commit to making our holidays happy, they are busy as early as September, planning how they can best help the many families we serve. Our sincere thanks to those who organize, gather, and deliver, and to the many people out there who

supported these drives and services – THANK YOU! Here are some of our many holiday supporters:

Time & Talent: Pillar College – holiday dinner for residential families \$300 in kind drive ; **Chris Polacco** – annual donation of Holiday Portraits; **AMWA** – provided Christmas cookies for a cookie decorating party with our moms; **David Wright** – dinner for both houses; **Medieval Times** tickets show and dinner; **Colonia HS** Students – sorted holiday donations; Wrapping party – joined for 2nd year by **Cathy Daly/Coughlin Duffy**- volunteer at annual Wrapping Party; **Stage House Tavern** – complementary dinner on Christmas for all clients and their children; and staff member **Rasheedah Hope**, House A RA Supervisor, and family – Christmas morning breakfast for all residential families!

Angel/Giving Trees and Holiday Drives: Havas, NYC; St. Matthias; OLMV – Middlesex; Our Lady of the Mount; Blessed Sacrament, Martinsville; Our Lady of Lourdes, Whitehouse Station; Mary Mother of God, Hillsborough; St. Charles Borromeo; St. James Basking Ridge; St. Augustine of Canterbury; Christian Community Chapel, Somerset; St. Bernard Clairvaux; Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scotch Plains; E.A. Boniakowski Insurance; International Playthings; Union Catholic High School – Student Council (Scotch Plains); Rockaway Reformed Church; Preschool of Whitehouse United Methodist Church; Knights of Columbus in Cranbury; School of St. Elizabeth/OLPH; Middlesex County College; United Way Somerset; My Life Foundation; Governor Christie & Press Office; Bright Horizons, Somerset; Franklin Township Parks & Rec; BMW Bridgewater; Costco; Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority – Omega & Epsilon Chapters; Hillsborough Point Quilt Guild.

A special thank you to Rutgers Against Hunger, who through their **Adopt-A-Family** program, 20 Residential families, 21 Supportive Housing families, and 20 Outpatient Families received presents for the holidays, including food, clothing, and toiletries. Sincere thanks to the various Rutgers departments and individuals who adopted CGE families, the Rutgers employees who volunteered to box and deliver, and Amanda Bialek, who organized this entire effort!



Ready, Set...Go OP!!



You may already know that our Outpatient Program (OP) received its second federal grant in 2015, providing 3 years of funding to expand OP services to women, and men, in the New Brunswick community. What you may not know is that by the time you read this, our staff will have moved from their current location in the St. Peter's Health Clinic on How Lane, to 303 George Street in downtown New Brunswick.

Why the excitement? In 2016 our OP Program had over 200 client intakes, in a space that is only 900 square feet! This new location of almost 2900 sq. ft. will immediately impact current and new clients as they benefit from our highly effective Trauma-Informed treatment model, while providing expanded space for individual & group counseling, HIV and Hepatitis C testing and referrals, and Parent Infant Mental Health. This location was chosen for its accessibility to clients and proximity to RWJ Primary Care, which is now referring patients to CGE's OP program as needed. Danielle Fredrickson, Outpatient Program Manager, shared how the OP team feels: *"We are all really excited about our upcoming move. This larger space will allow us to expand programming to better serve our current population and the community."*

Baby's First Steps

How can one pair of shoes help more than one child? Jim Curry of Whitehouse Station had it planned out as he carefully packaged them up and sent them to Noreen, who manages our donations. When Noreen opened the box she first saw a note that read, *"Enclosed are shoes previously used by my children or grandchildren. Hope you can use them for your girls."* Inside were the cutest pair of classic saddle shoes, clearly well cared for and gently worn. As she picked them up, she noticed something else – inside each shoe neatly rolled up was a \$100 bill!

What a loving and generous way to pass along this pair of shoes! We trust all those who have worn them, and the little ones who will wear them, and those who have benefited from this very thoughtful donation, will continue to be blessed in taking their next right step! Thank you Jim for all you've done and continue to do to support our families!



We hope you enjoy staying informed on CGE updates! Would you prefer to receive our newsletters via email, saving us postage and printing costs? Please email us at info@cge-nj.org to let us know, or use the enclosed donation envelope to drop us a note and include your email address. We always welcome your thoughts or feedback!



Angels at the Gala

Every year our *Gift of Hope Gala* honors dedicated individuals and groups who have gone above and beyond in their support of CGE, both in past and future.

This year's gala was no exception, and on Friday, October 21st, CGE Trustees, staff and supporters gathered at the beautiful Fiddler's Elbow Country Club as we presented our *Humanitarian of the Year Award* to **Hugh Weber, President of the New Jersey Devils and Prudential Center**, who accepted this award honoring his organization.

Fr. Brian Nolan accepted the *Outstanding Service Award* on behalf of **St. Mary's-Stony Hill, Watchung**, a parish community who continues to be an inspiration in selfless giving, both through ministry and individual support. Our *Volunteer of the Year*, **Mary Jean DiRoberto of Whitehouse Station**, was honored for sharing tremendous time and talent, having graciously co-chaired past Moms & Babies



Luncheons, and now leads our Katy's Place Childcare Team. Master of Ceremonies **Bill Spadea of NJ101.5** and his colleague **Jessica Nutt**, both of **Chasing News**, energized the crowd with auction and 50/50 updates throughout the evening. As always, the highlight was our Adult program graduate, and current Supportive Housing client MS, who shared "Thanks to CGE, I am the mom my boys deserve".



It was indeed a celebration for the NJ Devils organization, including an address by our NJ Devil friend Kenny Daneyko, who shared his history with the Devils, his journey in leading a sober life, and the respect and love he has for CGE. Upon accepting his award, Hugh Weber shared his organization's commitment to #OneJersey and affirmed that our Gala was 'just the beginning' of his organization's commitment to CGE!



Save these 2017 Dates!

Mothers' Day Virtual Luncheon
May 12 – 15

Annual Ken Daneyko Golf Classic
Thursday, July 13th

Gift of Hope Gala
Friday, November 3rd



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!**

Which brings us to the Pru Center on Thursday night, December 22nd, where the NJ Devils shut out the Philadelphia Flyers 4 – 0 and **CGE was the Community Partner of the game!** Our 30 cheering CGE supporters in Section 1 were quickly rewarded with a visit from CGE friend/Devils color commentator Ken Daneyko, followed by Peg Wright heading for an on-air interview with WFAN's voice of the Devils, Matt Loughlin. During the game, CGE was highlighted on the jumbotron and announced as the beneficiary of the night's 50/50!

Thank you Hugh Weber and the NJ Devils/Prudential Center organization for this amazing experience and your commitment to CGE and the NJ families we serve. Our NJ Devils are CGE Angels! #OneJersey



Volunteer – Tournament Housing Services

Moving to Supportive Housing is “*really exciting, but kind of scary*”, we’re told by our clients. Running your first home, finding a job, studying, paying the bills, finding transportation and affordable daycare, being a provider and a nurturing mother...we understand, and so does **THS!**

Introducing **Tournament Housing Services (THS - www.thsweb.com)**, led by President Tom Berkman. In late 2015 this Hunterdon-based provider of hotel reservations for amateur sports teams



asked us how they could help our 12 WISH (Women’s Intensive Supportive Housing) families, and then they sprang into action! Soon our WISH families had some exciting Saturdays to look forward to – an April trip to the **Crayola Factory** in Easton, PA; a July visit to the **Adventure Aquarium** in Camden; a **Hayride with Pumpkin Picking** at Alstede Farms in Chester; and a **Christmas Party** at Maggiano’s with a visit from Santa and presents, too!



This company surely specializes in logistics, and Tom and his amazingly committed and compassionate staff shared their Saturdays, provided all transportation (27 mothers and children + staff!), tickets, and meals, and even gave each family spending money for a treat or memory!

“The women and children in the WISH program are so grateful for Tom’s generosity. They each said over and over again how much they appreciated his generous spirit which allowed them to spend quality time with their children. Each event that he sponsored was full of so much joy for each family and granted them the ability to participate in outings they otherwise wouldn’t have been able to; we are grateful to get to know Tom and the THS staff! Wonderful memories were made for all,” shared a very grateful Scarlet Gorton on behalf of our clients and the WISH team.

Can you think of a company or group that **you** know, who might be inspired to help our families in their journey? *Be our Ambassador, and suggest CGE for their outreach, and our Outreach Manager, Noreen Whittemore, will happily guide the next steps.* No matter the size or the industry, the introduction you make is the first step toward a future of potential diaper drives, jeans day, volunteer days, donations, and sponsorships!

Staff Highlights

How do we meet the needs of 20 residential families 365 days a year, with new families and babies arriving each week? Whether its baby showers, clothes and shoes, seasonal clothing, formula & bottles, diapers & baby wipes, food, bedding & bath needs, or the basics of undies and socks, we rely greatly on **your support** to meet this tremendous need. Add to that the critical needs of our 28 Supportive Housing families (with 57 children) and about 80 clients in the Outpatient Program...yes, we cannot do it alone!

So who manages the outreach for these items and the responsibility of making sure each family has the necessities to stay healthy and feel affirmed? Meet our **Inkind Donation team**, led by Noreen Whittemore, our Outreach/Inkind/Volunteer Manager. As Noreen connects with people like you for their kind support and introductions to interested groups and businesses, Pat Sommero, our Inkind Office Manager, and Alice Von der



Heide, our dedicated, long-time volunteer, sort through donations each day in a small office downstairs, often assisted by other volunteers. *“Pat and Alice make it happen – they review each family’s needs list - filling bags, preparing for birthdays (most of our clients have never celebrated a birthday) and holidays, finding the right size onesie, or pair of pants - and creating bed, bath and welcome kits to comfort new clients,”* Noreen shared.

Challenging? Noreen smiled. *“It can be, but we always believe that we will be able to provide. When we are out of a certain formula, or size of diaper, or even food, we post on facebook, and email people that have asked to be on our Critical Needs List, and miracles happen because of kind people. Understanding that we have limited storage space, many supporters donate gift cards, allowing us to purchase critical needs as soon as we are aware of them. We are so grateful for the amazing support we receive for our moms and children”.*

To join our no-obligation Critical Needs List, or inquire on volunteer opportunities, email nwhittemore@cge-nj.org and “like us” on facebook to keep up with CGE happenings, including #WishListWednesday!

Welcome to Our New Babies:

Babies born! WELCOME...

Nov 2nd – Gabriel
7lbs, 6oz (pictured)

Dec 16th – Elena Maria
5 lbs. 1oz (born 2 days
after admission to CGE!)

Dec 30th – Sienna Josephine
6lbs 3 oz. (pictured)



Join our **Moms & Babies Luncheon** this Mother’s Day weekend – **without even leaving home!** In appreciation of everyone’s busy schedule and past amazing efforts, we will launch our first online campaign to support our **CGE Mothers**. Honor the mothers and special women in your life by “buying a ticket” to this virtual event. We’re counting on past and new supporters to help us by forwarding this campaign to friends, family, and other supporters. Stay tuned for more information, and email Allison at alavallato@cge-nj.org with your questions!

Outreach – Expanding Our Circle of Supporters

The work we do at CGE is incredibly hard, but the rewards are unending. The outreach and support of others provides us with the energy and realization that we, and our clients, are not alone on this journey!

Each year **St. Mary's-Stony Hill** generously sponsors a **Baby Shower Weekend** for CGE. In early October of 2016, Trustee Mary Christian, President Peg Wright, and Recovery Specialist Yvette Weeks visited Masses and shared the challenges our young families face, and the positive impact of CGE's programs. That Sunday the mothers and children of our Residential Programs joined this community for a delicious early luncheon, where CGE was presented with over \$900 in Inkind donations and almost \$100 in Gift Cards. As a result of this opportunity, we were contacted by many parishioners, who said they were truly touched by what they heard, and wanted to help in many wonderful ways, both big and small, with promises of ongoing support and initial individual contributions totaling over \$5,000! Thank you to Fr. Brian for this commitment to CGE, and event co-chairs Linda Hyland and Nancy Finn.



When 2 ministries from **St. Joseph's Hillsborough** thoughtfully considered how to best help Great Expectations, they started with a generous Inkind Drive, and soon decided that a **Baby Bottle Change Drive** would make the most impact. Noreen, our Outreach Manager, visited the parish for the announcement and bottle distribution at Masses, and noticed an energy that was pervasive. Ministry members were greeting all parishioners as they left Mass, and each



happily took a bottle. One gentleman returned from the parking lot with a bottle packed with change and bills and pressed it into Noreen's hands, saying *"I'll be away the weekend of the collection, and I didn't want to miss this opportunity to help."* Thanks to Fr. Hank for his warm welcome and support of this event, as well as ministry leaders Carl Panzera and Michelle Lafoon, Great Expectations received checks totaling...\$7,244.61 - a Baby Bottle Blast!

Over a year ago, as Peg Wright was researching New Brunswick locations for a new home for our Outpatient Program, she met Gina Minard of **Ross Industries**. Little did she realize that by just sharing the mission of CGE during this encounter, Gina would be moved to help by surprising us with envelopes full of gift cards during Thanksgiving and Christmas. Proof that there are generous souls out there who just need their door to open to CGE!



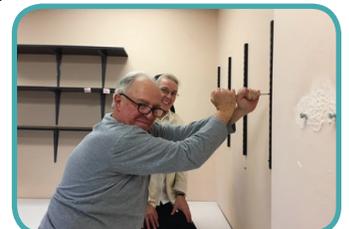
The Catholic *"Year of Mercy"* may have concluded, but the promise made at the beginning of that Year by the **Parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and the School of St. Elizabeth**, in Bernardsville has now extended into a mercy-fueled stewardship relationship that continues to benefit CGE and our families! SSE children, families, and faculty continually bless us with *service days, inkind drives (including 43 pillows!), and other fundraisers* that brought monetary donations! An energized effort of the Women's, Men's and Youth Ministries, along with Religious Education classes and with individuals from the parish family generously continue to share their time, talent and



treasure. And the children at Katy's Place experience a new kind of love from their new friend, Honeybelle, a certified therapy dog, and her owner Maureen.

You may have seen our Desperate for Diapers announcements in your emails or parish bulletin. The Nativity of Our Lord in Monroe responded on a parish level, and collected over \$900 and over \$1,000 in items from our Critical Needs List.

We hope that these stories might inspire you! By just sharing your interest in CGE with others, you could be the candle that lights others and kindles a call to action. There can be extraordinary impact when a few courageous people coordinate the efforts of those many people who are so willing to help but may need your encouragement! Please, join us.



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How You Can Help

- Sign up to receive our Critical Needs email blast – no obligation, maybe you can help!
- Suggest CGE to your corporate HR/community outreach or faith community – get us on their calendar!
- 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 nwhitemore@cge-nj.org for more information.

2017 Calendar

Feb 14	Valentine's Day
March 3	Glenis Redmond, Poet & Kennedy Center Teaching Artist
Mar 26	Yoga Dance Fundraiser, Honor Yoga/Hillsborough
May 12-15	Moms & Babies Online Luncheon
May 19	Avalon Spirit of Caring Day at CGE
June 27-29	ServiceWorx Students Days of Service
Jul 13	Ken Daneyko Annual Golf Classic
Nov 3	Gift of Hope Gala, Fiddlers Elbow

Add to our calendar! Consider organizing a fundraiser for CGE – call Allison with your idea at (732) 247-7003 x33



Thank you to those who help us throughout the year, including...

Falgi Carting; Raritan Self Storage; Janssesn; PSEG; MMOG Friday Night Cooks; Community Baptist Church; Ancient Order of Hibernians; St. Matthias; Parish of OLPH and School of St. Elizabeth; Tournament Housing Services (THS); International Playthings; Dr. Reddy's; Met Life employees; Brandeis Chapter Educators; AvalonBay Communities.

Picture: Surprise! We were in awe of this exquisite gingerbread house – delivered as a Christmas surprise and created by a young woman who is a graduate of our AdultWomen's Program. She and her young 1yr old son are now part of our Supportive Housing program, and she is taking culinary classes in support of her dream to be a chef!



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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

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