The Center for
Great Expectations

Embracing change. Empowering futures.

19B DELLWOOD LANE
SOMERSET, NJ 08873

ADULT RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM
ADOLESCENT RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM
Residential trauma treatment for homeless, pregnant/parenting women and adolescents and their young children.

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
Providing a home and supportive services for individuals completing treatment.

KATY'S PLACE
On-site trauma-informed care for infants and young children in a fully-licensed child development center.

ROOTS TO RECOVERY OUTPATIENT PROGRAM
Outpatient services for men and women with substance use and/or co-occurring disorders.

START
Free in-home and telehealth counseling and case management for pregnant and newly parenting persons with substance use disorders.

THE INSTITUTE OF CGE
Creating Attuned Communities™ to optimally achieve an organization's mission through consultation and training.

www.cge-nj.org

HOPE lives here
2021 ANNUAL GALA
The Center for Great Expectations

October 21, 2021
Hyatt Regency New Brunswick

HONOREES

Humanitarian of the Year — Chris Christie, Mary Pat Christie

Outstanding Service Award — Jim Curry, Carl Panzera

Volunteers of the Year — Helen & Michael Schuler

Registration and sponsorship opportunities are available.

For more information visit our website www.cge-nj.org or contact **Veronica Finlay, vfinlay@cge-nj.org, 732-247-7003 ext 356**

2021 ANNUAL
KEN DANEYKO
Golf Classic

Our 2021 outing was a tremendous success! A special thanks to all those who golfed sponsored, or participated in the raffle and auction.

Fall 2021

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Safe Place
Safe Presence
Safe Path

since 1998

A Letter from Peg Wright

Dear Friends of CGE.

We often get asked by our closest colleagues, ***"What if CGE weren't here***?"

We think we know the answer: The devastating personal losses and compounded trauma of nearly 1000 individuals, children and families we serve each year would be so much greater. CGE's mission has always been to weave together a stronger fabric within our communities to provide a safe place, safe presence and safe path. We have done this for 23 years, because our passion drives us to help others embrace well being in their own communities—which is only possible because of your help.

Inside, you will find six powerful stories, one from each of our programs within our full and uncompromised model of care, that show a "Day in the Life," of individuals at CGE and the experiences of their time with us. Each one shows the incredible impact your support has had on every facet of the work we do. Whether we are providing Early Relational Health to strengthen parent-child bonds across the six-program continuum or courageously embarking on our first contact with a new family, needing our distinctive doula case manager's help to navigate a healthy birth in the city of Newark—we join the brave and compassionate group of community-based providers offering the interventions that allow all families to find their way and to thrive.

Our high quality of care and distinguished clinical team start at the root of what happened to our state's most vulnerable, who have been marginalized either by arduous circumstances or traumatic experiences. We know the pandemic has certainly compounded the most relentless challenges of substance use and mental health disorders—and CGE is poised to respond to the continued call for help.

The last year and a half hampered efforts to reach each of you in the ways we're used to—at our events and on tours of our amazing Somerset campus. We are so grateful to all of you for responding with the support we did receive, given the challenging circumstances, and appeal to your continued generosity to be able to meet our funding goals that sustain these life-giving programs. Help us further elevate CGE as we impact our community, using our experiences of the last 23 years of trauma-attuned work, being in relationship in our work with our clients and with the world around us. We will strive to continue reducing the stigma around mental health and substance use disorders, as we level the playing field and help those around us understand that individuals in recovery are not criminals.

To our stalwart supporters, you remain by our side and for that, I am forever grateful. For those who are new to us, we know your will want to join the incredible energy and passion that drives this amazing mission year after year.

With gratitude,

Peg

Peg Wright
CGE Founder and CEO

A Day in the Life at CGE

Supportive Housing, by Mashal Malik, Clinician

Meaghan, a 31-year-old single mom, entered the Supportive Housing program with her 4-year-old daughter, Aubrey, in February 2020. Having always lived with her parents, this was her first time living on her own. “It was a scary time for me, especially in my early stages of recovery and I couldn’t have done it without the support from CGE’s staff,” states Meaghan. Having the opportunity to live on her own and be self-sufficient have been paramount goals for her since joining the program. She recently completed core courses to become a Peer Recovery Specialist and is currently seeking employment opportunities to fulfill the practical hours of the curriculum. In her free time, Meaghan likes to explore new places, ride her bike, and enjoy time with friends while having playdates for her daughter. She also attends and participates in Peer Recovery Support and NA meetings. “The staff in the Supportive Housing program have advocated for me in times when I needed the extra support,” states Meaghan. “They continue to go above and beyond, especially around the holiday season by providing gift baskets and other essentials to help support my family. Thank you!”

START, by a START client

In October 2020, my baby and I entered the START program and immediately started receiving both case management and clinical services, which have been of great help to me and my family. It’s been nice to be able to reach out to someone when I need it, outside of the other supports that I have in my life. As a member of the START program, my daily activities include bonding/play time with my baby, watching educational kids shows, cleaning, cooking, and doing laundry. Sometimes we take trips to the beach, a water park or a pool. Outside of scheduled meetings, I do normal every day household tasks. I also like socializing with close friends and my mom. Bath time with my son is a special activity I enjoy. I am so grateful for the donations and support that we have received while in the START program!

Adolescent Residential, by Sherrita Robinson, Residential Associate

I started working at CGE as a Residential Associate in 2019 and, having worked for other non-profits, knew immediately that this organization was doing amazing work. Each day at CGE brings new challenges and opportunities, and it is always wonderful to be a part of the growth of the young women that we serve. While therapy and curriculum are at the forefront of our efforts, enjoying different activities with the residents and children is also incredibly important as it allows the young women to have some down time and just be teenagers. Game nights, BBQs, and dance parties are just a few of my many cherished memories. I’m proud to be able to help residents with life and coping skills to build for a better future for themselves and their children. This experience has taught me how trauma affects each individual differently and how each has the capacity to grow and thrive.

Adult Residential, by Laura, Resident

I came to CGE on February 12th 2021, and am so grateful to be a part of this program. Each weekday morning I bring my son to Katy’s Place, knowing that he is in excellent hands. We have three different groups throughout the day, including group therapy and individual therapy. During our breaks, I attend recovery meetings. In the evening, I help prepare dinner with my fellow residents and assist with cleaning the kitchen or other parts of the building. Of course, there is also more playtime and reading with my son before his bath and bedtime. When he is asleep, I use the time to focus on my recovery or bond with my fellow residents. CGE provides me with everything my son and I need–from diapers & clothes to toys and hygiene products–it’s all a blessing! With the activities we do, they have also shown me how to have fun in recovery and balance motherhood at the same time. As a result of the support that I have received, I have been able to heal, find happiness and become the amazing mother my son needs. The people who work with us really care. I can tell everyone is rooting for me and believes in me.

Supportive Housing

Katy’s Place, by Brianna Higgins, Head Teacher

A day in the life of Katy’s Place can be very challenging but we follow a specific routine each day to help the children. Circle time is one of our favorite activities each morning as we have all of the children together to enjoy reading and singing. When the weather cooperates, we like to be outside as much as possible, enjoying walks, or allowing the toddlers to play on the playground. We serve two meals and two snacks a day, which keep us extremely busy. I really enjoy using the InstaPot (a kind donation we recently received!) to make the meals. Of course, staff are often busy changing diapers throughout the day and doing a great job responding to the cries of the infants. When all of the infants are crying at once, we call this the symphony! I truly enjoy my work with the children and have learned so much from them. Our curriculum helps the children as they learn and grow and is further supported by our incredible early-relational-health clinicians. I am so grateful to be a part of this wonderful team!

Roots to Recovery, Martisha Kanard-Dwyer, Case Manager

Kevin came to Roots to Recovery in January 2021 at the height of the pandemic in active cocaine addiction. Through virtual meetings and frequent communication with the team, he maintained sobriety and was prescribed medication for his substance use and mental health disorders. Unfortunately, in April of this year Kevin relapsed. Determined to achieve sobriety, however, he was welcomed back to the program by CGE staff. Kevin has remained active throughout this phase of his recovery, recently completing our intensive outpatient program and attending all small group and individual sessions with his clinicians and CGE’s Advanced Practice Nurse. Further, he recently moved into an apartment, leaving the men’s shelter where he previously lived.

“Roots gave me hope. It is good to have a clear conscience. When I come for testing, I do not have anything to worry about.” *– Kevin*

Adolescent Residential

START

Adult Residential

Katy’s Place

Roots to Recovery