

Twin Lakes Center News

A newsletter of Twin Lakes Center for drug and alcohol rehabilitation

December 2010

Ch-ch-ch-ch-Changes!

Well it's that time of year where everyone is getting ready for the holiday rush and everything seems hectic. Twin Lakes Center has also been undergoing changes since our last newsletter, starting with the newsletter. It will now be a bi-annual newsletter.

Another change at Twin Lakes Center is in the role of Executive Director. Brooke McKenzie was promoted to Executive Director after being with Twin Lakes Center for seven years starting as an Outpatient Counselor before being promoted to Director of Outpatient Services then to Assistant Executive Director and finally Executive Director of our facility. Brooke brings strong leadership and an understanding of the disease concept to her position.



Brooke McKenzie

Twin Lakes Center itself is in the process of a "face lift" so to speak. We are renovating the administration building and work is progressing well, we look forward to having everyone attend an Open House in the spring. Our May newsletter will include an invitation and R.S.V.P. to our Open House.

Highlights of the 2010 Somerset County Red Ribbon Campaign

School Based Competitions

During the first week of school, prevention staff hand delivered red ribbon competition informational packets to each of the 11 county schools, the Somerset County Technology Center, and all Christian schools in the county. Students in grades K-12 were invited to participate in poster and essay competitions and all SADD chapters had the opportunity to participate in a banner competition. All entries were submitted to be judged by red ribbon committee members, the Daily American, and Laurel Arts. Individual winners were recognized in a formal awards ceremony that was part of the rally held at the Somerset County Court House. There were hundreds of entries – some from every school district in the county. Prizes awarded totaled \$820.00 – all of which was donated by local banks, businesses, and service clubs.

Rally

On Friday October 15, 2010 the annual red ribbon rally and awards ceremony was held at the Somerset County Court House. Pamela Tokar-Ickes, County Commissioner presented the official red ribbon proclamation, Cindy Ross – Singer/Song Writer provided the keynote address, Wendy Stemple – Daily American and Jennifer Hosteteler presented the awards to all contest winners along with representatives of the prize sponsors, Ronna Yablonski provided campaign remarks and introduced the first annual Mary Ann Bowman Spirit of Red Ribbon week award. Media coverage for this event was provided by the Daily American, the Tribune Democrat, and WJAC-TV.

Corporate Incentives

Forty one local businesses offered corporate incentives (free coffee, soda, snacks, and purchase discounts) for patrons wearing their red ribbons.

Publications

On Friday, October 22, 2010 the Daily American published an eight page insert that highlighted every winner and their work from each contest. This publication was done in full color. Also printed was a one page ad that listed campaign highlights.

Kick Off Event

This event was held at former State Representative Bob Bastian's farm in Friedens. Close to 200 people were in attendance. Everyone enjoyed hayrides, a bonfire, food, and entertainment. Keeping in tune with the slogan a Drug Free Life Rocks – music was provided by the Emmanuel Youth Baptist Band, The Rockolas, and Sarah Dinning from Shanksville. Volunteer support for this event was provided by 4-H county council teens and the PA National Guard.

Ribbons

Somerset County Drug Free communities purchases and disseminates all the ribbons for this campaign – 17,500 in total were disseminated to county schools, businesses, and individuals.

Award Renamed In Memory of Mary Ann Bowman

Every year the Red Ribbon Committee awards an individual who has demonstrated dedication, leadership and support in drug prevention. This year's award was renamed the "Mary Ann Bowman Spirit of Red Ribbon Week Award." The committee decided to rename the award to honor the legacy of the late Mary Ann, since she was the sole person responsible for bringing the Red Ribbon campaign to Somerset County.

This year as the Red Ribbon committee members were racking their brains trying to decide who was worthy enough to receive the very first "Mary Ann Bowmen Spirit of Red Ribbon Week Award," several names were mentioned; along with Ronna's. Ronna rolled her eyes and shrugged of her nomination because of her role on the committee. Several of the committee members, including myself thought why shouldn't Ronna receive this award.

Since the recipient of the award is always kept a secret, we knew we had our work cut out for us. How could we possibly keep this a secret from Ronna? But with some masterminds behind the scenes, we were able to pull it off! Ronna was in complete shock when Mary Ann's two daughters presented her with the very first "Mary Ann Bowman Spirit of Red Ribbon Week Award."



Over the past seven years Ronna has shown great passion and dedication in the drug prevention field. After Mary Ann's passing, Ronna knew she had some BIG shoes to fill. I think that everyone would agree with me in saying that Ronna does a fine job at wearing those BIG shoes. Just like Mary Ann, Ronna pours her heart and soul into her job and always goes above and beyond to ensure that her work really does make a difference. These are just a few of the many reasons why the board felt so strongly that Ronna deserved to be the recipient of the very first "Mary Ann Bowmen Spirit of Red Ribbon Week Award."

Jamie Kmett Assists in Saint Francis University Fundraiser

Twin Lakes Center Chemical Dependency Technician Jamie Kmett joined a very important fight on Sunday October 3rd. On this chilly afternoon, Jamie and the Saint Francis University Social Work Club sponsored the 6th Annual Lily Kennedy Memorial Golf Outing at Iron Masters Country Club in Roaring Spring, Pa.

Under the direction of Dr. Mark Lynch and Professor Sue Black, St. Francis junior Jamie, along with 12 other volunteers from the Saint Francis Social Work club, collaborated with FSMA member Heather Kennedy for a truly awesome day of food, fun, and awareness. 18 teams comprised of 72 individuals teed off in an effort to raise awareness and raise money for the FSMA foundation. Over \$4,000 was raised for FSMA, and Twin Lakes Center was one of the "Gold Level" sponsors, the highest level of sponsorship available!

The Lily Kennedy Memorial Golf Outing benefits Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy (FSMA), which funds research for Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA). SMA, the number one genetic killer of children under the age of two, is a group of inherited and usually fatal diseases that destroy the nerves that control voluntary movement. It eventually robs its victims of the ability to sit, crawl, walk, swallow, and even breathe. One out of every 6,000 babies born is afflicted with SMA, and 50% of babies diagnosed before the age of two will die before their second birthday. Currently, there is no cure.

St. Francis has offered fundraising support to FSMA for the past 8 years after the death of Lilian Kennedy, who was only 6 months old when SMA took her life. Lily's mother, Heather Kennedy, is a Saint Francis Alumnus, graduating from the Social Work program in 1997.

Jamie would like to thank Twin Lakes Center, and everyone else who contributed to this amazing event. For more information on SMA or FSMA, please visit <http://fsma.org>.



Employees Honored for Years of Services

Twin Lakes Center wants to recognize the following individuals for their years of services in 2010:

James Bubner-20 years
Bree Yoder-5 years

Marlene Hearn-10 years
Bob Horner-5 years
