



Founders' Dinner in Little Compton a Sold-Out Success

A wonderful "Founders" benefit for Harbor House was held on July 31, at the Sakonnet Golf Club in Little Compton. Congratulations to the fundraising committee for creating an event that sold out three weeks in advance. Over \$130,000 was raised, ensuring that Harbor House opens for members this fall. Dinner was served for 190 guests, and a number of juniors attended for cocktails and the exciting silent auction. Nicole Browning, a former MTV executive, spoke on the importance of suicide prevention and eliminating



Nicole Browning

the stigma of mental illness. She related her experiences surrounding the untimely death of her daughter due to mental illness. She acknowledged the importance of the establishment of Harbor House as a support for all Rhode Islanders recovering from mental illness.

Guests attending the evening's festivities included Owen Heleen, Vice President of the RI Foundation; Dr. Joseph Bevilacqua, currently Harbor House Development Committee member and former Director of the RI Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals; John Ingram, board

member of The International Center for Clubhouse Development (ICCD) and Harbor House Development Committee member; Jim and Elaine Alt, drivers of the idea of an independent clubhouse in Rhode Island; and many other members of the Harbor House Development Committee.

The fundraising committee was led by chairpersons Jenny and David Merriman. Sallie and Alex Van Rensselaer brought their extensive fund-raising experience and artistic talent to design the new Harbor House logo, create the invitations, and manage the reservations for the event. Alex designed a small model of a Clubhouse placed on each table, where guests could contribute smaller items for Harbor House's daily operations. Debbie and John Ingram and Jane and Lanny Parker have been involved with the Harbor House Development Committee since its inception and helped ensure the success of the event. Deirdre Marsters and Ralph Watson managed the dinner. Sandy and Bob Barrett, responsible for



Fundraising Events Committee

successful corporate giving, secured a donation from the CVS Caremark Golf Classic, and a contribution from Mellon Bank, among others. The fabulous silent auction donations were overseen by Carole and Arthur Broadus. Other committee members were Widgie and Peter Aldrich, Hope and Mike Hudner, Debby and Carl Ladd, and Mara and Chris Shore. The Junior Committee was headed by Mason Gregory.

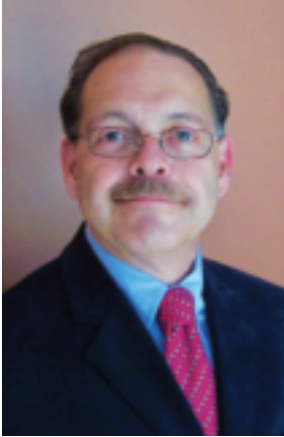


Lanny and Jane Parker, Owen Heleen, Elaine Alt, John Ingram, Jim Alt

Save the Date Thursday, Oct. 28, 2010

The Roger Williams Park Botanical Center will be the magnificent backdrop for Harbor House's next major event. The Botanical Center is an urban oasis, the largest public indoor garden in New England. This event is supported by a donation from the 2010 CVS Caremark Charity Classic. Look for more information soon.

Harbor House to Open in Fall, Executive Director Named



Ralph A. Lord

The Harbor House Clubhouse Development Committee is pleased to announce that Ralph A. Lord has been chosen to be the first executive director of Harbor House. Ralph has over twenty years of experience in the field of mental health, working with adults on both psychiatric and vocational rehabilitation. He holds an M.A. in Adult Education from the

University of Rhode Island, and a B.S. in psychology and education from Worcester State College. He is a certified supported employment professional (CSEP) in the state of Rhode Island.

A native of Gardner, Massachusetts, Ralph has been living in Rhode Island for 28 years. He resides in the Mt. Hope neighborhood on the east side of Providence, where he can often be seen walking his dogs. He's also an avid gardener and enjoys experimenting in the kitchen. Since the first of February when Ralph began his responsibilities as Executive Director, he's been in perpetual motion. His first assignment was to receive training at Genesis Club in Worcester, MA., which he says energized him and gave him a deep understanding of what a Clubhouse that is certified by the International Center for Clubhouse Development (ICCD) should be. "The Clubhouse program gives its members a crucial sense of belonging and accomplishment. It will provide a community for our members to socialize, network and share common interests during the work-ordered day," says Ralph

In preparation for the opening of Harbor House this fall, Ralph's first priority has been to engage with state government to start the licensing process to allow Harbor House to provide supported employment services. It has meant hours of background research, meetings and networking. He has arranged a partnership with the RI Office of Rehabilitation Services to provide job development and employment supports. He is working on the Roads to Independence Policy and

Procedures Committee to write legislation to create a policy ensuring that employment is the first choice option for all people with disabilities in Rhode Island. The goal is to have the state legislature act on this during its next session.

Ralph's personal philosophy, based on two decades in the field, is "Recovery is truly possible. As I look back, I can see that with 80 to 90 percent of the people who have made successful recoveries, there is some sort of vocational connection. Employment, whether at school or in a job, was a key factor. People found their sense of worth."

"Community is the other necessary ingredient of recovery," says Ralph. Harbor House will provide that needed supportive community.



Lori Cragan

Joining Ralph as Harbor House's first student intern is Lori Cragan, formerly of Hillsgrove House. She is enrolled in the Masters of Social Work program at Rhode Island College. Lori is certified by the International Center for Clubhouse Development (ICCD) and

is bringing her extensive knowledge and experience to assist Ralph with the many tasks to get Harbor House up and running. She hopes to create further awareness about the clubhouse model of recovery for people with mental illness within the social work program, as she feels that the clubhouse philosophy and social work code of ethics overlap in many ways. Students from RIC will be able to do their field placement at Harbor House and witness the transformation of the mental health service delivery system in Rhode Island.

Thanks to support from the Rhode Island Foundation, NAMI-RI, the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, and the Founders' Dinner, site selection is underway and Harbor House plans to be open for members this fall.

Member Spotlight



Adam Alt

I have been a Clubhouse member for over four years. I am working now with many others so that we can have an independent, certified Clubhouse in RI. It will be open to anyone with a mental illness. The Clubhouse will be a place where those with a serious mental illness can come and find, as I have, that a

work-ordered day is the key to recovery. I am currently enrolled at CCRI for a certificate in accounting that I will have in fall of 2011. My wonderful wife, Michele, and I are looking forward to our fifth anniversary this July. I don't know if any of this would have been possible without having a Clubhouse in my life.

About four years ago, I was introduced to Genesis Club in Worcester, MA, by my wife. She had an uncle with bipolar disorder and he thrived at a Clubhouse. I immediately realized that this was what had been missing from my recovery. I learned quickly that work is just as important as therapy and medications. I remember tagging along on tours given to visitors at Genesis Club, completely floored that the guide, who had an illness like mine, could function at such a high level. At Hillsgrove House, a Clubhouse at the Kent Center in Warwick, RI, I worked on the Clubhouse newsletter. It was a struggle for me, but I succeeded. For the first month I wrote one article, for the second, two, and by the sixth month, I was editing the newsletter.

Then Hillsgrove House found me a job in the community, at Sovereign Bank, in the form of Transitional Employment. In a TE (Transitional Employment), a Clubhouse member is given a job and has a job coach. If the member is unable to go to work for whatever reason, the coach fills in. Again, I found work to be the key

to recovery. When I had a bad day due to the illness, I found that going to work was better than staying home. I never missed a day of work for a year. After a year, I handed my job over to the next Clubhouse member. It was this job that made the next steps in my recovery possible. Following my TE, I found work on my own at NAMI RI (National Alliance for Mental Illness) in their Inside Mental Illness Program. Through the program, I educate about mental illness and advocate for us throughout RI. I have presented at high schools, colleges, and many other places.

I hope that all Harbor House members will find success in their recovery at the Clubhouse.

Harbor House Development Committee



Harbor House Development Committee members: John Ingram, Chaz Gross, Scotti DiDonato, Lanny Parker, Deb Ingram, Jim Alt, Elaine Alt, Jane Parker, Joe Bevilacqua, Ralph Lord, Adam Alt. Also attending: Jenny Merriman, Sallie Van Rensselaer. Not pictured: Laurie Blatz. Lori Cragan, Dana & Paul Dillon, Phyllis Dobbins, Jean Marandola, Carole & Barry Marshall, Hayes & Linda Rockwell, and Julie Toland

Visit the Harbor House website: www.harborhouse-ri.org
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Save the Date: October 28, 2010

NAMI-RI Recognizes Harbor House Committee Members

At the NAMI-RI Annual Meeting on May 26, 2010, Harbor House Development Committee members, Elaine and Jim Alt, were recognized as Advocates of the Year for their untiring efforts on behalf of the development of Harbor House as the first independent, ICCD-certified Club-house in RI.

Dana Dillon, a member of the Harbor House Development Committee for several years, was honored as the NAMI-RI Volunteer of the Year for her work with NAMI and its Family to Family classes.

Congratulations to the Alts and Dana for these prestigious awards.



Jim Alt, Elaine Alt, Chaz Gross,
Executive Director of NAMI-RI



Fred Sneesby, Chairman of the Board,
NAMI-RI, and Dana Dillon