



# Winter 2009 Newsletter



## AAMH & BMS Team Up to “Rapidly” Address Growing Need for Mental Health Services

Children and adolescents from low-income households who need mental health care in New Jersey often face delays of weeks or even months for treatment. Now, a new program, the Rapid Access

Program, created by the Association for the Advancement of Mental Health (AAMH) in Mercer County with a grant from Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS), is making it possible for youths in need of help to get off the waiting list of an overburdened health care system and into treatment.

Under the Rapid Access Program, individuals ages 5-21 who are referred for mental health treatment are evaluated by a social worker within three days of a treatment request and, if needed, start seeing a psychiatrist within seven days of the social worker's evaluation. "This fast-track care is making a difference in the lives of area youths who previously faced waiting lists of four months or more for mental health services", said Vince Haba, executive director of AAMH,

a non-profit, behavioral health center serving Mercer, Middlesex and Burlington counties in New Jersey, and Bucks County, Pennsylvania. "For children and adolescents referred for mental health care, every moment counts. Research shows that, the longer the wait for treatment, the less effective treatment becomes. The Rapid Access Program reduces wait times dramatically and offers a cost-effective model for providing timely mental health treatment for children of low-income families."

The Rapid Access Program was launched in September 2008 with a \$68,887 grant from Bristol-Myers Squibb. The grant helps AAMH provide a social worker, care by board-certified child psychiatrists, and supervisory and administrative support. Client Medicaid reimbursements provided additional funding and should be sufficient to sustain the program, Mr. Haba noted. "Bristol-Myers

Squibb is committed to helping reduce health disparities around the world, including in the communities where our employees live and work," said Sharon Henry, M.D., vice president, Global Medical Affairs and Health Outcomes. "The Rapid Access Program is one of many mental health initiatives we support that are helping eliminate barriers to care to support people in leading healthier, more fulfilling lives." Services provided through the Rapid Access Program include a psychosocial evaluation and assessment; individual, group and family psychotherapy and counseling; substance abuse treatment; psychiatric evaluation and assessment; psychopharmacological management; case management services; and emergency appointments. For information on how to access this program, please call AAMH at 609-452-2088.



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## Janssen Continues Its Generous Tradition With AAMH

In December of 2008, AAMH was thrilled to learn that Janssen awarded the agency with a grant for \$25,000 that was to be used to expand our ever growing Outpatient Services for children, adults and adolescents. We also learned that Janssen would once again donate their venue, food and beverage services to us for our 2009 Client Awards Reception. For the past few years, Janssen has given AAMH use of its facility in Titusville, along with donated food and beverages for the reception, absolutely free of cost! This year's event will take place on Thursday, June 18, 2009. The Client Awards Reception is special to AAMH because it is the only event to be completely planned and hosted by the clients of our Partial Care program. This evening recognizes the great achievements and obstacles that our clients have overcome due in part to AAMH's vital programs and services. This evening recognizes our clients' many achievements and the obstacles they have overcome, in part due to AAMH's vital programs and services. We thank Janssen for their ongoing support of AAMH!



# Rolling the Dice for a Great Cause!

Over 115 guests took a “gamble” on AAMH on Friday, February 6 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Valentine’s in Vegas Casino Night Fundraiser. Proudly sponsored by Roma Bank, Duane Morris & Razrbiopharm, the event was held at Cherry Valley Country Club in Skillman, NJ.

Players enjoyed roulette wheels, blackjack, Texas hold ‘em and craps tables all evening for chances to win fabulous prizes. The prizes included a spa gift basket and gift certificate from Serenity Health Spa of Pennington, 4 months of nutritional counseling courtesy of Princeton Weight Loss, a nights stay at The Chimney Hill Bed and Breakfast, tickets to a performance at McCarter Theatre and opera tickets donated by the Opera Company of Philadelphia.

Guests danced the night away with music performed by the cover band, Goldenseal. Special thanks goes out to our event committee, Linda Ballinger, Renee Deardorff, Mandy Holanda & Kelli Imran. The night would not have been a success without the help of our committee members! On behalf of everyone at AAMH, we are truly thankful to everyone who attended our fundraiser and we cannot wait for next year’s big event!



Raise a Glass for Hope Wine and Food Tasting event Committee Chairman Ralph Mannheimer tries his luck at roulette with other guests



Tarek Imran & Dr. Richard Nadler toss the dice at the craps table



Casino Night Committee from L to R: Mandy Holanda, Linda Ballinger, Kelli Imran & Renee Deardorff



Board President Michael Kacsmar and Board Vice President Ints Dzelzgalvis try their hand at poker with other guests



AAMH Board of Trustees from L to R: Marc Helberg, Premal Lavsi, Michael Kacsmar (President), Ints Dzelzgalvis (Vice President), Cindy Murphy (Treasurer), Lauren Fuhrman, Liz Read & Patty Murray



From L to R: Jackie Farniese and AAMH Director of Outpatient Services Kerri Smith play a little blackjack



Guests gather around the blackjack table in hopes of winning some great prizes



John Tomchuk and Tracey Quinn celebrate a lucky spin of the roulette wheel



Honorary Board member Andrea Zintz tosses the dice while AAMH staff member Dee Ann Barton & Ed Murphy cheer her on

# RAISE A GLASS FOR HOPE WINE & FOOD TASTING

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Princeton Marriott

Doors open at 6 p.m.

Featuring tastings by: Bistro Soleil, Blue Bottle Café, Bon Appetit, CMSC Spirits Group, Enzo's La Piccola Cucina, Griggstown Farm Market, JD Gourmet, La Mezzaluna, Ota Ya Japanese Restaurant, Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, The Bent Spoon & Vittorio's Ristorante

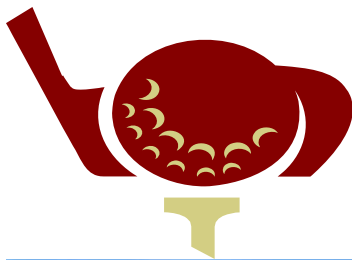
Featuring a global array of wine varietals such as zinfandel, shiraz, chardonnay, chateaufeuf du pape, sauvignon blanc, syrah and many more....

Tickets \$75.00 individual

\$ 120 per couple

The evening will also feature fabulous silent and live auction items donated by The Food Network, Miele, The Ferry House, Silver Oak Winery, Turley Wine Cellars, Waterford Crystal, JL Ivy Restaurant, The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and many more!

For more information, please contact Jamie Simpson at 609-759-7447



## Taking A Swing for Mental Health 18th Annual Golf Outing Monday, October 6, 2008 Cherry Valley Country Club



Golf committee member Bill Stahl of WithumSmith + Brown accompanied by his team Rebecca Machinga, Matt Pribila and Paul Gergel.



The associates from Ernst & Young: Steve Gatto, Board President Michael Kacsmar, Christian Sepe and Andrew Chaloub



Board Vice President Ints Dzelzgalvis of Bristol Myers Squibb watches his teammate putt



Mike Huddleston of Trans County Title Agency LLC takes a swing



Golf Outing volunteer Kathy Thewes at the putting contest

Thanks to our amazing committee, AAMH can brag that we netted over \$25,000 in donations for our Supported Employment program from the 2008 golf outing!!!

(see pg. 4 for a Supported Employment program success story)

We are currently on the lookout for dedicated committee members to help plan next October's 19th Annual Golf Outing! If you have a love of golf and have great ideas on how to garner new golfers and sponsorships, please call Jamie Simpson at 609-759-7447 or email jsimpson@aamh.org



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of Mental Health

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THE MISSION of AAMH is to improve the lives of individuals and families by providing a continuum of Behavioral Health Care services designed to honor their dignity, enhance their self-respect and empower them to live to their fullest human potential.



AAMH is GOING GREEN! To receive an email version of this newsletter and invitations to our special events, please send your email address to [jsimpson@aamh.org](mailto:jsimpson@aamh.org) TODAY!

## True Story of Success....

Since starting the Partial Care Program at AAMH, and eventually working with the Supported Employment Program, Kevin Jenkins has consistently demonstrated his motivation for recovery. Kevin is an active participant in our rehabilitation groups and is empowered by his psychiatric treatment. In joining the Supported Employment program, Kevin learns about vital skills geared toward preparing him for a return to the competitive work force. He has never lost his resolve to work for a better tomorrow, even when facing serious physical complications that could have easily set him back. Kevin has been able to utilize the important tools he gained through his programs at AAMH to be successful in the work place—including volunteering in our Partial Care Program kitchen to further his experience and develop his very first resume. Kevin now looks forward to a bright and exciting future due to his time involved with the programs at AAMH.



**AAMH IS WHERE HOPE BEGINS!**