



What's Inside:

- page 1 Message from President/CEO
- page 2 CCC clients recognized for community service
- page 3 U.S. Atty. General visits ADAPT

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From the desk of
Neil F. Tilow,
President/CEO

Dear Stakeholders:

Over the past several months, the issue of increased jail capacity has been studied and debated. In the end, the question arises, is it important to have a new jail in our community? As you may have heard or read, Talbert House spoke at a recent public hearing to state that we believe that the answer to this question is conclusive - yes. Everyone recognizes that public safety is a real concern in our community. Additional jail beds ensure that violent offenders will be incarcerated and that there will be adequate space to do so. The opportunity to have more people under supervision is critical - whether this is in a community, treatment or jail setting.

The recent Voorhis study found that Hamilton County has one of the most complete array of alternatives to incarceration in the country. Our community has invested in a range of programming with levels ranging from maximum to minimum security, and by doing so, the county utilizes staff, space and funds effectively. With this range of sanctions, comes the discipline in the system to ensure that offenders know that they can and will be incarcerated.

We know that treatment works. Researchers at the University of Cincinnati Department of Criminal Justice

Continued to page 3

Library staff bring books to The Bridge

Part of an effort to create a library collection at adolescent program

By autumn, clients of The Bridge, a residential facility for adolescent males with mental health issues, will have their own library, accessing volumes of fiction and nonfiction, reference books, magazines, videos and games.

It was a daunting task to build a library for boys, says Josh Arnold, The Bridge's manager. That's why he and his staff have been working for over two years turning this idea into reality. And with the help of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, the work is almost complete.

Through Community Care Week, a United Way event connecting orga-



Staff from the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County visit The Bridge to help plan the facility's new library. (From the left) Dave Rohs, Kathy Scabill, Josh Arnold and Phyllis Hegner.

nizations to nonprofits, the staff of the library will have donated items and catalogued materials.

"It was amazing to have these experts donate their time and their books to building this library," says Arnold. "Clients at The Bridge have

Continued on page 2

UC trainer dedicated to helping children stay off drugs

Bill Walker, University of Cincinnati assistant athletic director of sports medicine and head athletic trainer, was honored by Talbert House at the 10th Annual *Team Up! Cincinnati* Golf Outing. Walker, an original member of the plan-



Bill Walker (center) receives a community service award for his work with Team Up! Cincinnati. Also pictured: Talbert House president Neil Tilow and Past Board Chair Bob Meacham.

ning committee, was honored for his commitment to the event.

In its first decade, *Team Up! Cincinnati* has raised \$500,000 for Talbert House's school-based prevention programs. This year's outing raised over \$63,000 and was held at Maketewah Country Club on June 26. Proceeds from *Team Up! Cincinnati* help fund face-to-face services for nearly 1,700 school children every year.



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Clients perform valuable volunteer work

Matthew 25: Ministries thanks Talbert House's CCC clients

Whether it is collating flashcards for school children or sorting clothing for needy families, the clients of the Community Correctional Center (CCC) are more than willing to help.

That's why Matthew 25: Ministries, a Blue Ash-based volunteer organization, recently gave Talbert House a certificate of appreciation.

Since June 2004, over 100 clients have volunteered to perform community service for Matthew 25. CCC clients go to their Blue Ash offices three times a week.

"They've done everything from emptying trash, painting, ripping up tile flooring, to loading and unloading trucks, and sorting clothes and toiletries," says Rita Goodharbor, CCC's employment service provider. "In other

words, whatever needs to be done that day."

Community service is important for the clients, says Goodharbor. "By per-

forming community service, we hope the client gains an appreciation of how much better it feels to make a positive contribution," she says.

CCC is a community-based correctional facility in Warren County operated by Talbert House.

Last year, CCC had a record-setting 90 percent (282 individuals)

of clients graduated successfully from the program. Fifty-nine clients entered the program's GED, and 90 percent passed during their residential stay.



Michael Simpson and Rita Goodharbor, CCC staff members, hold the certificate of appreciation from Matthew 25: Ministries.

Con't: New library at The Bridge

Continued from page 2

a tough time accessing books other than their school books so these materials are a much needed resource."

The library chose The Bridge as a service site after carefully identifying community groups and researching their needs.

All items are age-appropriate with limited violence or drug content. Arnold says the most popular materials are on biographies of individuals who have turned their lives around. "Clients are able to hear first hand accounts of struggles that may be similar to theirs," Arnold says.

Residential care at The Bridge ranges from four to nine months, depending on the client's level of need. Education has been a focus for The Bridge: The high school graduation rate has increased 20 percent over the last two years, and 60 percent of clients advanced a grade level during their residential stay.

YES ON ISSUE 13

**RENEW
Children's
Services
LEVY**



U.S. Attorney General visits Talbert House

Alberto R. Gonzales visits ADAPT for Men

Talbert House was pleased to host U.S. Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales at the agency's Men's ADAPT (Alcohol & Drug Addiction Partnership Treatment) program August 8.

During his visit, Gonzales participated in a round table discussion and spoke to several residents of the program.

ADAPT for Men is a comprehensive treatment program for chemically dependant male adults referred by the Hamilton County Drug Court. It provides a cost-effective alternative to prison for non-violent felony offenders.

Research has shown Drug Courts have been effective in dealing with individuals who are chemically dependent: ADAPT clients who complete the 15-month continuum of treatment have a 11 percent recidivism rate after three years compared to the national average of 45 percent. Also



U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales (second from the left) with Cincinnati Police Chief Tom Streicher, U.S. Rep. Steve Chabot and U.S. Attorney Greg Lockhart.

78 percent of ADAPT clients demonstrated reductions in their criminal thinking after completing treatment.

Funded by the Hamilton County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board, ADAPT is a partnership with Hamilton County Courts and Pre-Trial Services, Hamilton County Probation Department, Central Community Health Board, First Step Home and Prospect House.

Medical director honored by Core Behavioral

Core Behavioral Health Centers awarded Dr. Michael Oberdoerster, Medical Director for Talbert House & Affiliates, with the Donna Ferneding Award for his dedication to Core clients and to his commitment to improving the public mental health system in Greater Cincinnati.



Dr. Michael Oberdoerster

Oberdoerster has been medical director since 1998, improving client care in the areas of clinical protocols, continuous quality improvement, teaching, corporate compliance and program development. Oberdoerster has participated on several committees that address system-wide improvement of health care for the under-served.

Con't: Treatment works

Continued from page 1

completed a recent 10-year outcome study. Their research found that the Talbert House Turning Point client is 30 percent more successful in avoiding any new involvement with the legal system as compared to a control group of individuals opting to complete their jail time followed by treatment rather than receive residential treatment. Additionally, FY06 data indicates that the court treatment offenders are also becoming more responsible in their thinking, with over 67 percent of them demonstrating a decrease in anti-social values.

Treatment also saves valuable jail space. Treatment programming separates low risk from high risk offenders and maintains an environment conducive to treatment programming. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy 2006 Report found that for drug abusing offenders, community-based drug treatment programs produced, on average, a statistically significant reduction in recidivism of 12.4 percent, while jail-based treatment programs only produced a 6.0 percent reduction in recidivism. While jail based programs can effectively reduce recidivism, the community-based programs had, on average, twice the impact on recidivism compared to incarceration-based programs.

Through the early mitigation of these clients successfully completing residential treatment, jail bed days are saved for higher risk offenders. Additionally, the length of stay in a treatment facility is based on offender performance and progress. At the three Talbert House programs mentioned in the recent studies, the mitigated sentences resulted in the County saving almost 60,000 jail bed days in FY06 - an estimated \$3.8 million.

Talbert House is not an alternative to the plans being considered. Talbert House is an addendum to those plans. This is not an either/or proposition as we can't build our way out of the problem and Talbert House hopes to be part of the solution and a partner in the process. We appreciate your support of our organization and hope this clarifies our position on the jail crowding issue in Hamilton County. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Neil F. Tilow, President/CEO

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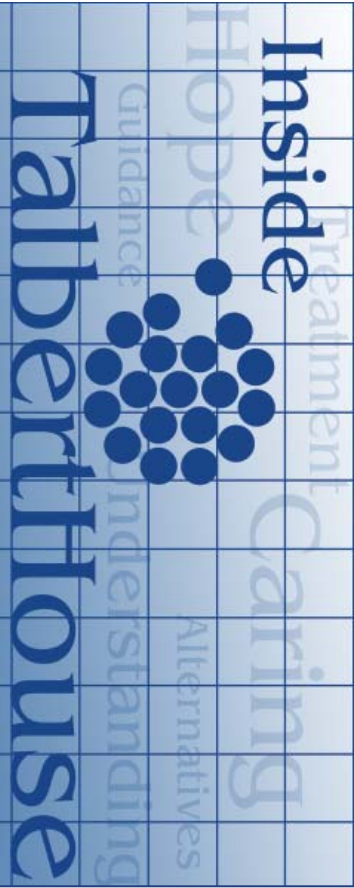
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**Community Relations
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Teri Nau, Director
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Agency Mission

To improve social
 behavior and
 enhance personal
 recovery and growth.



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**The many faces
 of community service**



Community service is the backbone of Talbert House. Many have given their time and talent and their efforts are appreciated. Pictured are businesses and individuals who have volunteered at Talbert House: Clockwise from top left: *Matt Shall, Brady Nize, Brian Baker and Dominic Iachnovi* from BHDP Architecture. Team Up! Cincinnati's event committee members *Bill Walker, and Kit & Dick Druel, CBS Personnel's Michelle Hobbes and Talbert House's Mary DePaola, United Way's Community Care Week volunteers Garrett Smith, Mark Dryer, Sandra Satri, Jaime Shurt, Michelle Hobbes and Karla Wilson.*