

“The Buzz”

Richard M. “Buzzy” Gaiennie, Chief Executive Officer

Recently I attended a retreat at Manresa House of Retreats in Convent, Louisiana. Two of our staff members came along and we brought six men from Bridge House to join us for the two day event. Manresa has many his-

toric buildings on its 130-acre campus dating to the early 19th Century, when it was the site of Jefferson College.

The property was purchased by the Jesuits in 1931 as the site for a retreat house. It is a beautiful place for spiritual contemplation and reflection.

The retreat was held in partnership with the Ignatian Spirituality Project (ISP), based in Chicago. The ISP specializes in retreats for those individuals who are homeless and seeking recovery, and collaborates with similar orga-



Buzzy Gaiennie
Chief Executive Officer

nizations to train teams to host their own retreats. As this relates so well to the mission of Bridge House/Grace House, we were blessed to have their guidance for these special days. We were also joined by several other individuals from our community to bring the total in our group to 16. Most of the Manresa retreats are silent func-

tions with long periods of meditation; however for this retreat we communicated verbally in order to learn more about the ISP and each other.

The retreat began with an overview of Manresa and its philosophy, then each of us paired with a partner to meet and hear each others' stories. Afterwards we gathered back together and took turns introducing our partners to the group. Another activity involved one of our staff members telling more about his personal story in greater detail. We then divided into two groups to discuss

what we could relate to and what we could learn from his successes and failures. The retreat incorporated some of the tenets we use at Bridge House and Grace House, from the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.

“My soul was gone”

Laurie, an '06 graduate

*I was 14 years old the first time I drank. Drinking was something all of my friends and I did on weekends. At 17, I smoked weed for the first time. Drinking on weekends turned into drinking and doing coke on weekends. I was going at the same pace as my friends for years. At the age of 24 or 25 is about the time that I started to notice negative consequences but continued to use. I would have fights with loved ones, I was tired and cranky a lot, and generally apathetic. At 25, I tried Heroin for the first time and found the perfect feeling. Within that year, I started injecting it. I was still a relatively “functioning” user for the next few years. At about 29, I was introduced to crack cocaine. Over the next couple of years, I got really bad, really fast. At 31, I gave birth to my first son. My love for him was crushed by the weight of my addiction. I wanted to stop but I really didn't think I could. I was consumed with guilt and shame, yet the guilt and shame fed the need to escape. At this point in my life, **‘1 overdosed, had infections in my arms from iv drug use, had become homeless, and had a son that I couldn't bear to think about.’** My soul was gone. I wanted to die. It never occurred to me that I could stop using. I had resigned myself to the fact that this was my “life”, and I couldn't wait for it to end.*

By The Numbers Jan1- Apr 30, 2011

Calls for Help: 4,902

Daily Capacity: 215

These numbers reflect the overwhelming demand for our substance abuse treatment services

A Message from the Board

Sharonda Williams, President

I am honored to begin my service as the new President of the Board of Directors of Bridge House and Grace House. The benefits these organizations provide to the New Orleans community are immeasurable. The prevalence and effects of addiction on the community are profound and often overlooked by those who are in positions to make change. Bridge House and Grace House have worked diligently to ensure that the mission of facilitating recovery in a disciplined, respectful, and productive manner is fulfilled. These services are invaluable to the Bridge House and Grace House clients. But what makes Bridge House and Grace House even more special is their commitment to the New Orleans community.

New Orleans is a special city, with character, history, and soul. The work of Bridge House and Grace House is aimed not only at assisting their clients but also the New Orleans community by ensuring that clients are provided the tools to become productive members of society, thus decreasing the crime rate in the city. Bridge House and Grace House perform a vital service to our community, and I hope that you will join me in fully supporting this important work.

The Expansion

Kevin Gardere, Director of Major Gifts

In reflecting on the historical Grand Opening of our beautiful new facility at 4150 Earhart Boulevard in May of 2010 I cannot help but remember my great feeling of pride. This pride was coupled with some fear too. As the Director of Major Gifts for Bridge

House Corporation there was a lot of hard work to be done to meet our goal of paying for this facility by 2015 while providing continued support to our existing programs. We then decided to move forward with the expansion of our Grace House Program by providing services for women at the 1160 Camp Street location. There is a commonly quoted expression from the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous "What an order! I can't go through with it." This of course applies to taking the difficult steps to work a program of recovery – but it also reflected my emotions at the time.

I am happy to share with you what I have learned in this part of my journey: with our great staff, perseverance and faith, our organization maintains tremendous support in the community. Many national fundraising analysts believed that most charities would see a significant decrease in donations in 2010 due to economic predictors. Coupled with the BP oil spill, the outlook became somewhat darker.

Although our financial donations were marginally down from the previous year we exceeded the predictions of the analysts. As a result we continued to grow in 2010. Bridge House did indeed expand the number of individuals served and was able to keep pace with the funding needed to meet our goal in 2015. With your help we will be able to maintain our efforts to continue current services while chipping away at our long-term goal of paying for our building in a timely manner. Please rest assured that your support is going to help us save lives and build community. Thank you for your ongoing support of Bridge House/Grace House and those we serve. If you would like to take

a tour, receive a brief history, meet some of our residents, talk with some of our staff or find out more about our programs, please give me a call.

kgardere@bridgehouse.org
504.821.7133

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Open mindedness, honesty and willingness, especially in sharing one's story, were used many times over the course of the two days. As difficult as they may be at first to an individual suffering from addiction, these steps are vital to a person's recovery. A final part of the retreat included discussing aspects of our lives that might be holding us back from being the whole individuals we want to ultimately be. As a symbolic gesture, a pile of rocks was gathered, and each person took a rock and placed it into a bowl, signifying their readiness to let go of that burden and move on to the next chapter of life.

At Bridge House/Grace House, our residents deal with their addictions on a daily basis, as they meet with their counselors one on one and share their stories with others in group sessions. In this way they are taking their own symbolic rock and hoping to someday place in into that bowl, when they are ready to be free from addiction and on their personal road to recovery.

BGaiennie@bridgehouse.org

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Passages

FROM



REBUILDING LIVES FOR MEN, WITH DIGNITY, HONOR & RESPECT

Passages

A News Publication of Bridge House

From the Executive Director

The New Greater New Orleans Drug Demand Reduction (GNODDR) Coalition

**Else Pedersen-Wasson MBA, LAC
Bridge House Executive Director**

Over the last several months a group of community activists, concerned citizens and various representatives from the fields of prevention, treatment and enforcement have met around one common purpose – addressing the explosion of substance abuse and the accompanying issues that plague our community. Substance abuse disorders are intertwined with most public health, social and economic problems. An effective approach is a strategy that is comprehensive, long-term, and integrated across systems. Involved in this effort are individuals from prevention, treatment and criminal justice.

A visit from Colonel Jim McDonough - Recently Bridge House hosted a general meeting of the Greater New Orleans Drug Demand Reduction Coalition at which Colonel Jim McDonough was the guest speaker. McDonough was the Director of the Florida Office of Drug Control from 1999-2006. He worked with the executive branch of government, the legislature, and the courts to ensure a more holistic system of treatment and referral beyond the criminal justice system. He enlisted the aid of Florida's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation to review the entire state system for treating both the mentally ill and the addicted (often both disorders are co-occurring) and he worked with a myriad of public advocacy groups and

professional organizations dedicated to improvements in the treatment of the mentally ill. Colonel McDonough was brought to New Orleans by Stephanie Haynes who was appointed by then Governor George Bush to the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse and later participated in the state-wide effort for Drug Demand Reduction. Both the Colonel and Stephanie have offered continued support and guidance in our efforts to implement a Drug Demand Reduction Strategy in the Greater New Orleans area. Bridge House, as a founding member of the GNODDR Coalition, hopes to work with our colleagues from all disciplines and support comprehensive, coordinated system of care that will ultimately have a positive impact on the quality of life and the safety of our community members. It will be a challenging undertaking, but one whose time has come. We welcome the tremendous opportunity to work with these experts who have generously agreed to work with us.

epedersen@bridgehouse.org

504.821.7122



Else Pedersen-Wasson

“I needed to get sober”

David C., a current resident of Bridge House

Over the past 40+ years I threw away or walked away from successful careers, relationships, my family and my homes. Everyone else knew before I ever accepted it: I am an alcoholic. None of my geographic changes made any difference because everywhere I moved I brought along the main problem: me.

My 2005 move to New Orleans after Katrina, although humanitarian in nature, was no different from any other. I am an alcoholic and hoped my 'last run' was near the end; I was ready to sober up. I believed that if I couldn't make it in New Orleans, this was as good of a place as any other to die. Having never been here, I was unprepared for the temptations that lay in wait. I 'controlled' my drinking at first and started to build yet another successful career. As my responsibilities increased, the hours in my workweek grew exponentially; I turned more and more to alcohol for 'stress relief'. By this past September I had had enough; I resigned my job, had no idea about my future. I needed to get sober. Not just stop drinking, but get sober and stay sober. I tried to de-tox from alcohol by myself and couldn't. In desperation I turned to Bridge House.

Bridge House arranged for my chemical de-tox and accepted me into their program. They have given me a safe environment in which I can implement

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Bridge House Clinical Dept.

About Intervention and Early Family Recovery

We all need to take a second look at the power of the Intervention process. Initially, Intervention appears to be a process undergone to get a loved one to enter treatment for their addictive disorder. Families come to ask for help getting the identified party to understand both how bad things have gotten and how unquestionable the need for professional help has become. What families don't immediately recognize is how the drug use has made the family system sick as well. Everyone close to an individual with addiction holds secrets and makes deals based on the insanity of a lesser of two evils. Everyone lives in fear they will say or do something that will change things for the worse. Reasonably functional families become paralyzed by fear. They feel powerless and their lives become unmanageable around the many problems related to addiction. The loved ones suffer the same type of isolation and despair that is experienced by the person with addictions. Concerned Intervention is about bringing a family/support system together to share their feelings and concerns in an effort to tell the truth and create positive change. The initial Intervention meetings become a first step for the family and the first step in the family recovery. Once information is shared it is easy to get the support system on the same page with ways to change their own behavior and increase the likelihood the individual will choose treatment. A good intervention is a statement of love and support that comes from the family. It is the family working together to speak their truth,

to develop healthy ways in which to interact with each other as well as the loved one in crisis. The power of love and the unity of a support network can be the most important factors in getting an individual to treatment. When the family works together to be healthy and adaptive, in dealing with the disease of addiction, they begin the "Family Recovery Process". The individual in crisis becomes far less capable of maintaining their denial and manipulating the people who love them. When the family chooses to be healthier the individual is more likely to begin work at getting healthy as well.

**Jo E. Cohen, LPC, LMFT, LAC, CCS
Clinical Director, Bridge House**

Resident Outcomes

In mid-April of this year, the Outcomes Department conducted an ongoing study to determine the effect treatment has on decreasing crime. This is in conjunction with funds generated by the New Orleans Crime Coalition.

From January 1, 2011 through March 31, 2011, we treated 310 individuals. None of those 310 individuals was arrested while in our programs at Bridge House/Grace House. We attempted to contact only the individuals who were discharged (includes self discharges, administrative discharges and completions) from our programs that had been in treatment at Bridge House-Grace House for 30 days or more, which was 68 individuals. Of this 68, we were able to contact 57 individuals, or about 84% of those discharged. Of the 57 contacts we made, only two had been re-arrested-one was for charges prior to treatment, and one was for paraphernalia

after the client self-discharged.

Bridge House alumni continue to hold panel discussions for the clients every other Wednesday at 7:30 pm. They are held at 4150 EARHART BLVD, just off the intersection of Broad & Earhart. If you would like more information about these discussions or would like to volunteer for one, please call Garrick Stewart at 504-821-7131.

If you are a former client of Bridge House-Grace House and would like to submit your journey to sobriety to our newsletter, please call

Peter Webb

(504) 522-4475, ext 1024

pwebb@bridgehouse.org

"I needed to get sober" continued from p. 3

the tools of recovery taught to me.

Bridge House introduced me to Alcoholics Anonymous and transported me to outside meetings, which also helped me to build my support network. My counselor is incredibly intuitive and has helped me become the person I am today: functional, compassionate and self-assured in my sobriety. My self-esteem has returned. I am more spiritually connected today than ever before in my lifetime. Bridge House has shown me that I can succeed in my pursuit of a life in recovery.

I owe my life to Bridge House. Without divine intervention I would have never found my way here, discovered recovery, gotten acquainted with my Higher Power and developed a plan to fight my alcoholism.

Christmas in July

Sunday July 31, 2011 10AM-2PM

1160 Camp Street NOLA 70130

One of three times a year when we open up our doors to serve a holiday meal and give clothing from our Thrift Stores to the homeless and indigent population of New Orleans.

For more information call 504.821.7134.

AMAZING Grace FROM Grace House



REBUILDING LIVES FOR WOMEN, WITH DIGNITY, HONOR & RESPECT

Amazing Grace

A News Publication of Grace House

From the Executive Director

Acupuncture and Addiction Treatment

Michelle Gaiennie, LCSW, ADS

Grace House Executive Director

The National Acupuncture Detoxification Association (NADA) protocol for addiction recovery has been practiced in the United States since the 1970's and involves the placement of five needles in specific sites on each ear which correspond to specific organs including the kidneys, liver, lungs and nervous system. It has been shown to help with the emotional, psychological and physical difficulties of overcoming addiction. The NADA treatment protocol has been integrated into the Bridge House and Grace House treatment programs since 2009. Bridge House and Grace House were the first residential substance abuse treatment facilities in the state of Louisiana to integrate the NADA protocol into our treatment programs after the passing of the 2007 Acupuncture Detoxification Specialist (ADS) legislation. The NADA protocol of acupuncture is the most widely used alternative therapy in substance abuse treatment programs in the country. Clients in the Bridge House and Grace House treatment programs participate in individual and group therapy, 12 Step meetings, relapse prevention classes, gender specific therapy, anger management, parenting skills and vocational rehabilitation. The NADA protocol offers a non-verbal adjunctive therapy to our current treatment curriculum.

Clients meet weekly for NADA auricular acupuncture that is conducted in a group setting and the treatment lasts for an

average of 30 to 45 minutes.

The NADA acupuncture groups are voluntary for clients to attend. The groups have been highly utilized by the clients.

This specific protocol has helped those struggling with symptoms of withdrawal, anxiety, stress, trauma and insomnia. Other benefits include; increased mental clarity, improved ability to cope and improved alertness. The NADA acupuncture treatments can give individuals a sense of calm and peace as they work through the stressful life experiences that brought them to treatment.

mgaiennie@gracehouseneworleans.org
504.899.2423 Ext 11



Michelle Gaiennie

“I respect and love you all”

Tywana L., a current resident of Grace House

First, I'd like to say this is my first time in treatment. As addicts we expect the worst, fear the unknown, and we are afraid of change. I'm so thankful for my Higher Power, which I chose to call God. He gave me that moment of clarity to

walk in the doors of Grace House. From the moment I walked into Grace House, I was welcomed with love and acceptance, which allowed me to love and accept me for the person I always thought I was.

I am learning how to be a daughter, sister, mother and a friend. I am also learning to be a responsible and functioning member of my community. I am grateful for the staff, counselors, and my peers at Grace House. I would like to say thank you to everyone for the unique gifts each of you bring into my life and for being here during my recovery. I respect and love you all.

Grace House Clinical Dept.

Self Esteem and Recovery

Self esteem is the overall evaluation or appraisal of your own worth. Self esteem is crucial and is important because it effects how you think, act, and how you relate to other people. Many women struggle with issues related to self esteem in their daily lives. They may feel overly critical and feel that others perceive them as not good enough. Often women who use drugs or alcohol have low self esteem, little self confidence, and may feel powerless.

Self esteem is a subject that is addressed in our gender specific curriculum. The focus is on creating a new perception of self through the thoughts you form. All that filters through your mind

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Women of Substance May 13, 2011

Honoree Nell Nolan

Each one of us here is a Woman or Man of Substance, and we can interpret "substance" in multiple ways, "strong" being one of them. But I prefer yet another meaning of it with the "sub" part deleted, leaving "stance." That is what each of us is doing here: we are taking a stance against abuse and focusing on rehabilitation, health, and happiness.

Both Bridge House and Grace House have names that hold various connotations, and as a writer, I enjoy looking beyond the face-value of a name to what it might symbolize.

Where is the original Bridge House? It is on Camp Street by- and in the shadow of- the bridge. **"What we want to do by our support and action is bring the women clients who are there out of the shadow that they have been living in into the light of health, and have them use their temporary home as a bridge to a new life."** As for Grace House, we see in the name a depth of meaning and hope. Grace can be defined as that which is "pleasing, proper, indulgent, relieved, and touched by the divine love and protection of God."

I thank all of you associated with Grace House for this cherished award. I also recognize the esteemed company of my co-recipients, Bev and Dottie, and thank them, along with my family and close friends who are here. It is with pride, humility, gratitude-and I hope grace- that I accept this Women of Substance Award. Thank you.

-Nell Nolan

The 16th Annual Women of Substance luncheon took place on Friday, May 13, 2011 at the Audubon Tea Room. A somewhat rainy spring day did not stop over 300 people from attending



Women of Substance Honorees
Bev Church, Dottie Reese, and Nell Nolan

to honor "Women of Words" Dottie Reese, Bev Church, and Nell Nolan. Local singer Mike Morris performed many musical standards to entertain the crowd prior to the luncheon. He also sang "Amazing Grace," a Women of Substance tradition, to open the event. Banana Republic coordinated the fashion show for the luncheon; this is always a huge crowd-pleasing part of the program. Mark Romig, our great friend, was the super emcee, keeping the show running smoothly. Bev Church, one of our honorees, and NOLA Flora provided the wonderful centerpieces, adding to the already beautiful ambiance of the Audubon Tea Room. Women of Substance also

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honored Hazel Porter, the Alumna of the Year, and Jeanne Dumestre and Andre Laborde, Volunteer Service Award recipients.

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influences your experiences. To have self esteem, you must learn to like yourself and then finally love yourself. There is no way you can stay sober unless you have some good feelings about yourself.

Some tips to build self esteem and improve the way you see yourself:

- Set clear goals that are achievable
- Make it a point to improve yourself daily
- Eat healthy and avoid junk foods
- Get sleep-resting your body is essential
- Exercise-moving your body helps you feel better and will improve your self esteem
- Pay attention to your own needs
- Spend time with people who make you feel good about yourself

Jennifer B. Gros, MS,CI
Clinical Director, Grace House

Women of Substance

Women of Substance continued from p. 6

The Women of Substance attendees were treated to a delicious meal, entertainment, a fashion show, comments from the honorees, a raffle, and super silent and live auctions. What a marvelous way to spend a spring afternoon in New Orleans, helping Grace House and having fun. Thanks to all the volunteers, sponsors, and patrons that made Women of Substance XVI a success. Watch for Women of Substance XVII on May 11, 2012.



Committee Members
Triness Kuhn and Doreen Fowler



Honoree Dottie Reese (bottom center) and friends



Volunteer Service Award Recipient
Andre LaBorde

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A magnificent view of the Audubon Tea Room

Cochon Cotillion April 9, 2011

Joyous revelers flocked to Blaine Kern's Mardi Gras World on the Westbank the starry night of Saturday April 9, 2011, to help Bridge House/Grace House celebrate their 15th Annual Cochon Cotillion, the biggest fundraiser of the calendar year for the substance abuse treatment centers.

King John Goodman and her royal highness **Queen Patricia Clarkson** 'ruled' over the costumed masses at the annual bacchanalia and led them in enjoying delicious culinary delights from 42 of the finest restaurants in the city, ranging from the stuffed eggplant of **Pascal's Manale** to the Pasta St. Charles of the **Palace Café**, while also partaking in the evening's musical entertainment, the wonderful **ELS** and the smooth sounds of crooner **Mike Morris**.

Court jester and master of ceremonies **Bruce Katz of ABC26** helped the royal court keep the evening's festivities rolling right along. After introductions to the reception, Bridge House Executive Director **Else Pedersen-Wasson** addressed those in attendance about the Bridge House and Grace House substance abuse treatment programs and all the progress currently being made during these exciting times at our treatment facilities. After her remarks, the king and queen greeted their royal subjects and officially welcomed them to Cochon Cotillion XV.

Following the royal address, the King and Queen led a procession of their subjects, including the marching band from **O. Perry Walker High School**, a police escort, the **Big Easy Rollergirls**, and the **Double Step Cloggers**, throughout the floats and grounds of Mardi Gras World, much to the enthusi-

astic delight of those in attendance. After the parade, all attention turned to the silent auction where partygoers bid on any one of the 74 items up for grabs, an array featuring such treasures as John Goodman's vintage jacket from the film *Everyone's All American*, a *Blue Brees* painting signed by artist George Rodrigue and New Orleans Saints star Drew Brees, and many other unique works of art that can only be found at the yearly Cotillion.

All in all, a fantastic time was had by all at Cochon Cotillion XV and it was a huge philanthropic success for our treatment programs. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of our hard working committee members who made this fabulous event happen, King John Goodman and Queen Patricia Clarkson for donating their time and name to the event, ABC 26 personality Bruce Katz for serving as Emcee and making sure everything ran smoothly, ELS and Mike Morris for serving as the musical entertainment, all the people, businesses, and restaurants whose donations made the Cotillion a possibility and without none of this would have been possible. We thank you all. Mark your calendar for Cochon Cotillion XVI on Saturday April 14, 2012.



King John Goodman and guests

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Queen Patricia Clarkson and her sisters - members of the Royal Court

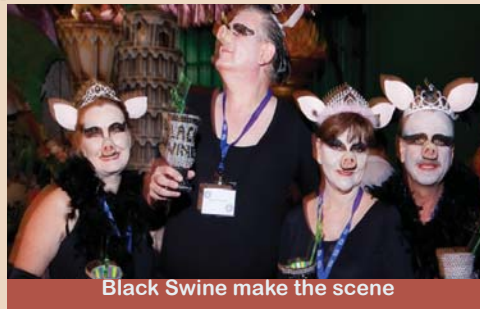
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Jay Schwall
Scriptura
Second Serve Tennis Center
Shady Side Pottery Shop
Sheraton New Orleans
Short Stop Po-Boys
Smitty's Seafood Restuarant
Southport Hall
Squeal BBQ
Starbucks Coffee Company
Sysco Food Service, Inc.
The Shops at Canal Place
The Tinder Box
Tony Mandina's Restaurant
Tony's Po-Boy Restaurant
TPC--Louisiana
Tujague's Restaurant
Tyger Gifts
Ultimate Fitness
Uptown Car Wash
Voleo's Seafood Restaurant
Windsor Court Hotel
Zatarain's
Zea Rotisserie & Grill



Buzzy & Barbara Gaiennie with the "Not so Flying Nun"



Bryan Batt and Friends

A Therapeutic Model: Working Recovery

Prior to being released to work outside of Bridge House/Grace House our residents must complete the Job Readiness Program, or the "Packet" as it has been labeled by the clients. Many of our residents are able to find employment but are unable to keep a job. One of the emphases of the Packet is Job Keeping. The vocational staff assists residents in developing People Skills, Time Management Skills, Money Management Skills, Emotional Management Skills, and Work Management Skills.

People Skills involve effective ways of communicating on the job with co-workers, work supervisors, and others that they might encounter at work. Improving the way they interact with others will not only help them keep a job but is also needed for a healthy recovery. No Stress, no relapse! Time Management Skills involves teaching clients to become more organized. They are taught: to set priorities; to delegate tasks; to get off to a good start in the workday; to be proactive and to predict when a crisis might happen. One of the main emphases in Time Management Skills is dealing with procrastination and distractions in the work place.

Money Management Skills are ways for our residents to manage their money safely now that they are sober. The emphasis is not on how much money they make, but on how they use it. The vocational counselors stress the importance of not only establishing a budget but actually living by it. For many addicts cash money is a trigger. That is why each resident prior to transition must open a bank account. The vocational counselors also recom-

mend Direct Deposit when available. As we all know a work environment can be a hectic place and you can feel that you have no control over what happens. Emotional Management Skills assist the clients in keeping their emotions in check. They are taught to use the IDEAS Model to deal with Negative Emotional and Positive Emotional States. Residents complete exercises to deal with difficult people and anger using the IDEAS Model.

In Work Management Skills residents are taught how to deal with burnout and stress, and how to identify when their job might be in jeopardy. They are also taught how to avoid bringing their personal issues to work.

For most of us developing these skills are a natural maturation in the work place. However, due to an unstable work history these skills need to be part of the residents' Vocational Curriculum at Bridge House/Grace House.

Leon J. Naquin MS, LRC
Vocational Director

"My Soul was gone" continued from p. 1

I don't remember how I found out about Grace House but I did and got on the waiting list in 2006; I was 32. I called every day to see if they could take me. On May 27, 2006, I was finally admitted. I was scared and desperate. I remember feeling so free after finishing my First Step Packet that my counselor provided. I met wonderful people (fellow clients and the amazing women who came to the Tuesday night meeting, even a couple of former clients who were now Resident Advisors, or RAs.) We were all so different but exactly the same. I learned that drugs were not my problem, only a symptom. This scared

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and motivated me. I took everything in, I was a sponge. I couldn't believe I was able to . I couldn't believe I was able to find an easier and softer way. I built a foundation and support system of incredible, strong women from being at Grace House. I became a better mother, sister, friend, and woman. I completed the program on November 21, 2006.

My fiancé completed treatment at Bridge House, my sister saw our lives and realized she could have what we had and in March of 2008, she graduated from Grace House too! In June of 2010, I became a Resident Advisor at Grace House Camp Street. It is an indescribable feeling to know that I am trusted and valued by Grace House staff. I believe that Grace House saves lives. I tell everyone that will listen about my experience with the hope that if they or anyone they love suffers from the disease of addiction, they will know that there is another way. If I can do it, anyone can.

Upcoming Events

Mr. Legs XI

Saturday July 16, 2011

Generations Hall 6-10PM

Emcees Laura Buchtel- Mike Hoss WWL-TV

610 Stompers/ Muff-A-Lottas/ Rolling Elvi/ Johnny J. and the Hitmen

Celebrity Judges/ Super Raffle/ Silent Auction/ Food

Tickets \$30 (\$35 at the door)

VIP Tickets \$50 special viewing area

Features contestants competing for the coveted title of Mr. Legs by entertaining the crowd with their costumes and performances set to music. The title is awarded to the contestant who raises the most funds for Bridge House/Grace House.



Rockin' with the NOLA Stars

Saturday September 24, 2011

Generations Hall 6-10PM

Emcee Bruce Katz ABC26

Food/HG Breland Band/ Silent Auction

Tickets \$30 (\$35 at the door)

VIP Tickets \$50 special viewing area

Stephanie Osborne, Sharonda Williams, Nell Nolan, Triness Kuhn, Martin Marino, Chriss Knight, Daivd Sepulveda, Chet Pourciau, Chef Duke LoCicero

Celebrity Judges: Mickey Loomis, Cecile Tebo, Mickey Parenton

Local celebrities pair up with Dance Quarter professionals in this *Dancing with the Stars* type event. The winner is the dancer who raises the most funds for Bridge House/Grace House.

Fore! Recovery Golf Tournament

Monday October 11, 2011

English Turn Golf and Country Club

Tee Time 12:30PM

Registration and Lunch 11AM

Scramble Format/ Putting contest/ Closest to the Hole

Holes-in-One: A million dollars, a Banner Chevrolet, a spot at the Monday Zurich Classic Pro-AM

Players \$175 Hole Sign \$150

Recovery Sponsorship \$1,000



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REBUILDING LIVES FOR MEN AND WOMEN WITH DIGNITY, HONOR & RESPECT

Our primary goal is providing treatment and support to men and women suffering with alcohol or drug addiction in the south Louisiana region. We achieve good results by utilizing time-proven methods of gender-specific group and individual substance abuse counseling, rehabilitation and vocational training programs. Our primary strategic advantage is derived from the many years of invaluable expertise and experience in our field. We sustain our efforts through policies of strong fiscal management and by our ability to maintain the goodwill and support of many private individuals and government programs.

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