Else Pedersen CEO

The title above is a quote of Philip Seymour Hoffman from a conversation with his recovering friend and colleague, Aaron Sorkin. I hope he was right. Aaron Sorkin is not an expert on addiction from a professional standpoint but rather, as a recovering person, from a personal standpoint. Sorkin explains that “Hoffman did not die from an overdose of heroin – he died from heroin. We should stop trying to imply that if he’d just taken the proper amount then everything would have been fine…. He didn’t die because he was partying too hard or because he was depressed – he died because he was an addict on any day of the week with a y in it.”

Why heroin? It is not uncommon for addiction to start with opiates or pain medications that are prescribed for appropriate reasons by a medical professional. Because these medicines are addictive, extended use, or use not as prescribed, can lead to dependence. They are also expensive and increasingly more regulated and closely monitored. Heroin is cheap and easy to get. Information from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) tells us that in 2011, 4.2 million Americans aged 12 and older have used heroin at least once in their lifetime, and 23 percent have become dependent. In our own setting at Bridge House / Grace House, we have seen opiate dependence increase from 23% of our residents in 2008 to 54% of our residents in 2013.

Another compelling statistic is the average age of the opiate dependent resident of Bridge House / Grace House is 27. Our overall average age is 36. This drug has become very attractive to our youth. Where do we go from here? It is common knowledge that many who are addicted do not seek treatment. But, there are

Calls for Help: 2,552
Daily Capacity: 212

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

For treatment call 504-821-7120
Susan W. Glennon Grace House
Women’s Clinic Dedication:
February 7, 2014

Executive Director of Clinical Services Bridge House / Grace House

Susan West Glennon first became involved with Grace House at its very conception when she was invited to be part of a small group of individuals who were working to start a women’s substance abuse treatment facility. The year was 1985 and there were not many resources available for residential treatment at that time. These dedicated founders had to be scrappy, and Susan did her part. She scrounged everywhere for household items and brought a carload to the house just hours before the first residents arrived at the original Grace House location on Treme Street. As Grace House developed, Susan remained committed. She offered her time and talent performing tasks ranging from securing permits from City Hall to fundraising to cleaning, painting and decorating rooms.

However, things were not always rosy. Threats to the sustainability of Grace House came from all different angles- City and State regulators, funding sources, and even from within. Though, through bad times and good, the same conviction sustained Susan throughout: women need a special place of their own in which to recover from alcoholism and drug addiction.

When asked about her reasons for being so passionate about Grace House, Susan replied directly:

I have been there and I know the utter despair, the hopelessness and the shame of addictive behavior. I know the heartbeat of having your children beg you not to drink and the helplessness of not being able to stop. I hope to never again hear a child of mine say ‘No, Momma. Please don’t do that. No, Momma. Please don’t drink.’ And I hope for the precious women of Grace House that they, too, will never again suffer the devastating pain of addiction.

One of those very children, Kelly Commander, remembers these difficulties as a child. However, those memories stand in stark contrast to the wonderful relationship she has with her mother today. Kelly witnessed her mother’s transformation in a life of recovery. She is also keenly aware of her mother’s love of Grace House and her decades of dedication to the women who reside there. This in turn inspired Kelly to become personally involved with Grace House, particularly as it relates to the women’s clinic.

When Kelly learned that the residents of Grace House had overwhelming barriers to basic medical care, she stepped up to the plate. Kelly led the committee to raise funds for the Grace House Women’s Clinic. Now the women at Grace House have access to care in this fully operational clinic. Kelly’s work confirms her mother’s legacy, and we are proud to hold the Susan W. Glennon Grace House Women’s Clinic in her honor.

Cochon Cotillion XVIII
Preview

The 18th Annual Cochon Cotillion, supporting the cause of recovery from drug and alcohol addiction, takes place at Blaine Kern’s Mardi Gras World Eastbank, 1350 Port of New Orleans Place on Saturday, April 5, 2014. As the first unofficial Mardi Gras ball of the 2015 carnival season, the Cochon Cotillion is a night of fun, laughs, and a good excuse to go hog-wild. King Roger Ogden, his beatific Queen Patricia Denechaud and the Krewe of Pork and Beads, request your presence at the night of fun and revelry from 7:00-11:00 PM.

Guests dressed in costume or tacky de rigueur will enjoy a truly joyous celebration, will “pig out” with food provided by some of New Orleans’ finest restaurants, and experience the musical mastery of ELS, dancing, the smooth sounds of Mike Morris, an indoor parade, an open bar, a gigantic silent auction and a raffle. ABC26 WGNO-TV and NOLA 38 The CW are the Media Sponsors. Susan Roesgen

A Scene from the Mini-Parade

COCHON continued on p. 9
2014 Capital Efficiency Campaign

From the Development Department

Did you know? Our thrift stores, used car lot and donations produce 69% of our budget. I would like to thank you, our donors, for this prodigious support which enables Bridge House / Grace House to treat over 700 men and women each year. Due to alcohol and drug addiction, these men and women come to our doors with nowhere else to turn and little to no resources of their own. With your help, we continue to provide our long-term residential substance-abuse treatment services regardless of one’s ability to pay.

In 2014, we have identified the following capital expenses which will dramatically increase our efficiency:

• 10 computers for our clinical team- We have updated our software system in order to keep a more efficient internal system of recording resident progress. Not only does this software, Totally Integrated Electronic Records (TIER), allow Bridge House / Grace House to efficiently manage patient care, it contributes to meeting various compliance issues from numerous federal and state grants. Each new computer will fully support the TIER software, and therefore support our clinical teams in keeping accurate electronic records of each resident.

Total cost: $10,000

• A new copy machine for clinical team- In March of 2012 Behavioral Health Care changed in Louisiana. Many changes came with this shift to managed care by Magellan, including increased application requirements. As a result, the number of applications and records needing to be printed has increased dramatically. The current copy machine used for these purposes is inadequate to handle the new volume.

Total cost: $5,000

• 3 car racks for the Used Car Lot- These racks will be used by Used Car Lot staff and resident workers to repair donated cars. Most cars donated to the Used Car Lot need repairs. Three additional racks/lifts would allow us to substantially increase the rate at which we can fix these cars and sell them for a profit. Our Car Lot produces 17% of the organization’s budget.

Total cost: $7,500

• 1 new box truck for our Thrift Stores- Our Thrift Stores produce 27% of the organization’s budget. The new box truck will be used to pick up donations of clothing, furniture, and household items from the community to our processing warehouse. This truck will replace an older truck that is worn down. Items transported in this truck are sold in our Thrift Stores.

Total cost: $50,000

By increasing the operational efficiency of Bridge House / Grace House, we increase our organization’s ability to raise funds to perpetually support our programs. All the funds raised go directly to ensuring that those suffering with substance use disorders receive the treatment they need. If you would like to contribute to our 2014 Capital Efficiency Campaign, please call us at 504.821.7133. Thanks again for providing the men and women we serve the opportunity to recover and experience joy, happiness and freedom.

Kevin Gardere
Executive Director of Development
kgardere@bridgehouse.org
504.821.7133

Anne Springer
Marketing Director
aspringer@bridgehouse.org
504.821.7134

Volunteer Spotlight: Richard Vallon

Richard Vallon, Jr., of Orleans Image Consulting, was recruited by a friend to take photos at Bridge House / Grace House fundraising events in 2004. Ten years later, Richard is still going strong and has become a fixture at Bridge House / Grace House events. He dutifully snaps shots of partygoers and makes all the images he takes available to us completely free of charge. Here’s what Richard has to say:

What’s your favorite part about volunteering with us? When I first started volunteering taking pictures no one really knew who I was or what I did. Now, almost everyone who frequently attends the fundraisers knows me, and they know that they can go to BridgeHouse.org after the event to see and download the images. My wife, Aleta, loves the fundraisers and I feel grateful my pictures can enhance the attendees experience (especially the Mr. Legs contestants!) and help them remember it for years to come.

How have you seen our mission benefit the community? Over the years I have met many who have been helped by the Bridge House program. The help that Bridge House and Grace House have provided over the years is simply not measurable, but it is felt and known by nearly everyone.

We can’t thank you enough for your time and dedication, Richard. You have helped us capture so many wonderful memories over the years.
Practicing Effective Communication

Bridge House Clinical Corner

One of the areas of focus in treatment is to develop healthy, effective communication skills. There are many challenges facing our residents, in treatment, and most of them can be addressed through communication with members of the therapeutic community, group members, counselors, and/or members of the individual’s recovery support network.

Effective communication enables an individual to share messages, even negative or difficult ones, without compromising the relationship or creating conflict and a lack of trust. It truly is not what you say but how you say it that counts with communicating effectively. Healthy communication can enhance an individual’s ability to participate in all of their relationships, social, personal, and business. Effective communication is developed by practicing a set of skills including: communication that is nonverbal, attentive listening, the ability to understand one’s own and the other person’s emotions and the ability to manage stress levels while communicating. Nonverbal communication should always agree with the words that are spoken; others will not believe anyone who says yes while shaking their head no. The tone of voice, rate of speech, and volume should all agree completely with the spoken words. Body language should be open and relaxed to enhance the understanding that there will be an exchange of ideas.

Listening is essential for effective communication. We demonstrate that we are listening by focusing on the person talking, allowing the individual to complete thoughts without interrupting them, trying not to formulate a response as they are talking, and following the conversation by expressing interest and encouraging the other person to continue to share. Listening attentively and focusing on nonverbal communication makes it possible to understand the emotions that are connected to the spoken words.

Emotions are universal and we recognize anger, sadness, and fear, and well as, joy and surprise; we can usually respond appropriately. When someone claims they are “fine” we just know when that is not the truth and can provide some feedback on how they seem to have some emotion that does not agree with their words. It is very important to continue to develop emotional awareness by understanding our emotions and the thoughts that contribute to them. Staying open to what the other individual is expressing helps us to relate to them and demonstrate understanding so our communication can remain effective. Managing emotions is essential to healthy communication.

The ability to deal with stress is directly related to effective communication. Becoming better at knowing how to manage stress makes it easier to continue to communicate when the level of stress increases. There is a tendency to react rather than respond to stress which can stop any effort to communicate. When a conversation becomes stressful, it is important to take a moment to breathe deeply, relax your body, and try to calm yourself down. It is ideal to wait until the stress is in check before you respond at all. It is alright to ask for a moment to think and it would be good to look for common ground and explore any possibility for compromise. Effective communication is so important with the development of functional and rewarding relationships it is well worth the effort it takes and practice is essential.

Jo E. Cohen LPC, LMFT, LAC, CCS
Bridge House Clinical Director
jcohen@bridgehouse.org
504.821.7286

Benefits of Work Therapy

From the Vocational Department

Work Therapy is an important part of the treatment program at Bridge House. Work Therapy is a therapeutic engagement to increase motivation for continued treatment, teach vocational and non-vocational skills to become employable, and support clients coping with stressors of sustained employment by utilizing recovery interventions. As a client progresses through Bridge House the vocational staff assigns the client to one of the various work sites. The vocational staff tries to match a client’s previous work skills to the needs at the work sites. Every new client is required to attend Work Therapy Orientation.

In the Orientation, clients are exposed to a variety of subject matter. Clients are shown the importance of teamwork and problem solving at the work site. They are introduced to the three phases of the vocational program; Targeted Therapeutic Engagements; Job Readiness Curriculum and Supported Employment. The vocational staff discusses the importance of Work Therapy and their recovery. Clients are advised of the following: 1.) individuals in active addiction are three times less likely to be employed than the general population 2.) vocational rehabilitation during addiction treatment increases treatment participation and continuation 3.) employment is one of the best indicators of sustained addiction recovery 4.) employment leads to improved self-esteem, hope, and relationships 5.) employment correlates with decreased illegal activity, arrests, physical problems, and homelessness.

In the Orientation vocational counselors discuss the benefits of work
When I began my journey at Bridge House I was physically, mentally, and spiritually broken. I had fallen so far in such a short time in my life. Drugs and alcohol had become my master, and I had fully lost the power of choice to even think, feel, or act on my own. I remember waking up one day by the New Orleans Mission, sleeping on the cold hard concrete listening to the cars pass overhead. I asked myself, “How did you ever let yourself get to this point?”

I never realized at that time that I had a disease. I had come from a good family and to be living on the street was very foreign to me. By this point in my life, my disease had made me do terrible things to everyone that I loved and they were no longer in my life because I was unwilling to get help for so long. I always believed that I should be able to control this thing, like other people that I see, but it never occurred to me that I have a physical allergy and a mental obsession that is triggered whenever I put any type of foreign substance into my body that changes my perception.

I pulled myself up from that hard, cold concrete and came to the realization that I could no longer live the way I was living. I had heard many great things about Bridge House, but I never had thought to go there because I had to become completely willing to become sober. I walked to Bridge House from the New Orleans Mission carrying my luggage behind me and was completely broken.

Once I entered the Bridge House program, they were able to put structure back into my life and it was a place where I could feel safe and truly cared for. Bridge House introduced me to recovery and now it was my time to take the action. I acquired a sponsor and began working steps. I began learning things about myself that I had buried for so long through the use of drugs and alcohol. I began to come to the realization that drugs and alcohol were only a symptom of my problem and the thing that I needed to work on the most was myself. Alcohol and drugs were my solution for many years, but, somewhere down the line, it had turned its back on me. By working the steps and building my support group in the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, I began to learn how to deal with everyday life issues that I would normally get intoxicated over.

My relationship with my family and loved ones has grown more than I could ever imagine. Today, I am able to spend quality time with them and give them the son and significant other that they have always known I could be from the very start. I can now contribute to life and society on a daily basis instead of being a burden. I will forever be grateful for the things that Bridge House has done for me to get my life back in order.

Brett J.
Trauma and Substance Abuse

Grace House Clinical Corner

Grace House provides long-term, residential, substance abuse treatment to up to 70 women at any given time. With a focus on the 12-steps of NA/AA, our clinical staff works to form community partnerships to address the specific needs of women in recovery. One such partnership we have created is Trauma Counseling with the New Orleans Family Justice Center. New Orleans Family Justice Center is a partnership of agencies dedicated to ending family violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and stalking through prevention and coordinated response by providing comprehensive client-centered, empowerment services in a single location.

The New Orleans Family Justice Center provides both individual and group counseling to the women of Grace House who have experienced a significant sexual trauma. Serving as a safe place to process feelings, learn coping skills, and embrace forgiveness, the NOFJC allows clients to process the effects of sexual trauma in a supportive and professional environment. According to one resident of Grace House, “trauma counseling has enabled me to face the demons of my past and walk into the future with dignity and grace. It has helped me to deal with my shame and to forgive myself.”

Statistics shows that women with a past sexual trauma are up to 75% more likely to suffer from alcoholism or drug addiction. As many as 54% of women alcoholics in treatment have been raped at some point in their life. These sad statistics are often the foundation for numbing feelings with drugs and alcohol. Guilt, shame, fear and denial become the emotions used to cope with daily life when facing an unresolved sexual trauma.

Whether it is through our development of the Susan Glennon Women’s Clinic, through partnerships with organizations such as the New Orleans Family Justice Center, through gender specific groups like “Seeking Safety”, or through Stephanie Covington curriculum, Grace House is dedicated to serving the women of the New Orleans and surrounding communities. Through these efforts we are building stronger families, stronger citizens, and grateful recovering women.

Nicolette Harvey, LMSW  
Grace House Clinical Director  
nharvey@gracehouseneworleans.org  
504-899-2423 ext 22

I had my own spiritual awakening after losing all of my relationships with others, overdosing, ending up in a mental hospital, and almost losing my mind. I was finally at my bottom. As I lay in that mental hospital bed, finally sobering up, I saw a whole new life and peace flash over my mind. For weeks, all I could think about was Grace House. I just couldn’t get it out my mind, so I called to get on the list. I ended up getting in the next day.

I was scared because I knew I would never be the same person again. I would soon start a real life with commitments and responsibilities. The change in my life is beyond what I could have ever imagined—I have that sparkle in my eyes, a smile, and a freedom that no one could ever take from me. That indescribable light that shines through me is sometimes overwhelming. I still have to remind myself that it’s okay to relax.

Today I live a life of dignity. I follow suggestions, and I remain open, honest, and willing. My time at Grace House wasn’t always rainbows and butterflies—I kicked and screamed and wanted to leave many times over, but my willingness to become a better person outweighed the excuses to want to leave. It’s not always easy to want to change my defects of character, something I have used as a protective shield my whole life. I’ve learned how to receive guidance, pray, and talk about any major decision.

Today, staying clean is the most important thing in my life. I am involved in my life, and I am constantly learning to be a productive member of society. I have ups and downs, but I know that I have no reason to use again today. I love being alive today, and to have had that awakening was worth everything to me. Thanks to Grace House for opening the doors to show me a better life today. Today I am worth loving, and I can now return that love to others.

Sheri B.
Bridge House / Grace House is pleased to introduce the new President of our Board of Directors, D. Scott Crabtree, CEO & President of Lambeth House:

How long have you been on the Board at Bridge House / Grace House?
I have had the privilege of serving on the Bridge House board since 2006. I was invited to join the board when two great organizations, Bridge House and Grace House joined forces to serve the greater New Orleans community. When Katrina decimated our city, it was apparent that changes would have to occur within the non-profit providers of services in New Orleans. This was the catalyst of the two organizations becoming one and as we have seen in the rebirth and rebuilding of New Orleans, the organization is a driving force in rebuilding lives. I had served for 6 years on the Grace House Board prior to the merger of the two organizations.

How did you get involved?
All of us are exposed daily to the impact that chemical dependency has on family, friends and acquaintances. Before joining the board, I had known of the great work done by Bridge House—how could one live in New Orleans and not fully appreciated what this organization has done for so many people who would have no other resources for receiving help in addiction recovery. Through several friends who were serving on the Grace House board, I was approached to join that board. The decision was very easy to join.

What’s your favorite part about volunteering with us?
I have adhered to a principle for much of my adult life—“You make a living by what you get; you make a life by what you give.” Having served on a number of non-profit boards, I truly have enjoyed the time with Bridge House. Knowing that every single day, this organization changes someone’s life and changes it for the better, makes serving on the board a true honor. Also, volunteering with Bridge House is simply a lot of fun. Although Bridge House is a very strong business, board members, staff, and volunteers often participate in the wonderful events that help support the mission. Many of the events are festive and make being a part of them simply fun.

What other causes are you passionate about?
Much of my career has been in the non-profit healthcare or senior living industry. I am passionate about seeing that we, as a society, ensure that people are able to participate in active aging—that people have access to programs and services to provide for a quality of life throughout the aging process. The growth of the aging population inspires me to be innovative in designing environments and services for older people. All of us who have been a part of New Orleans for many years and saw the devastation caused by Katrina are now and will continue to be an active participant in the resurgence and rebuilding of our great city.

How have you seen the mission of Bridge House / Grace House benefit the community? I often hear stories from friends and acquaintances about the impact Bridge House has had on people they know. When in conversations people learn that I am serving on the board of Bridge House, you instantly hear comments like “very important organization to our community,” “outstanding work,” “what would people do if there were no services available through Bridge House.” It is this last comment that heightens my awareness that way too many people will not be able to access services if we all do not work together to increase availability. At a time in our economy and public policy, mental health is simply neglected. Therefore, we as people, must step up and fill that void by helping a great organization expand those services to meet the needs of our community. Without the support of civic minded people, Bridge House would not exist.

Help with special events!
If you would like to join a special event fundraising committee, please call 504.821.7133.
5th Annual Recycled Fashion Show

From the Development Officer

Bridge House / Grace House held its 5th Annual Recycled Fashion Show at Generations Hall on Friday, January 31, 2014. Nearly 650 people came out to see previously discarded clothing items transformed into runway ready fashions.

Months of hard work paid off for the 38 design teams that participated. Each designer was asked to create two outfits using fabric, clothing, or other donated items from the Bridge House Thrift Store. With $75 gift certificates in hand, the designers scoured the Thrift Store for that perfect item needed to complete his or her outfit. A total of 75 outfits were created by the designers—some working in teams of two or more.

Not only did the patrons enjoy the outfits modeled on the runway, they also bought them! Every outfit modeled was for sale in the silent auction. Hundreds of patrons congregate around the auction boards at the conclusion of the show, checking to make sure that they still had the highest bid. Some patrons took home two or even three new outfits.

The patrons enjoyed the outfits modeled on the runway, they also bought them! Every outfit modeled was for sale in the silent auction. Hundreds of patrons congregate around the auction boards at the conclusion of the show, checking to make sure that they still had the highest bid. Some patrons took home two or even three new outfits.

Entergy, presenting sponsor of the 5th Annual Recycled Fashion Show, had Olympic Gold Medalist and employee Derek Mills share a few words with the audience. Emcees Jennifer Hale and Chet Pourciau were spectacular in their roles. The Pussyfooters added their special flair to the event, while the Jailhouse Rockers, from the Krewe of Rolling Elvi, put on a tremendous performance during the intermission.

Two awards were presented at the end of the show to recognize a couple of designers for their outstanding efforts. Angelique Daigle’s “Madam Director has Tea...or Cocktails” was the highest item auctioned off, at $200, and she received a one-night stay at the Omni and a gift certificate to Café Degas. Leigh Whitman received special recognition, and a gift certificate to La Thai, for selling the most sponsorships or tickets to the Recycled Fashion Show.

An event of this magnitude is not possible without the help of several volunteers. In all, roughly 200 people volunteered their time towards making this event a success. A well earned “thank you” also goes out to our designers, models, hair & makeup artists, restaurants, volunteers, and residents.

Be on the lookout for our 6th Annual Recycled Fashion Show. One of your donations to the Bridge House Thrift Store may end up on the runway!

Joe Pitman
jpitman@bridgehouse.org
504.821.7288

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**Chet Pourciau & Jennifer Hale**

- Chick-fil-a
- Comeback Inn
- Cooter Brown’s
- Corner Cafe
- Court of Two Sisters
- Creole Country Sausage
- Factory
- Delgado Comm. College
- Drago’s Lakeside Seafood
- Five Happiness Restaurant
- Friends of the Cabildo, Inc.
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- Ily’s Restaurant
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- Resort & Spa
- Jaclyn Whitman Harris
- Jennifer Hale
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- Lil Dizzy’s Cafe
- Longue Vue House & Gardens
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- Ron’s Gumbo Shop
- Roosevelt Hotel
- Sew Fabulous
- The Blues Jean Bar
- The Crabnet
- The Pussyfooters
- The Jailhouse Rockers
- Tony Mandina’s Restaurant
- Villere’s Florist
- Zeus Place

**COCHON continued from p. 2**

and **LeBron Joseph (LBJ)**, of News with a Twist, will serve as emcees for the event.

The annual Cochon Cotillion raises crucial funds to sustain and enhance the programs and services that Bridge House / Grace House provides. Said Senior Development Officer Wayne Olivio, “The first Cotillion attracted about 200 people and featured 15 restaurants. It has grown to be one of the premier fundraising special events in this community rising over $1.7 million for Bridge House / Grace House in thirteen years. Last year, Cochon Cotillion XVII was attended by over 1,000 people and featured food from over 40 restaurants.”

Individual tickets for the Cochon Cotillion are only $100; sponsorships (including blocks of tickets plus other benefits) begin at $1,500. So on April 5th, join the Krewe of Pork and Beads, don your favorite costume or tackiest attire, grab your favorite people and party in the beautiful ballroom of Mardi Gras World while listening to the great sounds of New Orleans, enjoying sumptuous cuisine and bidding for the deals of a lifetime.

For information about the Cochon Cotillion, call (504) 821-7135 or visit www.bridgehouse.org.

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**Want to stay in contact with us?**

Please contact Lauren Selenberg at lselenberg@bridgehouse.org or 504.821.7141 if you’d like to stay up to date with Bridge House / Grace House via email.
Tree of Recovery: In Honor of Thanksgiving & Christmas Dinner In-Kind Donors

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Buttermilk Drop Bakery and Cafe
Cafe Giovinni
Commander’s Palace
Conseco’s Market
Diamond Foods
Dooky Chase Restaurant
F. Christiana & Co., Inc.
French Market Corporation
Guillory’s Deli and Tamales
Guillory’s Grocery
Ken Hamrick
Harrah’s N.O. Casino & Hotel
Hotel Monteleone
Joey K’s Restaurant & Bar
John E. Koerner & Co., Inc.
Kentwood Spring Water Inc.
Kindred Hospital New Orleans
Leidenheimer Baking Co., Ltd.
Lotz Culinary Equipment & Supplies
Magnolia Enterprises
Marriott Hotel
Matranas’s Produce
Metairie Country Club
Mikimoto
Mistrettas Produce
Natco Food Service
National Fruit Flavor Co. Inc
New Orleans School of Cooking
Pat O’Brien’s
Perret’s Army & Outdoor Store
Quarter Master Deli
Radosta Grocery
Reily Food Company
Robert Fresh Market
Royal Sonesta Hotel
Southern Oaks Plantation
Swiss Confectionery, Inc.
The Ice House
United Food Service Marketing, Inc.
many who do seek treatment. Addiction is described in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous as cunning, baffling and powerful. Many, particularly the loved ones of those who are addicted, think that they can will or love someone into recovery. This is not the case. Many think that once one gets into recovery they will never relapse. This is not the case. Addiction is a chronic illness that mimics the recovery patterns of diabetes or heart disease. The difference is that the addict who relapses is unfortunately seen in a completely different light. Recovery is a process, not an event. You are not addicted one day and not addicted the next. The recovering addict must learn that they can live a different life without mood altering substances. 

At Bridge House / Grace House there were 755 admissions in 2013. With your support we were able to open our doors to literally these hundreds of individuals seeking recovery. The sad truth is – we will never be able to help everyone but we will help as many as we can. It is true that when something happens with someone famous the issue comes to the forefront. So – when Mr. Hoffman expressed that he may save 10 people by example, maybe he was right. Directly or indirectly, by reaching either the addict or the loved one of an addict, the attention has made all of us more aware. This awareness can save lives. Some signs to look for if you are concerned about someone abusing heroin include: social withdrawal; lack of interest in things previously engaged in; unusual behavior, including disorientation or “nodding” off (falling asleep at odd times); constricted pupils.

While you cannot force anyone to get into recovery, if you have concerns it is good to be aware of what options may be available to you. Bridge House / Grace House is a great option for someone who is seeking recovery and cannot afford treatment. Our Intake phone number is 504.821.7120. 

Else Pedersen MBA, LAC 
epedersen@bridgehouse.org 
504.821.7120

1 http://entertainment.time.com/2014/02/05/aaron-sorkin-philip-seymour-hoffmans-death-saved-10-lives/
The mission of Bridge House / Grace House is to provide gender specific treatment to men and women who have become dependent on alcohol or drugs so that they may lead sober and productive lives.

Long-term residential services are offered in an atmosphere that promotes dignity, honor and respect. These services are offered regardless of one’s ability to pay.