The Last House on the Block



Serenity House A Division of Serenity Consultants, Inc.

508 Elberon Avenue Cincinnati OH 45205

513-921-1986 phone 513-921-0272 fax

4th Annual Golf Outing and Dinner

Screnity House

Event Sponsored By

DONNAKARAN

NEWYORK

OURSE GUIDELINS

Manual to more the activation for more than the control of the cont

Fred Fago and Mike Veder at last year's Golf Outing. DKNY was the sponsor.

On May 16, 2009, Serenity House will hold their 4th annual Golf Outing and Dinner. It will be held at the Glenview Golf Course. Registration and lunch will begin at 12:00 PM and Shotgun start at 1:30 PM. If you are not a golfer but you want to support this worthy cause, please attend the dinner and silent auction. Our event sponsor is Donna Karan New York.

Donna Karan has donated over 50 items from DKNY & Donna Karan Collection:

◆ Jewelry ◆ Leather Jackets ◆ Watches ◆
 Handbags ◆ Accessories

Urban Zen Home Furnishings

Other donated items include: ♦ Catered Gourmet Dinner ♦ Yoga Classes

- ♦ Scuba Diving Lessons
- ◆ A free week's Florida Beach house rental ◆ Sports memorabilia More info at: www.serenityconsultants.org

Expansion of Shelter From the Storm Program

Thank you to The George B. Riley Trust Estate. Because of their generosity, we have been able to expand The Shelter From the Storm Program.

Many of the individuals that are referred to us are in a stage of complete powerlessness over their addiction, and they are unable to maintain the thirty days of abstinence that is required prior to be admitted to the residential program. The Shelter from the Storm program is designed specifically for this group of individuals. We want to help these individuals let go of some of their own power, so that they can maintain abstinence and become residents of the Serenity

House. With this additional funding, we can increase the support needed to help this vulnerable group maintain a sustained period of sobriety and enter the residential program. Funding will also be used to increase the family program, adding a more in depth family reunification session meeting monthly.

In this issue:

4th Annual Golf I Outing and Dinner

Expansion of Shelter From the Storm Program

News from the **2** Director

Collaborative 2

Frank's Story 3

New Employee 3

Thank You 3

Serenity House Executive Board

- Mike Veder President
- Fred Fago
 Treasurer
- Ivan Faske Secretary
- Jeff Emerson
 Executive Member
- Mark Holman
 Executive Member
- Carleton Maddox
 Executive Member

Serenity House is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible and will be promptly acknowledged.

News From the Director



Ivan Faske, Director Serenity House

Serenity House Forms Collaborative

Serenity House is a founding member of the Greater Cincinnati Recovery Resource Collaborative (GCRRC), along with Charlie's 3/4 House, Gateway House, Sober Living, Prospect House, and the House of Freedom and Miracles.

GCRRC are a collective autonomous group of non-profit 501(c) (3) housing programs in the Cincinnati area whose focus is spiritual, as well as, material, and is based on the 12-steps & 12-traditions. We mean to assist men & women to achieve the highest level of life recovery from the disease of addiction/alcoholism at the lowest possible cost to the individual, the family and the community.

Goal – To collaborate as a group to obtain agreed upon supportive resources for the residents in each facility and to assist each facility in acquiring the cost effective means of accomplishing this goal.

Objective – To enhance the recovery success chances of all our residents

This is our first newsletter and I am very excited about it and our growth and development. Serenity House has been in operation for three years as of May Ist, 2009. We have served over I25 residents. Our success rate is based on being clean or sober for two years, going to I2-step meetings and doing step work with a sponsor. We have recently initiated an Alumni Committee to our Board.

Serenity House is seeing outstanding numbers of residents doing well and in the rooms of recovery. Even many of the men who did not finish the Serenity House program successfully are staying clean or sober and thanking us for our support and help in finding a new way to live.

We have finally come to a point where further growth could only come from increased staff support. Donna King has recently joined us part time through a generous grant from The Riley Trust Foundation. We were blessed to have found her. She has already, after only three weeks, made an indelible mark on our Serenity House Program and our individual residents.

We are moving along with some drawbacks in funding for future growth, and a delay in the development and implementation of our proposed women's program. This is due to our current economic status. Fortunately for us, our focus is on "carrying the message" of recovery to those in need and secondarily on the necessary funding to do so. We believe, as a faith-based non-profit, that our corporation is in the right hands and as a result, will continue to flourish. That is why we continue to ask for financial support from our friends and community.

Please consider joining us in our fun fundraisers, our Golf Outing in May and our 1st Annual Gala Banquet in October, or just donate directly through our Pledge Card on the back of this newsletter. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you for supporting Serenity House.

Save The Date!



On October 11, 2009 Serenity House will host the first annual Fall Gala Banquet. This year's event will be held at Evergreen Retirement Community. More details to come!



On a Personal Note: Frank's Story

Frank, a heroin addict, came to Serenity House after he "hit bottom." No one, like Frank, says, "When I grow up I want to be a drug addict. I want to live a self-centered, self-destructive lifestyle. I'll steal from family members, strangers and even stores to support my habit and build up a police record, and live on the street. I'll give up everything for one more hit of heroin." The fact is when a person with a propensity toward alcoholism or drug addiction takes their first drink or uses the first addictive drug (prescribed or illegal), their brain chemistry changes and the downward slope begins. By the time, the addict understands his/her predicament, the addiction has taken control. There is no longer a decision to be made. It is the addiction that sets the terms.

Like Frank, the men who come to Serenity House have lost almost everything but their lives. Many addicted men no longer have any family support, no driver's license, no high school diploma or GED, no home, no job, no money, and no self-esteem, or self-worth. However, without alcohol and other drugs in their system these men can become honest, responsible, and productive members of society. The changes are significant in just a few short months, but a strong life-long recovery foundation takes a year or two with proper guidance.

Thank You to Our Contributors in 2008

Donna Karan (DKNY)

The Hanley Foundation

The George B. Riley Trust Estate

David Proctor Trust

Cincinnati Red's

Costco

Crossroads Community Church

Skip's Bagels

Alliance Printing



We want to welcome our newest staff member, Donna King. She started in March as Program Coordinator and works primarily with "Shelter from the Storm". This program is designed to help individual addicts through their compulsion and prepare them for reentering the workplace.

In her professional career, she was employed by non-profit, faith based organizations which lends to her sensitivity to the mission and needs of the Serenity House. Donna anticipates the support of the community to foster additional Serenity



House locations. "The proven success of Serenity House is merit for its continued growth and prosperity. I look forward to our meeting the overwhelming need to guide additional men, women, and women with children to a path of recovery and self-empowerment."

One of her personal accomplishments was leaving the corporate field after twenty years to pursue a passion. Today, her other hat in life is a chef's toque! Having attended culinary school and working in the field, her area of culinary specialty is Natural Foods, from field to table cuisine and in naturally sweet desserts. She has experienced and exemplifies that one day at a time each one of us can succeed in our goals, overcoming challenges and viewing them as opportunities for growth.

Donna resides in Northern Kentucky with her husband, Garry. She is an active trail runner and volunteers with "Girls on the Run", a program for promoting self-esteem with preteen girls. And of course, there is an organic garden at their home, closely guarded by their two veggie-eating dogs! "I appreciate, in advance, everyone's interest and support for the Serenity House. Please feel free to contact me with questions or how I can assist you in your desire to support our mission."



	Please send check to: Serenity House 508 Elberon Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45205 513-921-1986 www.serenityconsultants.org	☐ Yes, I wish to become a monthly supporter for the next 12 months. Enclosed is my 1st Monthly Gift of ☐\$20 ☐\$50 ☐\$75 ☐\$100 ☐Other \$	
		☐ Yes, I wish to become an Annual supporter for the next ☐1, ☐3, ☐5, ☐Other Years Enclosed is my 1st Annual Gift of ☐\$50 ☐\$100 ☐\$250 ☐\$500 ☐\$1000 ☐Other\$	
		☐ Yes, I wish to offer support at this time with a single Gift. Enclosed is a check for ☐\$50 ☐\$100 ☐\$250 ☐\$500 ☐\$1000 ☐Other\$	
		☐ Yes, I would like to pledge a non-cash gift (i.e.: property, bonds, trust, or service) and would appreciate a contact to discuss the details.	
		$\hfill\square$ Yes, I wish to support Serenity House with my Prayers. Please keep me on your mailing list.	
		☐ Please remove me from your mailing list.	
		Name:	Phone:
		Address:	E-mail:
		We will reply with a thank you letter including our tax exempt number	