As the saying goes, it “takes a village” to fulfill the countless roles and responsibilities in an organization as large and diverse as ours. This January, we celebrate our 45th year of helping people in need and I am reminded now more than ever that beyond the incredible work of our professional and committed staff, an army of volunteers, sponsors and advocates toils tirelessly to help David Lawrence be the best it can be.

In this issue of our newsletter, we are focusing on some of these important efforts — not only to recognize and thank those who help, but also to encourage others to become involved as they are able.

Our Boards are the backbone of our volunteer contributions, but there are many, many more who choose to serve. Our new volunteer initiative has helped us welcome many new faces to our organization and tallied thousands of hours of support that produce critical revenues for our operations and enhance our facilities and programs.

This year, Gala chair Gwyn Sanford led a team of volunteers who produced a record breaking $550,000 in funding. At our Encore Shop, new volunteer Signe Larson has joined a team of 30 others – many with more than 15 years of service – that has allowed Encore to extend store hours and increase revenues and financial support to DLC. A new Planned Giving program, led by Board Member Mary Beth Crawford, has opened a new area of contributions.

And our generous sponsors and dedicated partners give us the ability to do so much more for our clients than we otherwise could. The opening of our new Crisis Stabilization Unit is a fine example of a community coming together to fund a critical need. Those involved in the new Equine Therapy program show how partnerships and people are impacting lives and empowering people towards life-changing wellness through innovative psychotherapies.

“We were founded 45 years ago by dedicated volunteers and today are blessed and humbled by people who continue to donate their time and talent to our mission.”

— DAVID SCHIMMEL, DLC CEO
**SUCCESs STORy**

Josh is a 6-year-old boy with a newfound passion for horses thanks to the new pilot equine therapy program. His treatment and access to the program is due in part to the NCeF Wrap Around Collier Program which helps improve access to children’s mental healthcare.

Josh struggles with ADD and oppositional defiant disorder which is a pattern of disobedient, hostile, and defiant behavior towards authority figures. Because the disorder is caused by a combination of biological, psychological and social factors, his treatment consists of a combination of a variety of programs available in the DLC continuum of care. Each program is designed to address different components of the whole child so he can achieve the best treatment outcomes.

Josh has difficulties following directions, obeying rules, following through with requests, attention issues and is defiant to his mother and teachers at times. This culminates in severe temper tantrums when he doesn’t get his way. He takes medications to regulate his mood and ADD symptoms. Josh and his mother receive therapeutic behavioral onsite services in the home and school setting where his behavior problems occur.

Josh was handpicked for the equine program so that he could gain socialization skills and learn empathy. Today, horses are all he seems to have on his mind. He loves telling his mother all about how to care for the horses.

Now that he’s gained self confidence and tackled attention and empathy issues in a controlled setting with horses, he will work with his therapist on translating those lessons to friends and family.

**PROgRAM NEwS**

Equine Therapy Pilot Program Launched

A new Equine Therapy program is being piloted with a select group of clients from the Crossroads, Behavioral Health Network, Wrap Around Collier and Therapeutic Behavioral Onsite Services programs. The weekly program is held offsite at our collaborative community partner’s facility, the Naples Equestrian Challenge, and involves grooming, feeding and caring for horses. The therapeutic program allows for interaction with an animal to help bring clients out of his/her immediate anxieties and concerns and focuses attention on care of the animal.

This is a form of experiential psychotherapy that provides the client with opportunities to enhance self-awareness and re-pattern maladaptive behaviors, feelings and attitudes. The weekly session is designed for up to six clients. Each individual interacts directly with a horse in the group. Session topics include developing skills for communication, relationships, cooperation and self-reflection.
The Theatre Zone’s production of the Tony award winning musical Next to Normal follows the highs and lows of a family impacted by bipolar disorder and how they band together in love, determination and patience to try to be close to “normal”. DLC has teamed up with TheaterZone and our joint supporter Lu Drackett to bring awareness of mental illness. Drackett will host a free opening reception, discussion and book signing on March 3rd from 5:00-6:00 p.m. with psychiatrist Dr. Scott Haltzman who will talk about how mental health providers can help families with the challenges of living with a mental illness. On March 10th at 4:30 p.m. Haltzman will participate in a talkback with the Next to Normal cast discussing the ideas, themes, and performances of the play after their matinee performance. Both events are held at the G&L Theatre on the Community School campus. Attendance to the talks are free, reservations are required.
The 2013 signature fundraiser “An Evening in Venice, Masquerade Ball” was a huge success. Nearly 400 supporters came to enjoy the festivities hidden behind beautifully decorated masks as they bid on luxurious live and silent auction items collected by our amazing volunteer committee and generously donated by our friends in the community. This resulted in record breaking success raising nearly $550,000. Included in that number was a heartwarming $210,000 raised towards a reinvigorated fund-a-need initiative that garnered pledges in support of the newly expanded Crisis Stabilization Unit. A very special thank you to the committee, donors and attendees for making this year’s gala a huge success.

**Grant News**

**Community Foundation Capacity Building Grant $6,000**

Funding to purchase and implement a new integrated e-mail archiving system that will allow for absolute control of confidential messaging data that enforces electronic records management policies.

**Telford Foundation Grant - $73,625**

Funding for prevention education programs and to improve access to children’s mental health services.
The 2011-2012 Annual Report is now available electronically on our website at www.DavidLawrenceCenter.org. The report features the exciting organizational transformation the Center has embarked upon to create a new vision for the future. The report highlights our successes in the areas of community engagement, renovation and expansion, awareness, recognition and helping people achieve life-changing wellness - all made possible due to the unwavering support of the many donors, volunteers, partners and supporters listed in the report. If you would like to receive a printed copy, please contact the Foundation at 239-354-1434.

CRISIS UNIT OPEN HOUSE

In November, more than 150 of our donors, supporters, community partners and the media came out to celebrate the grand opening of the much anticipated expanded Crisis Stabilization Unit. Guests enjoyed tours of the children’s and adult units and shared their enthusiasm and admiration for the much improved, serene and secure environment.
Donor-advised funds versus private foundations

IF YOU ARE, OR ARE PLANNING TO become, one of the millions of Americans who will contribute to charity this year, there are several ways to ensure that you reduce your tax liability through giving.

One of the most innovative ways of giving is through a donor-advised fund (DAF), a separately-identified fund or account that is maintained and operated by a section 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Donor-advised funds are becoming an increasingly attractive option for individuals, families and organizations looking for alternatives to direct giving or private foundations. They are usually offered by foundations, mutual fund groups, other financial firms and universities, which often partner with a charity on the offering.

The benefit donors receive from using donor-advised funds include the ability to donate a wide variety of assets, an immediate tax deduction, flexible grantmaking and the opportunity to create a legacy. The charitable assets can be passed on to future generations to oversee and/or can be given directly to charitable organizations.

Since the contributions are being made to a public charity, the donor receives an immediate tax deduction, including a deduction for a cash donation of up to 50% of the donor’s adjusted gross income (AGI), or a deduction for securities and other appreciated assets of up to 30% of his or her AGI.

There are several tax advantages to having a private foundation, including the fact that no capital gain is realized when appreciated property is donated to the foundation. Donors may also claim a charitable deduction for the full market value of appreciated stock held in publicly traded companies.

When selecting a charitable vehicle, keep in mind that with donor-advised funds, you do not control the workings of the fund – the fund administrator actually makes the grants. As a donor, you may provide suggestions about the distributions, the institution makes from the fund, but your recommendations are considered as advisory only. While most suggestions are followed by the administrating charity, they are not obligated to do so.

In contrast, donors in private foundations can create their own board, pick investments from across the financial industry and give equally to foreign and domestic charities.

When comparing the two structures, it is important to realize that the DAF and a private foundation can also complement each other. For example, the DAF and a private foundation can work together to fund anonymous grants, facilitate donations of special assets, and simplify international grant making and operational administration.

For more information to help you decide the right vehicle for charitable giving and how that can benefit the David Lawrence Center, call 354-1416.
Last year, 99 people died of accidental pill overdoses in the four-county region that includes Collier, Lee, Hendry and Glades, an increase of about 15 percent from 2010. In an effort to help prevent drug related overdose deaths specifically among our youth and on college campuses, the 9-1-1 Good Samaritan Law was put into effect in October of 2012. The law allows people to call 9-1-1 and get medical assistance for their friends without fear of being arrested.

With the current prescription drug epidemic, too many of our youth are being lost especially during the college years when drug experimentation often begins. Awareness and education is critical to preventing further loss of life.

In nearly all cases of overdose fatalities, a person consumed at least two different substances usually because they naively mix drugs – even in small quantities. Our partners the Narcotics Overdose Prevention & Education Task Force provided these tips on what to look for and what to do if you suspect an overdose.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF DRUG OVERDOSE:
- May not awaken when roused
- May not respond to painful stimulation
- May exhibit blue or purple lips, face and hands
- May have cold, clammy skin
- May snore or struggle for breath
- May complain of elevated body temperature
- May vomit
- May behave irrationally or seem confused

EMERGENCY DOS & DON’TS IN CASE OF POSSIBLE DRUG OVERDOSE:
- Do call 9-1-1
- Do tell medical professionals everything the person consumed
- Do stay with the person until help arrives
- Do not allow the person to sleep it off
- Do not put the person in a bath or shower
- Do not inject the person with anything
- Do not leave the person alone
- Do not treat the victim with home remedies

Dr. Dana Castro is board certified in adult psychiatry and addiction. He earned his bachelor’s degree in biology and environmental science and his master’s of arts in teaching from the State University of New York. He earned his medical degree from Albany Medical College. He completed his internship and residency at North Shore University Hospital. He brings with him more than 30 years of experience with a strong background in substance abuse having most recently served as the Medical Director at Hazelden Florida.

In other medical team news, Dr. Frank Lehninger was recently promoted to the Senior Physician of Children’s Services. He is a triple board certified adult, child/adolescent and geriatric psychiatrist.

In addition to providing direct psychiatric services, our physician team is helping us spread the word about mental health and substance abuse topics by writing educational articles, participating in media interviews and speaking in the community.
While most young girls around the country were playing with dolls, at the ripe old age of six Signe Larson was happily playing with toy cash registers. Her interest in how they worked turned into a passion for computers. Now as a recent FGCU college graduate with a psychology degree, she now has a passion for how the mind works too.

With a strong desire to put all her passions to good use while she awaits the start of graduate school this summer, she became interested in volunteering at the David Lawrence Center because of our mission’s relevance to her goal of pursuing a career in counseling or health management.

Due to her interests, skill sets and available time commitment, Volunteer Coordinator Maureen Sullivan-Hartung and Encore Manager Charlene Dailey immediately began grooming Signe for the last six months to become trained enough to open and manage the stores on Mondays.

Her volunteer efforts don’t stop at Encore either. As with many of our Encore volunteers, when additional needs throughout the Center arise, they step up for the call of duty. With so many volunteer opportunities available during the Masquerade Gala, Signe was a huge help during registration.