A NEW YEAR: A NEW LEADER ARMED WITH IMPRESSIVE STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

From the CEO
Scott Burgess

2014 will be a year of exciting transitions and transformations for my family, myself and the David Lawrence Center as I proudly and humbly begin my term as Chief Executive Officer of this wonderful organization.

I’ve relocated to Naples, after an almost 22-year career with Alexian Brothers Center for Mental Health – an arm of a large multi-hospital healthcare network in Arlington Heights, Illinois. I began working as an entry level vocational counselor and progressed to Executive Director – a position I held for the last five years.

During my tenure there I served as a psychotherapist working with the child, adolescent and adult populations and ultimately worked my way up to Manager of Aftercare Services, Director of Program Services and Director of Research. Through this process, I’ve gained detailed knowledge about all facets of community mental health and I’m excited to get to work applying that to furthering the mission the David Lawrence Center.

“Working together, I know we can increase access to care and advance help, healing and hope to those critically needing support. ”

– SCOTT BURGESS, CEO

From my first day on the job, I’ve been completely impressed with the level of expertise, professionalism, care and commitment to quality that already exists here. There is also an amazing foundation of support in the community. I am eager to take part in working with donors, businesses, community leaders and government officials to help the Center grow in order to meet the increased community needs, as well as successfully navigate the ever-changing healthcare environment.

In order to move forward with our future, the Board hired a national advisor to help guide us in a manner consistent with national and local trends in needs, services and resourcing. I’ve been working with this advisor to overlay all the wonderful insights and ideas DLC staff provided in the development of the “Plan for Organizational Excellence.” These documents will serve as our cornerstone to realize our vision.

We will accomplish our vision by building on the excellence that exists by expanding services and adding new innovations that will keep us a cutting-edge provider, leading the field in Southwest Florida and beyond. Exciting times are here and on the horizon.
“Individuals with substance abuse and mental health disorders experience significant discrepancies in health and mortality factors and require approaches that address the whole person both physically and psychologically.”

— Nancy Dauphinais, Crossroads Clinical Supervisor

Residents in our Crossroads Residential substance abuse treatment program recently received a new multipurpose fitness court through a Collier County Housing Human and Veteran Services HUD grant awarded by our County Commissioners. The grant funded the “Access 2 Wellness” project which was designed to increase access to intensive substance abuse treatment and improve overall health and wellness for high need, low-income adults with chemical dependency.

The beautifully landscaped new fitness court and the wellness-based programming surrounding it helped integrate physical wellness into the program’s traditional substance abuse and mental health services with a holistic approach to recovery needs. New fitness equipment was also purchased to accommodate recreational and rehabilitative activities such as yoga, basketball, volleyball, aerobics and weightlifting.

Members of the Crossroads treatment team now provide individualized wellness assessments, goal-setting and ongoing support, regular health monitoring and facilitate wellness-oriented group sessions.

SUCCESS STORY

Maria, a self-proclaimed Daddy’s girl, is a beautiful 16-year-old who grew up as the bubbly center of attention. Tragedy hit when she watched her father die after a deadly motorcycle accident. She began isolating, quit cheerleading, lost interest in friends and became immersed in feelings of loneliness, insecurities and self-loathing.

When her mother began dating, Maria acted out and they fought terribly. She smoked marijuana daily, and let her grades slip. Her mother felt helpless and feared she failed as a parent. After a huge fight, Maria wrote a heart wrenching note explaining just how low she really was and when she discovered a knife under Maria’s pillow, she finally sought help.

She brought Maria to the Crisis Unit where they began their journey to wellness. After discharge, she was referred into the Community Action Team which provides an array of community-based mental health and family support services.

She began family and individual therapy, met weekly with her mentor and started seeing a psychiatrist to address her depression and anxiety. As her mood elevated, she stepped out of the safety of her isolated bedroom and began enjoying life again.

Maria attributes most of her success to the constant support she receives from her “team” adding, “Knowing that I could be 100 percent honest and open right from the start was an amazing feeling.”

“I’ve learned that depression can be conquered. I am reminded daily of all the reasons I’m lucky and blessed to be alive.”

— Maria, Community Action Team Client
For the first time, the Young Executives is partnering with Gulf Coast Runners to cohost the Beach Bum Run. This fun, family friendly 3.1 mile morning run on beautiful Naples beach starts at Lowdermilk Park and will include refreshments, great giveaways and opportunities to win unique prizes. Proceeds from race registrations will be shared between DLC and Gulf Coast Runners Youth Development Fund. Sponsorship and race registration information can be found online. Tickets are $15 before Feb 22, $20 before March 21 and $25 on the day of the race. Student tickets are $10. Race begins at 7:30 a.m.

For sponsorship or ticket information, visit DavidLawrenceCenter.org or call (239) 304-3505.
Putting on the Ritz for DLC at Terrazza Restaurant
In December, The Ritz-Carlton, Naples held an exclusive, private dinner to benefit David Lawrence Center at their remastered, open air, Coastal Italy themed Terrazza Restaurant. The sold-out event raised $9,800 and gathered a wonderful mix of board members, young professionals, corporate and community partners and donors who were anxious to support DLC while sampling the new menu items, enjoying the beautiful renovations and savoring an evening at the world-class resort.

Naples Women’s Kitchen Tour
Special thanks to the Naples Woman’s Club for selecting David Lawrence Center as one of four beneficiaries of their sold out second annual Kitchen Tour. More than 500 guests toured the mouthwatering kitchens of four Port Royal homes, offered by local homeowners with some of the best kitchens in Naples. Busloads of visitors at three different departure times were treated to docent tours of the kitchens, along with cooking demonstrations and gourmet samples from professional chefs and a boutique shopping for items from BR Uno, Three60 Market and Marilyn’s Fashions. Chefs: Tony Ridgway, Bayside Bar & Grill; Norman Love Confections.

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1920’S PARISIAN THEMED SIGNATURE GALA
A ROARING SUCCESS

Nearly 400 sponsors, donors and supporters were surrounded with the sights and sounds of an exclusive 1920’s jazz infused nightclub staged Under the Eiffel Tower at the Foundation’s signature destination themed gala. Guests generously bid on hundreds of one-of-a-kind trips such as the Music for Mental Health Festival experience of a lifetime at the Staglin Family Vineyards in Napa, amazing jewelry and many other unique experiences and items during the live and silent auction all donated in-kind by our community and tirelessly collected by our amazing committee. Donors raised their paddles to offer hope to the wounded and affected, their families and our community and successfully raised $420,000 to offer our clients continued hope for personal growth. The Fund-A-Need during the live auction specifically focused on the need for emergency inpatient treatment for our community's children. In just a matter of minutes, donors reached deep into their pockets and donated $193,000 for the Children’s Crisis Stabilization Unit. For this, we offer our humble appreciation to everyone who supported the gala and to our amazing co-chairs Caryn Buechel and Amanda Jaron and honorary co-chairs Jacques and Lysielle Cariot for leading the way.

FACT:
Since expanding the Crisis Stabilization Unit in November 2012, there has been a 42% increase in the number of adults served and a 82% increase in the number of children served.
As more and more of us spend our lives in the digital realm, the footprints we leave behind are increasingly left online, which make it difficult for the transition of these types of assets. In this Planned Giving article, we’ll discuss the types of digital assets that you may have and how to think about safeguarding these assets, especially in the context of planning for a smooth transfer in case of death or disability.

Blogs, Web Pages, Domain Names, and Online Businesses
One example is online businesses, domain names, and other items that exist almost exclusively in the digital realm. While “virtual” in nature, these assets may hold tremendous value, and this value can drop precipitously in a short period of time if a proper estate plan is not in place. An online business that sits stagnant due to the lack of a proper succession plan could face a loss of revenue or worse. If hosting and support fees are not paid in a timely manner, entire sites may be decommissioned and entire businesses may be lost.

Online Financial Accounts
For some families, bill pay services and online investment accounts may be entirely managed by one member. What happens to these accounts when that person is gone or incapacitated? Missed payments on a debt instrument could result in late fees or have impacts to credit. Additionally, unless an executor is aware of or has access to all accounts, settlement of this estate may be delayed.

Other Online Accounts
In addition to accounts and items with financial value, many items with a less explicit value are also stored or created online. Family pictures, genealogy work, frequent flier programs, and other items are sometimes exclusively digital in nature. Password protection and other safeguards can prove challenging for the next generation to retrieve and transition these assets.

Social Networking Sites
With a myriad of social networking options to document our opinions, friends, and lives available, any estate plan should include the decommissioning and transitioning of this valuable data. Information should be archived or risk being lost forever or even stored in perpetuity.

The loss or incapacitation of a loved one is always challenging. By taking proactive action today, you can help ease the burden of the financial impact to your heirs. The key is to take action by documenting your digital life and discussing that with a trusted advisor.

If you aren’t sure how, we encourage you to talk to your estate attorney or a member of the David Lawrence Center Planning Giving Committee.
Addiction is a brain disease that involves: obsessive thinking, compulsive need and craving for alcohol, drugs, gambling, sex, food, etc.; loss of control over the use of the object of the addiction; and continued use despite negative consequences. The addicted brain is chemically different and physiologically different from a normal brain.

People in addiction often experience increased emotional pain that may be difficult to alleviate by previously effective coping methods. Addicted individuals may turn to addictive substances or experiences in order to seek relaxation, stimulation, mood regulation, reduced emotional pain or anxiety, and an improved perception of life. By increasing the use of these medications to meet emotional needs, those in addiction may begin to develop tolerance and dependence.

When confronted with an addiction and its negative consequences, the individual often feels intense guilt and shame and these feelings may intensify the individual’s unhealthy attempts to cope.

In this way, addiction creates a cycle of ever-increasing addictive behavior resulting in negative emotions, which in turn motivates an increase in dependence on the addiction for comfort.

Shame can be one of greatest impediments to seeking alcohol and addiction treatment. Shame and blame from family and society also contributes to the vicious cycle of addiction. Like any disease, with proper medical intervention and supervision, appropriate aftercare and life-style changes, and sincere support and encouragement, the addicted individual in recovery can live a healthy and productive life.

“Like other chronic diseases, addiction often involves cycles of relapse and remission. Without treatment or engagement in recovery activities, addiction is progressive and can result in disability or premature death.”

– AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ADDICTION MEDICINE
Dedicated, Experienced New Encore Leadership Shares the Mission

With more than 17 years of experience at DLC, newly named Encore Manager, Kim Mayeu, has a rare insider’s view of the critical needs of the Center and the importance of Encore’s fundraising success and support back to the Center’s programs. After former CEO David Schimmel’s retirement, she transferred to her new position after serving as his long-time executive assistant and most recently as an Administrative Supervisor. Ready to apply her growth as a supervisor and put her recently attained MBA to work, she’s hit the ground running since volunteering to help spearhead the renovations and expansions over the summer.

Kim’s dedication to customer service, passion for our mission, knowledge of the Center’s programs and operations and ability to motivate customers, donors and volunteers makes her an amazing asset at Encore.

Kim works diligently alongside a wonderful team of staff and volunteers including local upscale resale boutique guru, Karen Balazano, who came out of retirement this summer to lend her expertise to Encore as we migrated from consignment to donations and launched our women’s boutique. Her 15-year tenure with the Options Thrift Shoppe, helped bring their sales from $120,000 to over $1 million a year.

Our newest team member Amy Mlinar has valuable experience in quality customer service and is applying her love of women’s fashion and beauty as a seasoned hairstylist to the store. Her contagious personality exudes the type of positivity and friendliness that we are proud to have representing the David Lawrence Center.

Stop by and make a donation of women’s designer accessories and apparel or call to arrange complimentary pick up of your gently used home goods/furnishings, meet the friendly, passionate team and walk out with something new to support the mission of DLC.