

# The Gaudenzia Gazette

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## Gaudenzia expands to Baltimore

Gaudenzia, long known for its extensive, quality programs in the state of Pennsylvania has expanded its treatment network to the state of Maryland – specifically Baltimore City, where Gaudenzia has been awarded a contract to provide non-hospital detoxification services, short term residential treatment (known in Maryland as ICF/Intensive Care Facility treatment), long term modified residential therapeutic community treatment, and intensive outpatient and outpatient treatment.

To fulfill the contract, Gaudenzia has purchased a 40,000 square foot, 125 bed facility that was a former nursing home in the Park Heights section of Baltimore. The building was made available to Gaudenzia through the efforts of Robert Embry, Jr., president of the Abell Foundation and Dr. Peter Beilensen, health commissioner for Baltimore City, and the staff of Baltimore Substance Abuse Systems (BSAS), the city substance abuse authority. Dr. Beilensen and his staff have worked to obtain community support for necessary zoning and to insure the availability of treatment funding to allow the facility to be fully operational by the end of this calendar year. BSAS staff is working with Gaudenzia to assure a close partnership for the provision of these much needed services.

The program, to be known as Gaudenzia at Park Heights, opened for clients in the latter part of March. Located on Park Heights Avenue, just south of the famous Pimlico Racetrack, the facility is in a section of Baltimore suffering from severe economic decline; an area that has the highest HIV transmission rate in the city and one of the highest in the nation. This is a community that is working to face it's social, economic and health problems. At the request of the health commissioner, it has also actively supported zoning for

Gaudenzia in it's neighborhood. Gaudenzia is grateful for this support and will work hard to live up to the community's trust.

The next phase of expansion in Maryland will be to provide enhanced outpatient treatment services in Prince Georges County, Maryland. This treatment contract is intended to serve approximately 125 – 150 clients annually. The target population is clients who have been struggling in standard outpatient programs but who might be successful on an outpatient basis with additional support. The program will open at the beginning of September 2002.



*Applause rang out after The Honorable Martin O'Malley, mayor of the City of Baltimore cut the ribbon at recent grand opening of Gaudenzia at Park Heights.*

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## House Appropriations Committee hears of need for increased treatment funds

A very unique hearing of the Pennsylvania House Appropriations Committee was held recently in Bensalem. The hearing, the first of its kind, was convened for the express purpose of addressing the problem of a lack of funding for drug and alcohol treatment.

Convened under the leadership of the House Appropriations Committee secretary, the Honorable Representative Gene DiGirolamo of Bucks County, the hearing offered members of the committee the opportunity to hear from a broad spectrum of citizens of the commonwealth who have a vested interest in increased funding for treatment. "Drug and alcohol abuse treatment affects all Pennsylvanians. In fact, the statistics are staggering," said DiGirolamo. "Without additional funding for treatment, a time bomb ticking in the backyard of Pennsylvania will explode."

Included among those testifying before the committee were officials of the judicial system, parents and children who had experienced addiction through the actions of a family member, parents who had lost children as a result of drug abuse, and professionals in the substance abuse treatment field. "Untreated addiction is not someone else's nightmare," stated Deb Beck, president of the Drug and Alcohol Service Providers Organization of Pennsylvania (DASPOP). "It is your neighbor or your co-worker. It's the kid sitting next to yours in school who's on a waiting list to get into treatment."

Gaudenzia President and Executive Director Michael Harle was one of the field professionals who provided stirring testimony before the committee, explaining to them that "today we have begun to hear a lack of denial [about the need for treatment]. People we see often feel



Michael Harle (r) testifying before the committee

hopelessness; we [as treatment professionals] work to instill hopefulness. Today you [the members of this committee] have given us hope and have let us know that someone has listened to us."

Representative DiGirolamo is now working to increase the budget for addiction treatment by \$10 million this year. In his testimony before the House Appropriations Committee on February 13, 2002, Representative DiGirolamo stated:

*"One in four families are affected [by drug and alcohol abuse]. There is \$246 billion in economic impact, there are over 100,000 deaths a year, and 70% of the people in jail will come back to our communities with the alcohol and drug problem unaddressed."*

*"Our county drug and alcohol system is overwhelmed. They have been forced to devise systems to make too few dollars stretch across a 12 month period. Often funding for treatment is doled out one month at a time, on a first come, first serve basis and then all admissions stop. And your constituents and mine get turned away from needed treatment until the next month and the next too little allocation. We must no longer tolerate waiting lists for untreated addiction. Every time we turn a person away from treatment, it is ourselves that we hurt."*

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## Vantage construction now underway

The Vision for Vantage growth and development campaign is slowly becoming a reality to the administration, staff and women and children of Vantage in Lancaster.

Program Director, Florence Paige said, "Everyone is excited at the progress of the construction at Vantage. The speed and the diligence of the work crew is incredible! Everyday it seems like new additions are being added."

The Elsie Shenk Outpatient Center is now under roof and the plans are to complete the Center on schedule with the entire project. The present facility will be renovated once the new area has been completed and the staff and clients can be moved. The Lancaster community has been very supportive of Vantage/Gaudenzia and Jim Wellendorf, capital campaign committee co-chair, emphasizes "... we want to thank everyone who helped us to achieve this significant progress."

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## Junior League visits Kindred House

On Saturday, April 9th, the Junior League of Philadelphia hosted their Done-In-A-Day Project at Gaudenzia's Kindred House. Fifteen Junior League women spent the morning either helping children with arts and crafts and painting wooden stools and tee shirts, or playing with the younger children in the nursery. After the arts and crafts, the Junior League volunteers escorted the children to a local park and the children were able to play on the playground.

Both the children at Kindred House and the Junior League volunteers had a great day and were able to enjoy each other's company. Tentative plans were set for another Junior League volunteer day at Kindred House.



# 4th Benefit Auction achieves success

On Wednesday, May 15th, Gaudenzia hosted its fourth annual benefit auction at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. Thanks to the support of the Philadelphia-area business community and the volunteer auction committee, the event raised \$41,000 for Gaudenzia's substance abuse treatment programs and services.

Senator Arlen Specter was honorary chairman and Eugene Venezia of Legg Mason Real Estate Services and Dave Connolly of Canon Business Solutions were co-chairman.

Legg Mason Real Estate Services was this year's corporate presenter. Along with Legg Mason several area businesses provided underwriting and inkind support. Included among those corporations were PECO Energy, Sovereign Bank, Pecora Corporation, Independence Blue Cross, Marino General Construction, Philadelphia Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Buchanan Ingersoll, and Ikon Office Solutions.

The evening's events included a silent auction and a live auction with several local "celebrities" serving as guest auctioneers.

Those lending their auctioneer talents included: The Honorable Lynne Abraham, Tom Brookshire of the Philadelphia Eagles, Eric Gregg, retired baseball umpire, Police Commissioner Samuel Johnson, The Honorable Estelle Richman, The Honorable Frank Rizzo, Jr., Don Tolifson, Fox News, Todd Kimmel, Gaudenzia graduate, Charles Pizzi, Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, Ed Cunningham, WHYI, Inc., Walter D'Alessio, Legg Mason Real Estate Services and Leonard Walter, Alderfer Auction Company.

Live auction highlights included a trip to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, lunch with Ed Rendell and Lynne Abraham, a trip to Avalon, New Jersey, a luxury suite for a Flyer's game and golf

foursomes to Commonwealth Country Club, Overbrook Country Club and Llanarch Country Club.

The success of Gaudenzia's fourth annual benefit auction could not have been possible without the hard work of the auction committee, Gene Venezia, Dave Connolly, Jim Backes, Kevin Cummings, Jim McManus, Scott Swichar, Jonathan Swichar, Beth Herman, Jan McDermott, Mark Quinn, Mickey Moyle, Carole Ziegler and Bette Leshner.

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## Gaudenzia opens Siena House

Siena House, a new residential drug and alcohol facility located on the grounds of the Harrisburg State Hospital, is a 75-bed facility designed to assist men transitioning back into the community from state correctional facilities. The program's first admission was taken on March 12, 2002 and full capacity is to be achieved by August 2002. Siena House is licensed by the Department of Health, Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs and approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. Siena House has two separate and distinct programs. One serves individuals who have substance abuse problems and the other houses 25 individuals in the community corrections center. The goal of both programs is to provide an environment where men can heal and learn how their behavior has negatively impacted their lives, improve their self esteem and learn positive coping skills to mainstream back into society and become responsible employed citizens.

The men have access to individual and group substance abuse counseling, Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and Alcohol Anonymous (AA) orientation, family program, health education, education remediation, skills training, life skills, vocational referral, enrollment in a technical or community college and recreation and appropriate medical monitoring. Families receive education regarding addiction, enabling, co-dependency, assertiveness and orientation regarding the necessity of NA/AA support as well as the important role they contribute in the recovery process.

Men completing drug and alcohol treatment at Siena House will transfer to a community corrections center within Gaudenzia or return to their home communities, where they are expected to follow through with aftercare plans and obtain jobs. Residents who remain in Harrisburg may progress to the re-entry phase of treatment while being monitored by Gaudenzia staff. During aftercare, residents participate in outpatient counseling and attend a re-entry group designed to deal with the personal struggles they encounter while reintegrating into mainstream society. This group also discusses work-related problems, what it is like being out in the community, and helps provide appropriate solutions to issues and problems with the help of their peers.

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## Filanowski named program director of New View

Deborah Filanowski was recently named program director of Gaudenzia's New View.

Deb has been a senior counselor at Gaudenzia Fountain Springs in Ashland, Pennsylvania since 1994. She previously worked as a radio announcer, teacher and a vocational rehabilitation counselor before coming to Gaudenzia.

Deb is a graduate of West Virginia University, where she earned a Bachelors degree in Speech/Journalism and a Masters Degree in Education. She also holds several additional credits in vocational rehabilitation.

Deb is a mother of two daughters, and has many varied interests that she pursues in her spare time. Her first book of poetry will be published September 1st called, "And Guppies Eat Their Young."



Deb Filanowski

## Debbie B.

Debbie was born and raised in Harrisburg, PA, the middle child of six. “My life was chaotic growing up since I had to be the grown up in our family when no one else wanted to be” she reflects.

Debbie excelled in school and when she reached the seventh grade, she was permitted to skip two grade levels and enter high school. “I felt cheated that I was going to be in high school early because I just wanted to be with my friends that were my age,” she states.

Debbie tried out for the track team that year and made the team. She went to practices and when the first meet came along, her mother made her miss it because she had to watch her siblings. Debbie ended up quitting the track team because she knew that her mother needed her.

A family member introduced her to heroin at age 13, which was given to her as a payment for babysitting. “I thought it was fun at first, but then I became addicted and got myself into all sorts of trouble,” she reflects. Debbie quit school and ran away shortly after her addiction began, supporting her habit by selling her body on the streets.

Debbie was arrested at age 17 for accessory to armed robbery and received a 2-15 year sentence. She was sent to Muncy State Correctional Institution to serve her sentence and left after two years for good behavior. Debbie’s parole officer suggested that she get drug and alcohol treatment at Gaudenzia. She entered Concept-90 in 1977, but left before she finished the program.

When she left, she continued to drink while she looked for a job. Debbie was in and out of eight drug and alcohol treatment facilities in 10 years.

After a night of heavy drinking, Debbie realized that she was tired of the lifestyle she was living and was serious about getting help. Debbie returned to Concept-90 with the help of her parole officer in 1987.

“I was so much more open to the thought of treatment at this point. But I knew it would be hard and that I would have to work at it,” she reflects. “It was fascinating and a new experience for me and I knew that would make me a better person in the long run,” she states.



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*“Gaudenzia has taught me assurance, assertiveness and how to live my life as best as I can.”*

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After Debbie completed her first 90 days, she asked for an extension of 90 additional days to make sure that she was ready to enter into the real world without turning to drugs and alcohol.

“Gaudenzia has taught me assurance, assertiveness and how to live my life as best as I can,” she states.

Debbie graduated from Concept-90 in 1991 after a four year waiting period to work on herself. During this period she helped other women at several human service organizations. She worked with women who were victims of rape and domestic violence, while also mentoring children in her neighborhood.

“The one thing I miss most is my parole officer who died in 1997. He saw me at my best and my worst and was there for me through it all. He was my mentor, hero and best friend and will always remain in my memory,” she says.

Debbie received her Generalized Education Degree (G.E.D.) in 1981, passing the required tests with flying colors. She plans to continue her education by attending Harrisburg Area Community College in June to work on a counseling degree.

Her family life has changed drastically since Debbie got clean. She has 27 nieces and nephews who she has become a role model to, and her brother and sister, who also had drug and alcohol abuse problems, have also gotten clean.

Debbie continues stay involved in the recovery community by speaking about her experiences at local schools and at church, being a sponsor and attending Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings.

She currently works in the home care field, which is a career that she loves and that she wants to learn more about. “I’m hungry for knowledge and will continue to learn on a daily basis,” she states.

Her future goals in life include getting married, buying a home, going on a Carnival Cruise and becoming a women and children’s counselor. “I had ten goals that I wanted to accomplish in my life and I’m determined to do the remaining three so that I could say that I lived a full life.”

Debbie resides in Harrisburg with her two dogs Alex and Lucy.

“Three things contributed to getting to this point in my life. God, my sponsor and Gaudenzia and I thank each and every one of them every day for that.”



# Together House starts Short Term program

The Together House Short Term Program, located at the Spring Garden Street facility in Philadelphia was designed to provide residential addiction treatment services for adults who are HIV/AIDS symptomatic, may be homeless and may also have co-occurring disorders of chemical dependency and mental illness.

The Short-Term program came into existence as a result of the caring determination of Pat Bass, executive director of the AIDS Assistance Coordinating Office. Prior to the development of the Short Term Program, there were individuals who were not receiving services from medical, psychological/psychiatric, substance abuse treatment, housing and other social support systems. Pat contacted Gaudenzia Executive Director Michael Harle and together they devised the Short-Term Program to provide these needed services to those who could use them most.

The program is unique in the sense that it is based on a

Therapeutic Community model, modified to address the special needs of the population it serves. This model integrates chemical dependency and mental health treatment elements coupled with HIV/AIDS education and treatment. The program emphasizes assessment, stabilization and subsequent referral to external/internal services for ongoing treatment and maintenance of long term stability.

The nursing department includes specialized advanced practice nurses who specialize in the physical maladies presented by HIV and AIDS clients. This ensures constant medical monitoring of any medically compromised clients in the program.

To contact the Short-Term program call the program director or social worker at: (215) 238-2163 x 217 or fax your correspondence to (215) 238-2161.

## George Benson wows audience at 9th benefit concert

At Harrisburg's Forum building on Sunday, April 28, the residents of the greater Harrisburg area were treated to an outstanding performance by the legendary George Benson.

As Benson took the stage the auditorium came to life. Benson opened with several of his greatest hits, both jazz and popular, and then proceeded to capture the audience with his musical talent and his ability to weave stories and personal recollections between numbers.

The evening's performance would not have been possible without the volunteer support of Gerry Robinson and his committee of talented individuals who worked diligently to put together the event. Those who served on the committee included: Ed Dickerson, Sutliff Capital Ford; Ann Rowland, HERCO; Nadine Poorman, PSEA; Ruth Karns Rudderow, Karns Prime & Fancy Foods; Marcella Evans, Gaudenzia, Inc.; Sterling Tarbert,

Gaudenzia, Inc.; Steve Minana, Waypoint Bank; Robert Reitzel, Hershey Trust; Phyllis Harmon, LeTort Management & Trust Company; Yvette Porter, PA Blue Shield; and Marty Rosenbloom, Clear Channel Broadcasting.

In addition to the underwriting support of Pennsylvania Blue Shield, sponsorship support was received from Clear Channel Broadcasting, WHTM abc27, Irwin & Nancy Aronson, AmeriServ Financial, Century 21 Piscioneri, First Union,

Keystone Property Trust, G. R. Sponaugle & Sons, Robinson & Gerald, Scott's Grille, Sutliff Auto Group, Pauline Wallin, PhD, Citizens Bank, Conrad M. Siegel, Inc., McNees, Wallace & Nurick, and Waypoint Bank.

As a result of the performance, a total of \$14,000 was raised to benefit Gaudenzia's local substance abuse treatment and prevention programs.



*Benson greeted guests at post-concert reception.*



*George Benson in concert*

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*Gaudenzia, Inc. - Saving lives through treatment, prevention and recovery services for people affected by addiction and mental illness.*

## **Gaudenzia's Fourth Annual Golf Outing**

*Monday, July 29, 2002  
Cedarbrook Country Club*

*Dinner, Award ceremony and Raffle*

*For more information or to register,  
call*

*Lisa Neuhard  
(610) 239-9600 ext, 239*

*All proceeds from this event will  
benefit Gaudenzia's local drug and  
alcohol treatment programs.*

## **One Step At a Time 2nd Annual Walk-a-thon for Gaudenzia**

*Saturday,  
September 14, 2002*

*Wildwood Lake Sanctuary  
Harrisburg, PA*

*For more information  
or to volunteer call*

*Margy Bowley at  
(717) 238-4200 ext. 17*