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**Gaudenzia Honors Paul A. Tufano with Gaudenzia/Gustave G. Amsterdam Community Champion Award. Raises Over $208,000**

On September 28, 2017, Gaudenzia, the largest non-profit provider of drug and alcohol treatment services in Pennsylvania and Maryland, honored Paul A. Tufano, Chairman and CEO of the AmeriHealth Caritas Family of Companies, at its Gaudenzia/Gustave G. Amsterdam Community Champion awards dinner. Held at Philadelphia’s Crystal Tea Room, the reception and presentation—which included a silent auction and remarks from a Gaudenzia alumnus in heroin recovery—attracted over 300 guests and raised over $205,000.

Gaudenzia chose Tufano as this year’s honoree for his decades of service on behalf of the poor and underserved, his dedication to higher education, and his commitment to the Philadelphia. Now in its 20th year, the Community Champion Award was named after Gustave Amsterdam, an advocate for the urban community who dedicated his life to helping people struggling with substance abuse disorders.

Treating all types of substance abuse, Gaudenzia is on the front lines of the country’s heroin crisis. Through surveys conducted during the admission process, Gaudenzia has determined that 44% of its population list heroin as their primary drug, 18% list alcohol, and 14% list cocaine. 65% of its population are between ages 26-44.

“Gaudenzia is providing an essential service to the communities it serves. As the number people who grapple with substance abuse grows, Gaudenzia’s successful approach becomes more and more vital. I’m proud to support them however I can,” said honoree Tufano,

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*Operating 161 programs throughout Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland and D.C., Gaudenzia is the largest non-profit provider of drug and alcohol treatment services in Pennsylvania and Maryland. Our services include detoxification, residential, outpatient, intensive outpatient, transitional living, permanent housing, prevention programs for children, and more.*

*Gaudenzia’s programs combine therapeutic, educational, and motivational methods to foster rehabilitation, which is proven to be the most effective way to reduce relapses. Our approach is to treat the entire individual, rather than focus solely on the addiction, developing the capacity to maintain a productive and substance-free lifestyle through positive, alternative coping techniques. To find out more, visit* [*www.Gaudenzia.org*](http://www.Gaudenzia.org)*.*