



## GAUDENZIA, Inc.

Corporate Offices 610.239.9600  
106 West Main Street 610.239.9195 Fax  
Norristown, PA 19401

Phillip Jordan, AIA  
Chairman of the Board

Dale Klatzker, PhD  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:** Emma McClain  
(215) 760-6848

[emcclain@devinepartners.com](mailto:emcclain@devinepartners.com)

### **GAUDENZIA HOSTS 27th ANNUAL WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE**

***This year's event includes speakers Patch Adams, Tonier Cain and other healthcare advocates to promote healthier outcomes for pregnant women in high-risk situations***

**HARRISBURG, Pa. (Oct. 25, 2021)** – Gaudenzia, Inc., the largest non-profit provider of treatment for substance use disorder in the region, will hold its 27th Annual Women and Children's Conference in person Nov. 3-4, at the Best Western Premier/The Central Hotel & Conference Center in Harrisburg.

The conference, one of the only gatherings in Pennsylvania devoted to care for women and children, will feature several well-known speakers, including Dr. Patch Adams, noted physician, clown and social justice advocate, and Tonier Cain, an internationally acclaimed expert in trauma-informed care, addiction, homelessness and mental health.

This year's conference is focused on promoting healthier outcomes for pregnant women and families in high-risk situations, including HIV/AIDS, substance use disorder, trauma and violence. Speakers will put a special focus on many of the challenges this population faces: homelessness, significant medical issues, trauma/mental health challenges and a lack of overall support.

"As a pioneer in care for women with children, Gaudenzia is excited to bring this conference to the clinicians of this region," said Dr. Dale Klatzker, CEO of Gaudenzia. "Gaudenzia is committed to providing overall care to our clients, especially women with children, to meet their individualized needs. This helps our clients break their own cycles of addiction and trauma, while addressing the social determinants of health for the entire family unit."

Gaudenzia has long been the leader in Pennsylvania in providing treatment for pregnant and parenting women, opening the first residential-based facility in Pennsylvania – Vantage House in Lancaster – in November of 1979. Gaudenzia recognized that women often opted to not enter treatment because they feared losing their children. Vantage offered them the opportunity to keep their family intact in a safe environment.

Gaudenzia now operates 14 facilities for women with children in Pennsylvania and Delaware. The latest, The Bobby Spurrier Center in Philadelphia, has its Open House on Oct. 29 and is the City of Philadelphia's first halfway house for women with children.

Gaudenzia is expecting healthcare professionals, social workers, drug and alcohol treatment professionals and other interested health and children's service providers from across the state and beyond to attend the Women and Children's Conference in Harrisburg. The lineup of speakers includes:



## GAUDENZIA, Inc.

Corporate Offices 610.239.9600  
106 West Main Street 610.239.9195 Fax  
Norristown, PA 19401

Phillip Jordan, AIA  
Chairman of the Board

Dale Klatzker, PhD  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer

- **Dr. Patch Adams** will give the morning keynote on Nov. 3. As founder of the Gesundheit! Institute in 1971, he has lectured at 90 medical schools in the United States and universities and medical schools in over 80 countries. Dr. Patch Adam's story was also portrayed in a major film, "Patch Adams," in 1998 starring Robin Williams.
- **Jeanne White-Ginder**, HIV/AIDS advocate, will give the luncheon keynote on Wednesday. She is the mother of Ryan White, who lost his life to AIDS-related complications on April 8, 1990.
- **Elizabeth Murray**, founder and director of Manifest Living, motivational speaker and New York Times Bestselling author for her memoir "Breaking Night," will provide the Nov. 4 keynote. She is notable for having been accepted by Harvard University despite being homeless in high school after her parents struggled with poverty, substance use disorders and HIV.
- **Tonier Cain** will conclude the keynote speaker lineup at the luncheon on Nov. 4. Cain is an award-winning film producer, advocate and educator, speaking worldwide on trauma, addiction, incarceration, homelessness, substance abuse and mental health.

More information on Gaudenzia's 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Women and Children's Conference can be found on its [Eventbrite page](#). Those who are in need of treatment can call Gaudenzia's 24/7 Treatment and Recovery Helpline at 833-976-HELP (4357).

### **ABOUT GAUDENZIA, INC.**

Gaudenzia, Inc. is one of the largest nonprofit drug and alcohol treatment and recovery centers in the United States, with 51 facilities operating in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, and Washington, D.C. The agency serves about 19,000 individuals annually and operates 117 and alcohol treatment programs for men and women. Since 1968, Gaudenzia has provided specialized services and programs to users of all demographics, including pregnant and parenting mothers, adolescents, people with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders, and more. Those seeking help can call Gaudenzia's 24/7 Treatment and Recovery Helpline at 833-976-HELP (4357). For more information, visit [www.Gaudenzia.org](http://www.Gaudenzia.org).

###