

Day of Service

Philly mayor visits RHD's MLK Day

As RHD celebrated its annual Martin Luther King Day of Service, Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney stopped by RHD's Opportunity Place to check in on a painting and refurbishing project. Opportunity Place supports men experiencing homelessness.

Mayor Kenney spent time with each individual at the program, shook every hand, posed for every photo, and helped add to a very meaningful day for everyone there.

"The people here are doing what Dr. King wanted us to do — get each other's back, take care of each other, look out for each other," Mayor Kenney said. "Some people have had difficult times in life, and bringing a little justice and a little happiness to them really makes a difference."

RHD has always devoted Martin Luther King Day to community service, hosting a number of events across the country, from makeovers at local programs to community food distributions, coat and toiletry drives, commemorative marches and much more.

One of the residents at Opportunity Place asked Mayor Kenney for his thoughts on MLK Day, and he graciously shared his thoughts for a video with him. You can watch the video and see more from RHD's MLK Day of Service at: www.rhd.org/mlk



Opportunity Place: Sandra Cox-Scales, Executive Vice President of RHD's Philadelphia Behavioral Health & Housing Division; Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney and RHD CEO Dyann Roth help out at RHD's MLK Day of Service.



THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NONPROFIT RESOURCES FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

WHO WE ARE: Resources for Human Development is a national human services nonprofit founded in 1970 that specializes in creating innovative, quality services that support people of all abilities wherever the need exists. In partnership with government and those we serve, RHD builds better communities through more than 160 caring and effective programs in 14 states.

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RHD Rhode Island artists with intellectual disabilities got a chance to work alongside toy designers from Hasbro, one of the world's leading toymakers, in a series of toy-making workshops — with extraordinary results. See story, page 4.

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MyRHD is published quarterly, mailed to supporters, donors and government officials. It is meant to inform about RHD's activities, innovations and successes in the more than 160 human-services programs it operates throughout the country. If you wish to unsubscribe to MyRHD, please email info@rhd.org or write us at the address above.

How you can help

More than 50,000 people each year gain the support and encouragement they need to build better lives for themselves, their families, and their communities through RHD's many human-services programs. Their milestones and successes, large and small, are made possible through the generosity of people like you.

Your support helps provide the resources people of all abilities need as they work to build better lives for themselves, their families and their communities. You can help support caring, effective and innovative programs that emphasize the person in the service, with a belief that each human being, no matter what their challenges, should be treated with dignity and respect. You can help give people the opportunity to develop to their full potential, improving the quality of life and creating brighter futures for all RHD clients.

Please use the enclosed envelope to send a check or visit us at www.rhd.org to donate online.

RHD's United Peers shares journey of recovery in WHY Y documentary



Recovery Diaries: Award-winning filmmaker Glenn Holsten (center) looks on as Sheila (left) and Brenda film an interview for their film about recovery.

A production meeting broke out suddenly as Sheila and Brenda discussed how to begin filming the next segment of their documentary. Glenn Holsten, the award-winning documentary filmmaker, listened to the discussion in the WHY Y studio and said: "Well, that's the process — it's all about the choices you want to make. It's your choice."

Sheila Hall Prioleau is the director of RHD United Peers, which supports people in recovery from mental health challenges in a community inclusion program staffed by Certified Peer Specialists. Brenda Lewis began as a member of United Peers, gained her CPS certification and is now a WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) facilitator. Their biggest choice was the decision to tell their story as part of the OC87 Recovery Diaries series, which features stories of mental health recovery created by and for people who are still on their journeys. When they were accepted into the program at WHY Y, Sheila and Brenda learned filmmaking and editing so they could tell their story themselves.

"When I first sat down in front of the editing board, it looked like Greek," Sheila said. "I thought, oh my gosh, what have I got myself into? The only experience I had was taking pictures on my phone! It was fun after we learned it, but it was scary."

Holsten and WHY Y Youth Media Instructor Sarah Milinski lent their support in helping Sheila and Brenda tell their story, but their touch in the film is very light. Sheila and Brenda got technical assistance and some basic filmmaking instruction, but the documentary that will tell the story of Brenda's journey of trauma and recovery at United Peers is all theirs.

"In the beginning, I was really scared," Brenda said. "There's so much I could talk about — trauma, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, abuse ... and it's like: Are you sure? And the answer was: Yes, say it, talk about it. It's freeing."

"I never walked in and felt: I got this. But I always felt I was learning and I was growing. I loved walking in every day and saying: Teach me something. It was a great, great experience. It was fun."

United Peers uses Certified Peer Specialists to assist persons in recovery as they work to live as independently as possible, demonstrating and modeling recovery through education and their own lived experiences.

United Peers grew out of RHD's commitment to using Certified Peer Specialists in its programs. At RHD, Certified Peer Specialist is a credential, not a job description. It is a professional role that is transforming

RHD behavioral health services. RHD maintains the integrity of the Peer Support model with full-time Peer Specialist Coordinators responsible for providing technical assistance and support.

RHD works to develop the roles and responsibilities of Peers in direct services, being mindful of the variety of skills Peers possess and the career trajectory of a Peer workforce. Brenda's story not only shows the impact of peer support, it made for exciting — and occasionally cathartic — filmmaking.



Brenda coped with trauma through art. When she completed a piece, she would put it away — and avoided looking at it again. But for this film, she brought out a number of pieces and hung them on a wall. On film, she talked about each piece, what it meant and why she did it.

"It was the first time I'd looked at them in years," Brenda said. "I was so scared. But when I did it, it felt like a weight just fell off my shoulders."

"Watching her has been amazing," Sheila said. "It hasn't been easy, but to see her get through it, no matter what, has given me encouragement."

"We tell our members all the time: You can do anything you want. I wanted her to be able to see what I see. If she sees it on film, she'll know how awesome she is."

Their film debuts this summer. And then, as Brenda said, "Once you do this, it's out there. There's no taking it back."

"I hope people take away that if Brenda can do it, so can I," Sheila said. "And that I am not my diagnosis. PTSD doesn't have to make me a victim; I can still be a survivor."

Brenda said she hopes her story inspires others.

"I was someone people gave up on and said there was no hope for me, but at United Peers, my whole life has changed," Brenda said. "I've still got difficult situations going on, but I've learned I can do anything. RHD advocates for us, and Sheila really cares about us. If people support you and want you to prosper, you can."



Transformation champions: From left, FaSST/Connections director Ann Ryan, Womanspace director Cynthia Baran, FaSST/Connections program specialist Owen Camuso, clinical operations director Jaimee Moshe and Executive Vice President of RHD Pennsylvania Behavioral Health & Housing Division Linda Donovan-Magdama. Below, Sandy Vaskos, Director of the Office of Mental Health at DBHIDS (third from left), shares memories with many of the people at RHD who helped transform behavioral health services (from left): Executive Vice President of RHD Philadelphia Behavioral Health & Housing Division Sandra Cox-Scales; Director of Service Line, RHD Philadelphia Behavioral Health & Housing Division, Jim Piasecki; Vaskos; RHD Fernwood Director Julius Jackson; RHD CEO Dyann Roth; RHD Senior Vice President of Strategic Business Development Dennis Roberts; Lower Merion Counseling Services Director Paula Budnick; RHD Chief Clinical Quality Officer Richelle Gunter; and Supported Adult Living Teams Clinical Director Mark Whiteman.

The Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services honored RHD staff and programs with a number of awards and accolades during its Transformation Decade Celebration.

Since 2005 the City of Philadelphia and DBHIDS have been at the forefront of efforts to transform systems of care with an emphasis on recovery and resilience for behavioral health services, and self-determination for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

To commemorate Philadelphia's 10-year anniversary of system transformation, coined the Transformation Decade, DBHIDS hosted a series of events to celebrate those who played integral roles in the transformation of our system, and look toward the future. Sandy Vaskos, Director of the Office of Mental Health at DBHIDS, paid an emotional tribute to the work done by many at RHD through the years.

"It's an incredible group of people," Vaskos said. "This is a long overdue celebration for RHD. It was 25 years ago when we were part of a team closing Philadelphia State Hospital, and hundreds of individuals were finally going to get a chance to hope and dream outside the walls. It felt like half the city didn't want this to happen, but the other half had people who thought, somehow, that we could pull this off. And from the very beginning, right there, walking side-by-side every step of the way, was RHD."

"We were going into uncharted territory, doing things and trying things that had not been tried before anywhere in the country. There were transformation champions then — a group at RHD that always said: Anything you need, we'll try. There were, probably, too many failures. But there were so many successes. At the end of the day, we were always in it together, every step of the way."

"We closed the hospital down, and then the real work started — we had to build a system. We did a lot of things in a very short time. We knew it was working. We had to build opportunity, and we had to build community. RHD was there, rallying along, fighting for it. RHD persevered, through a lot of challenges, budget cuts, neighborhood opposition that could have buried most people. It was an effort that was just unmatched, the dedication, the tenacity. RHD never quit. You are what formed and informed these past 10 years of



transformation. For that, I am eternally grateful. RHD should know that they have made, and still make, a difference every single day."

RHD staff was honored with Distinguished Service awards as Transformation Champions for their work at a number of RHD programs that support people in mental health recovery and people with intellectual disabilities, for working with partnerships such as the Journey of Hope Project, for working to create and implement an enhanced clinical platform at RHD programs, and for shaping trauma-informed care at RHD programs for clients and staff.

RHD's FaSST/Connections, a behavioral health care unit that provides evaluation and coordination of services to individuals and families living in shelters, was honored with the Excellence in Service award. FaSST/Connections serves more than 600 people every year, and drew praise for demonstrating "the power of having a place of one's own and having someone who cares in jump-starting an individual's recovery."

RHD supports 44 programs in Philadelphia that support people with behavioral health challenges or people with intellectual disabilities.

RHD is honored to have played a part in the transformation of behavioral health and intellectual disability services in Philadelphia, exemplifying the transformation principles and supporting recovery, resilience, and self-determination.



Hoops for Hope at RHD

Among the many innovative projects at RHD's FaSST/Connections is the Hoops for Hope basketball league, which case manager Victoria Urban began as a project with RHD's Leadership Development Program. The league has been so popular with men in various Philadelphia homeless shelters (including RHD Fernwood) that FaSST/Connections agreed to sponsor the league and help Urban raise additional funds to keep it going.

"To play in this league is a pleasure," said Abdul. "It keeps me out of trouble, keeps me positive, helps me realize who I am and gives me motivation to be a better person."

Advocacy, ongoing support, and empowerment are key concepts of FaSST/Connections' approach, and Urban said giving the men something positive to do helped engage the men and keep them on track to get out of the shelter.

Many of the players in the league said they look forward to the Tuesday night games all week long.

"We need to get people in here, because it keeps them out of trouble out there," said Joe, a regular player. "I'm thankful for this opportunity; none of us take this for granted. It keeps guys focused and motivated. We've got a group of friends here."

Toy Story

RHD Rhode Island works with toymakers from Hasbro in exciting collaboration

Tiphany Giles is a toy designer at Hasbro, one of the world's leading toymakers and the company behind such legendary games as Monopoly, Yahtzee and Play-Doh. She has also become a big fan of an RHD Rhode Island artist named Holly.

"I really connected with her work," Giles said. "We just clicked." Giles posed for pictures with Holly in front of the wall of artwork Holly had produced, with support and inspiration from Giles and a group of toy designers at Hasbro. It was part of "Don't Play With Me Too," a collaborative process art exhibit and concert featuring toy-inspired work conceived by RHD artists and interpreted by Hasbro toy designers and artists. The show was the result of an extraordinary few months in which RHD artists with intellectual disabilities worked alongside toy designers from Hasbro in a series of workshops led by Hasbro Toy Designer Ricky Katowicz.

"Everybody got so much out of it," said Nate Carroll, RHD Rhode Island art coordinator. "It pushed our artists in different directions, and exposed them to a process they hadn't seen before. The Hasbro designers in Ricky's group were so generous with their time, and it was a great experience for our artists."

Katowicz attended RHD Rhode Island's annual Holiday Bizarre Bazaar, which includes the work of every artist who attends the program and features the art and products they've worked on all year. RHD Rhode Island is a creative, fun, intellectually stimulating, art-based day program that serves people with developmental disabilities and provides family support services, community job development and supported employment services. The studio has developed a strong following in the local art community; Providence Mayor Jorge O. Elorza recently hosted RHD Rhode Island at the Community Gallery at City Hall and RHD Rhode Island is regularly featured in some of the area's most prominent shows and galleries.

Katowicz attended a Christmas art fair where artists from RHD Rhode Island were exhibiting. He met some of the artists and staff and was instantly captivated.

"I was totally blown away," Katowicz said. "I went with a friend who was telling me: You really have to see this. Well, I saw it, and I wrote down a note on my phone: 'Get involved.' I just knew immediately I had to be a part of what they're doing."

"I love raw art; I'm always trying to get back to that essence, take my control and my 'adulthood' away from things. And I saw so much of that from the people here."

Katowicz began by taking RHD artists on a tour of Hasbro, giving them a unique look behind the scenes of the world-famous toymaker. Then he asked if he could run a toy-making workshop with the artists. RHD Rhode Island Director Mike Wilson immediately welcomed the suggestion and worked out the details of getting people from the program in nearby Pawtucket to the Aurora in Providence, a club that agreed to host the workshops (the Aurora would eventually host "Don't Play With Me Too," truly helping shepherd the process from start to finish).

"A toy workshop seemed obvious; that was something I could do," Katowicz said. "Getting started was nerve-wracking. I mean, how to do it? But it turned out there was not much I needed to do. With this group, you just plant little seeds of ideas, and everybody picks it up and starts making. The one key ingredient that everybody at Hasbro is always trying to find is here in droves — the natural ability to just play, just for play's sake. That's why I like it so much."

"They dug right in. At the end of each workshop, I'd give them an assignment — come back with an original idea that you'd want for a toy. And every time, they'd come in with something really interesting. Getting to know them, and getting to know their work, has been very special for me. I've begun collecting pieces from RHD that I really like."

Katowicz brought tubs of spare toy parts from Hasbro, and the artists picked through them and started creating their own toys. In a particularly inspired session, Katowicz decided he could put voice chips in the toys, and brought a digital recorder to capture the artists' voices and give life to their creation. David had built a mouse with the parts Katowicz made available (because it was a



"Getting to know them, and getting to know their work, has been very special for me."

Ricky Katowicz, Hasbro Toy Designer

toy, and an original concept, this particular mouse could fly), and he delighted in the chance to give his creation some personality.

"I can't make a swear — I'm a nice mouse!" David said into the recorder. And then: "I don't like baths ... but some people do!" and "Have you been to Boston? I have — it's my hometown!"

When Katowicz played the recording back, and David's mouse spoke with his voice, David said excitedly: "He's really mine!"

At the "Don't Play With Me Too" show, a standing-room-only crowd admired several pieces that came from, or were inspired by, those workshops — including The Noogilizer, a doll designed by Bill, an RHD Rhode Island artist, that Katowicz turned into a toy with muscular arms: "A super strongman that gives super painful major noogies." The evening also featured a Makerbot 3D printer on site, which scanned artwork from the workshops and produced original pieces to order.

"At RHD Rhode Island, we're committed to the idea that our artists are part of the arts community," Wilson said. "We don't bring people into a studio and have them stay there; the point is to have our artists be part of our community."

"What makes that work is community partners who appreciate what our artists are doing and want to support it. Ricky and his group are a great example of that, and we're very grateful for their support — and that so many people enjoyed the results."



Self determination and the will to achieve

RHD Boston's emotional presentation at advocacy conference shows: "Yes we can, we will achieve, we have a voice."

Dyann Roth, CEO of Resources for Human Development



It was fitting that RHD Boston presented at MASS (Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong) 18th Annual Conference: "Self-Determination: The Will to Achieve" in front of almost 500 people. RHD Boston is filled with people who have a will to achieve — clients like Jeremy, who talked about his new job, and Ken, who talked about living independently, gave a presentation on advocating for themselves and received a standing ovation.

"I worked so hard," said Christine, who fought to maintain custody of her son with support from RHD. "RHD was very helpful. Without them, I'd be lost. I hope people see how they can do what I did — fight and get through it. It made me stronger."

"Growing up, I heard: You can't, you'll never, you won't," said Ken. "At RHD, I've accomplished a lot."

Pauline Murray, a case manager supervisor at RHD Boston, organized the presentation. When the MASS Advocacy group put out a call for presenters, Murray knew this would be a great opportunity for people to share their stories about self-advocacy.

"Pauline has great relationships with the individuals we serve," RHD Boston director Susan Burnham said. "She is a person who they trust and look to for guidance. Her passion for supporting people to advocate for the services they need and for the things they want has led to new opportunities for many people. She is a careful listener who hears the 'under story' of what people are telling her."

Murray organized the presentation and included video testimonials from RHD's clients and from friends and family. A man named Joe told a story not many people knew. His daughter, Ashley, is dating an RHD client named Marcus. When Joe's father became ill, Marcus stepped up to care for him. When his newfound family needed him, Marcus wanted to be there.

"Marcus took care of my dad when he had a stroke," Joe said. "Marcus took care of him, helped him walk, helped him go to the bathroom. My dad was able to stay in his home and didn't have to go to a nursing home, because of Marcus."

Marcus wept as he watched the video. It reminded him where he started, and how far he's come. Jean Surpris, Marcus' job coach at RHD Boston, joked that keeping Marcus out of trouble was more or less his full-time job. But when Marcus met Ashley and found a new family, he told Surpris and Burnham that he'd begun to want something different. RHD programs promote safe and healthy lifestyles, and support clients as they work to develop healthy relationships with peers, family and the community. When Marcus was ready for something better in his life, he had support in place at RHD.

"Before RHD, I'd done some bad things, and I messed things up," Marcus said. "When I met Ashley, I wanted to change my life. I had to start from scratch. The staff is awesome; I like all the staff. There's good people at RHD. They care about



you. Susan is definitely a good person, she's like my second mother. She always makes sure I'm doing the right thing."

Surpris put it this way: "He told me about his past, and I said: You, know, that's your past. That's what happened. Now let's move forward. When he met Ashley, and her family opened their doors to him, he got a group of people around him that love him. He found what he was looking for, and since then he's been the man he is now."

Today Marcus and Ashley are engaged, and have a daughter, Savannah. Marcus has become a leader at the RHD Boston day program, doing everything from assisting other clients to grabbing a snow shovel and digging out during a winter snowstorm. He's a model employee at his job, working the midnight shift to help clean, stock and prepare for charter flights and private planes at Boston's Logan Airport.

"Marcus has an amazing, kind heart," Burnham said. "He's always just a sweetheart with everybody. Over the years, we've seen Marcus mature and it's just amazing what he's been able to accomplish."

Self Determination: At RHD Boston's presentation at the MASS (Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong) Conference, case manager supervisor Pauline Murray shared a hug with Christine (top), Mike helped lead a question-and-answer session (left) and Marcus told his story of redemption and success.

RHD IN THE NEWS: CHANGING LIVES, MAKING HEADLINES

For more on these stories and other news about RHD's innovative programs around the country serving people of all abilities, please visit the media center at www.rhd.org.

RHD's Coordinated Homeless Outreach Center gets help managing extreme weather conditions thanks to generous gift from First Niagara

Emergency weather conditions that swell the Coordinated Homeless Outreach Center (CHOC) in Montgomery County to its breaking point will be a little easier to manage this year thanks to a generous gift from the First Niagara Bank Foundation.

The First Niagara Bank Foundation's gift will allow CHOC to expand its capacity and services during Code Blue (when cold weather during the winter creates dangerous conditions for people living on the street) and Code Red (when the summer heat reaches dangerous levels). Last year, in large part because of emergency weather conditions, CHOC operated at 160 percent of its capacity, and often doubled its capacity during the winter's Code Blue warnings. When the county declares a Code Blue or Code Red, CHOC's Outreach Team and local law enforcement help transport individuals to CHOC.

Suspended Coffees founder John Sweeney visits RHD's FaSST/Connections program and finds a place 'where superheroes don't wear capes'

John Sweeney, who founded Suspended Coffees and grew it into a worldwide movement that works to bring communities together and inspire people to change lives, visited RHD's FaSST/Connections at the invitation of director Ann Ryan and reported that he found a group of people "where superheroes don't wear capes."

"Philly, which is known as the city of brotherly love, is full of just that. So many kind, caring, passionate people and none more so than the amazing folks at RHD. It starts with the very lady who brought me over, Ann. Ann is the unit director and without a shadow of a doubt is one of the most inspirational leaders I've ever had the pleasure to meet. The thing about great leaders is they inspire leadership in others. Her kindness and compassion truly took me by surprise. I knew she was a lovely lady as we'd spoken quite a lot before I came over, but I had no idea just how special she is. Ann leads by example and for her it's a calling, not just a job.

The biggest compliment I think I can give Ann is that I really do wish she was someone I had in my everyday life, a real life angel walking among us. And her team is just as incredible."

RHD welcomes Laurent Drouhin as honorary chair for 2016 Main Line Wine Gala fundraiser at Merion Cricket Club November 10

RHD is honored to welcome Laurent Drouhin, proprietor and the great grandson of the founder of Maison Joseph Drouhin, as the honorary chair for the 2016 Main Line Wine Gala.

Merion Cricket Club is a first-time host for the Gala, which celebrates the world's most innovative winemakers in an event that benefits RHD's innovative human services. Merion Cricket Club is one of the country's premier amateur sporting clubs. Laurent Drouhin comes from a family with wine connections dating back to the 13th Century. The family managed the great wine cellars for the Duke of Burgundy and King of France in Beaune. In 1880, Joseph Drouhin started his own wine business, and today Maison Drouhin is one of the largest estates in all of Burgundy.

Van Ameringen Foundation supports veterans with generous gift to RHD's Healing Ajax peer support program for local veterans

Veterans in need of support on the homefront will have more places to turn, thanks to a generous grant from the van Ameringen Foundation that will help RHD's Healing Ajax program provide services to local veterans.

Known for supporting innovation in the mental health field, with this grant the van Ameringen Foundation addresses the needs of veterans who have fallen through the cracks or struggled to find support through traditional sources. Led by Tom Wagner, an Army veteran, Healing Ajax is an innovative approach to helping Iraq, Afghanistan and other war veterans reintegrate into society.

Healing Ajax offers peer support groups, in which veterans successfully develop coping skills with their fellow veterans who are going through similar experiences. It's veterans helping veterans, making sure their brothers and sisters don't feel alone, giving them a support network, and helping them get the assistance they need through trauma-informed, veteran-to-veteran groups that focus on topics that include trust, anger, loss, hope, positive problem solving and more.

RHD's Misty Harbor, serving people with mental health challenges, hosts South Korea delegation examining U.S. supportive housing programs

RHD's Misty Harbor hosted a delegation from South Korea that wanted to visit agencies in the U.S. to examine supportive housing programs for diverse populations, including people who have experienced homelessness and who may also be in addiction recovery and/or experiencing mental health challenges.

David Colbert, director of Misty Harbor, offered a tour and spoke about how the community group home for people with mental illness and other challenges serves its clients. He was talking about what he calls "teachable moments," and the interpreter struggled for a bit to relay exactly what that was to the delegation.

"We work to establish trust with the residents here, and that's a lot of work, sometimes," Colbert said. "When you have those moments, that trust pays off so that you teach things about life skills and social skills that are really important for people."

With that, the delegation nodded excitedly; within human services there is a universality about supporting people that transcends language barriers. "(Misty Harbor) feels comfortable, like you could be at home here," said Seo Jung Hwa, who coordinates homeless women's housing in South Korea. "It is very nice."

The visit was coordinated through the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disability Services.

Department of Health & Human Services visits RHD's Health Annex

Kenneth Kauffman | photo



At the Annex: RHD CEO Dyann Roth; Pamela Kania, Regional Administrator, US Department of Health and Human Services; Joanne Grossi, Regional Director, US Department of Health and Human Services; and Donna Torrisi, director of RHD's Family Practice & Counseling Network at RHD's Health Annex.

RHD's Health Annex welcomed Joanne Grossi, Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to kick off an enrollment event for Health Care Marketplace Provider Week of Action, helping people enroll in and retain quality, affordable health coverage.

"You are doing incredible work and the residents of Southwest Philadelphia are so fortunate to have you as a part of their community," Grossi said. "Thank you for everything you're doing every day to make the citizens in Pennsylvania healthier and happier. Federally Qualified Health Centers are serving the most vulnerable and most in-need citizens, and at Health and Human Services we're so grateful for what you do every day to make sure our population is healthy and happy and well cared for.

"We're really proud of where we are in enrollment in Pennsylvania, and we want to make sure every Pennsylvanian gets enrolled in Health Insurance if they haven't already. One million Pennsylvanians have Health Insurance who didn't have it before. We're down to the last few hundred thousand; that's our challenge. The uninsured rate in Pennsylvania is lower than seven percent right now, and we really need everyone to help out — if you have a friend, a neighbor, a family member, get them to these enrollment events and help them get the insurance they deserve."

The Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers (PACHC) and RHD's Family Practice and Counseling Network (FPCN) hosted the enrollment event to recognize Marketplace Provider Week of Action in January. Regional Director Grossi met with providers and other healthcare professionals to discuss best practices and concerns regarding healthcare in 2016. This is the third year of open enrollment for the Affordable Care Act.

Health care providers are on the frontlines and are trusted sources of health information for communities.

"As we work to address health and access disparities in all its forms, our staff here has done a tremendous job of getting people enrolled thanks to the Affordable Care Act and the Medicaid expansion," said Health Annex director Patrick Oleskey. "I'm very happy to say that over the last two years we've reduced the uninsured rate by almost 20 percent. That has given our patients more care, better access to care, and lower out of pocket costs. It's made a huge difference."

The Health Annex is part of RHD's Family Practice & Counseling Network, a network of health centers providing primary care, behavioral health education, prenatal care, family planning services, dental care, community outreach, and advocacy.

The nurse-managed centers are primarily funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to serve public housing residents and surrounding communities. Primary care Certified Nurse Practitioners and licensed behavioral health professionals provide high quality care aimed at improving the health status of underserved, uninsured and vulnerable people.

FPCN is one of the largest nurse-managed health care networks in the country, serving more than 20,000 people each year.

Congrats, Theo!

Theo Cameron, Operations Coordinator at RHD's Womanspace Louisiana, was selected by ANCOR's National Advocacy Campaign to receive the Louisiana Direct Support Professional Recognition Award for 2016. ANCOR (American Network of Community Options and Resources) received hundreds of nominations from across the country for this prestigious award. Womanspace Louisiana is a safe haven for women who are experiencing homelessness and are in recovery from mental health challenges and/or substance abuse.



Kenneth Kauffman | photo

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About Resources for Human Development

A national human services nonprofit founded in 1970, Resources for Human Development serves tens of thousands of people of all abilities every year with caring, effective and innovative programs addressing intellectual and developmental disabilities, behavioral health, homelessness, addiction recovery and more. In partnership with local governments and those we serve, RHD builds better lives, families and communities.



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