

INTRODUCING



new foundation center

Formerly known as WilPower

New Name—New Look

After completing a two year process that included input from members, staff, directors and the community, WilPower is now called—New Foundation Center. The name was selected because it represents the core goals of the agency—to provide a place (center) where people can build (foundation) a (new) life incorporating principles of recovery.

Commenting about the change, Board President Don Hanigan noted, “We thought long and hard about changing the name which had been around for over 20 years. However, we had to recognize that it no longer reflected our mission. New Foundation Center more closely represents our mission to partner with people with mental illness to recover and pursue lives of meaning and purpose.”

New Foundation Center members, who participated in the name and logo selection had this to say: “To me New Foundation Center means a place where one can build a healthy foundation for one’s life by meeting recovery goals in programs,” Joanne R. Another member shares, “The center is our home base where we – members and staff—work together anew for progress within ourselves. The name provides a basis to express our hopes for recovery,” Gail K.

And family members share: “The name conveys a feeling that we are here to help people with mental illness begin a new life starting from a new foundation. The logo is a doorway and the key to recovery is here at the center,” Jim Hunt, family member and board member.

The name and logo are the only things to change. The location is the same as are the services and programs. A new website has been unveiled that offers updated and comprehensive recovery information, members’ stories, news and upcoming events and on-line donating options. Visit the website at www.newfoundationcenter.org and we welcome your comments and feedback.

Staff and Members Rally in Springfield

On May 5th New Foundation Center members and staff joined hundreds from around the state at the annual Mental Health Rally and Lobby day in Springfield in support of legislation to fund mental health services. This annual event brings together mental health advocates and consumers of mental health services to urge legislators to avoid cutting funding and to preserve funds designed for treatment and facilities.



State Senator Jeff Schoenberg joins New Foundation Center members and staff at rally in Springfield

The theme for the day was “Treatment Works—Fund It” and attendees carried banners and signs in support of raising taxes to preserve and improve the state’s mental health care. The rally was attended by several state representatives including Lou Lang, Skokie Democrat, who stated, “One thing we must not do in the process of figuring the out the budget is to abandon all of you. We must find a way to find the dollars for treatment in local communities because treatment works.”

New Foundation Center members also had a chance to tour the capitol building and enjoy a picnic lunch before heading home.



Sue's Story

We finished! We selected and launched our new name. After six months and from many qualified candidates we picked a great new program director. We met our anonymous donor's challenge grant. We received high ratings from the Illinois Department of Human Services/ Division of Mental Health in the March measurement of our psychosocial rehabilitation services. We humbly and gratefully made use of a generous anonymous gift to shore up the deficit caused by state funding cuts. And last week the Wellness Management & Recovery fidelity assessment took place while we unveiled the new website.

We have a great staff, great board and great members and volunteers. Whew!

We aren't finished with everything.

The news from Springfield is bad, but not finished. Governor Quinn said that he will continue to work with the leaders of the House and Senate to agree on a balanced budget that covers the state's expenses.

And we will continue to communicate to our representatives the importance of balancing the budget in ways that are fair to all Illinoisans. We will tell them that already poor people, people whose earning power is impaired by mental illness and people who have no affordable, supported housing in the community should not bear more than their fair share of the responsibility for a balanced budget.

Thank you for calling and writing and visiting your representatives. We are doing an incredible job. We helped tip the public conversation. Let's hope together for a positive outcome.

Expressive Arts Fair

On Friday, May 15th New Foundation Center held its annual Expressive Arts Fair where members displayed and sold original artwork, jewelry, clothing and accessories. Members also read aloud their original poetry and prose.

Attendees enjoyed lunch and shared in a group sing-a-long led by New Foundation Center members' drumming and guitar group. This annual event is free and open to the public.



New Foundation Center members display their jewelry and paintings.



Beth Dvorak, Program Director

New Foundation Center Welcomes Program Director

Beth Dvorak recently joined New Foundation Center as the agency program director. Beth has over fifteen years experience working in the social services field. Most recently she worked at Lutheran Social Services where she supervised linkage case management and other outreach/ engagement services. Her experience includes program development, hiring and training, family and community education, and building linkages with inpatient settings, and other providers. Beth has also worked with behavior disordered children and adolescents. She is a strong believer in the recovery movement and feels New Foundation Center's goals and mission match her views. Beth is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and has her Master's in Human Services from Concordia University. We are excited to welcome Beth to New Foundation Center!



John and Jane Colman

Donor Highlights

John and Jane Colman—New Foundation Center Partners Sue Shimon

"A unique, precious community resource" is how John and Jane Colman described New Foundation Center when we visited recently. They should know. From its earliest days they recognized the "barn raising" spirit that fueled the founders' creation of psychiatric rehabilitation and permanent supportive housing programs in these suburbs.

John and Jane bring many gifts to New Foundation Center: community mindedness; knowledge and compassion about mental illness; business savvy and wisdom born from life study and world wide experience. Their annual donation certainly helps assure our financial viability but as John says, other forces must also combine to grow and sustain a high quality organization such as ours.

He recalls the days "when men and women of good will and no experience running a non-profit organization" developed housing for their relatives and others in the community who needed it. Their wherewithal, leadership and family focus created just such a force.

John and Jane are people of good will. They steward New Foundation Center with watchfulness and sound guidance. This multiplies the value of their contribution exponentially. I thanked them for their generosity as our visit came to a close. John stopped me and said "No need—we're partners".

Planned Gifts

What is a planned gift?

"It is any gift of any kind for any amount given for any purpose—operations, capital expansion, or endowment—whether given currently or deferred if the assistance of a professional staff person, qualified volunteer or the donor's advisors is necessary to complete the gift. In addition, it includes any gift which is carefully considered by a donor in light of estate and financial plans." Give and Take, March 2000

Anyone can make a planned gift and one of the easiest ways is a bequest. A bequest can be made by stating "I give \$____ (or specified property) to New Foundation Center as an unrestricted gift."

Depending on the giving vehicle there can be income and estate tax advantages for charitable planned gifts. Planned giving vehicles include life insurance, charitable gift annuity, charitable remainder trust, pooled income fund, charitable lead trust, private foundation, and donor advised fund.

Your planned gift to New Foundation Center will insure that vital programs and services remain intact well into the future. It is a gift with lasting impact. For information contact Mary Gallagher, Development Director mgallagher@newfoundationcenter.org or (847) 501-2879.

We Met the Challenge!

Last summer New Foundation Center received a \$15,000 challenge grant from an anonymous donor for the supported employment program. This program offers employment advocacy, coaching, job placement and on-going supports for members wanting to find a job.

In the past year the program assisted 116 members in finding employment and successfully placed 90. Seventy-five percent have maintained employment for more than 6 months—the most ever! Funding from the Illinois State Department of Rehabilitation Services does not cover the cost of on-going supports needed to maintain these successful placements. As a result, the program operates with funding shortfalls.

The challenge amount was achieved from a combination of increased donations from current donors, new gifts, and gifts from former donors. The Winnetka-Northfield Rotary Charitable Foundation donated \$1500 and an individual donation of \$2500 brought us to the final match amount.

We are grateful to all who helped us meet the challenge! The money will be used to sustain this program and insure that members who want to work can find and keep meaningful employment!



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Save the Date:

New Foundation Center Independence Day Party
Thursday July 2nd, 10:30AM–2:30PM

Enjoy hot dogs, burgers, games and prizes!
All are invited and it is free.

The Greatest Show on Earth

New Foundation Center Hosts Annual Benefit
Sunday September 13th, 2009
Highland Park Country Club

Join the fun under the Bigtop! Games, raffles, wine grab,
prizes, silent auction, and more!

Sponsorships—up to \$10,000

Underwriting Opportunities—up to \$1500

Table Sponsors—up to \$2,500

For more information or to reserve tickets contact
mgallagher@newfoundationcenter.org