



CRAWFORD HOUSE

Halfway House for Women



From the Executive Director

Dear Friends -

It is not hard to recognize that the leaders, managers and staff of non-profits are faced with an increasingly difficult environment in which to survive. Not only do non-profits continue to compete for ever more scarce resources and capable staff, but we also confront the uncertainties of trying to maintain services in the face of decreased government support and, at the same time, increased government

regulation. Most of what is taking place is out of our control. However, those among us who are the neediest, the weakest and the most vulnerable are far too often unseen and unheard by those who seek to govern.

We are hopeful that we can survive these times and continue to serve the women of our State who are indigent, homeless and afflicted with the disease of addiction.

Because, despite the challenges we face, we remain centered in our vision to provide the intensive, individualized, comprehensive treatment that addresses the unique needs of women in recovery. The voices of these women, sometimes weak and despairing, and the faces of these women, sometimes anguished and fearful, can be changed and, in the process, they will be heard – they will be seen.

Linda M. Leyhane
Executive Director

Letter from a Graduate

To the women of Crawford House:

We all came in here as broken women. We all cried the same tears, and felt the same sorrow when thinking of all the pride and dignity we've lost, or in reality given away. I know that time is precious and so I've made a decision to live in the moment and never to take for granted all of my blessings as they come.

I remember walking into Crawford House with baggage, not the kind where you keep your clothes, but rage, guilt, shame, disappointment and fear. I was so scared of failing that I made a subconscious decision to not try. I could not believe in myself.

I left with a sense of self-awareness. I can admit when I'm disappointed, angry or sad and I allow myself to feel happiness because I deserve it. I do things I do not want to do today because I believe in my heart that they will keep me sober. I allow myself to be who I am, without abandon, because I refuse to give another day of my life to the disease that I have called addiction. I will no longer walk with my head to the ground because of who I was and hope that all of you can do the same. I'm not going to say wait until the miracle happens, I'm going to say do the footwork to make it occur.

Heather
September 10, 2009 – March 16, 2010

Crawford House was established in 1978 to provide residential treatment to women who are in early recovery from alcohol and drug addiction. Based on the twelve-step recovery model of Alcoholics Anonymous, the program is designed to facilitate physical, emotional and spiritual healing in safe and mutually supportive community.

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Halfway Houses of New Jersey
Mercer Organization of Addiction Treatment & Education Services
Providers Advisory Committee on Alcohol and Drug Addiction of Somerset & Middlesex Counties
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Board News

Dear Crawford House supporters:

I am pleased to write my first letter as the President of the Board of Trustees of Crawford House. After serving on the Board for three years, I am truly honored to have been appointed Board President. I am strongly committed to Crawford House and working to carry out its mission.

I am happy to welcome some new board members I believe will be influential in working together to meet our goals. Michael Figge, of Trans Pacific Partners, and Kathleen Seidel, an active community member, are our two newest Board members and we are glad to have them on the Board.

I am also excited about the introduction of the Walter Barlow Legacy Society. Headed up by Trustee Mark Durand, this development initiative will allow donors to include Crawford House in their estate plans and support the mission through other means.

Additionally, I am actively participating in the development of this year's annual Crawford House dinner, the signature fundraising event for Crawford House. Serving on our dinner committee is a great way to get involved in Crawford House and we would love for you to join us as we strive to make our 2010 dinner the most successful to date.

The global economic difficulties have affected all of us. Crawford House is facing its most challenging financial times since it opened its doors thirty-two years ago. Please continue to support our mission of helping the women of New Jersey turn their lives around.

Thank you for your continuing support,

Robert Hebestreit
President
Board of Trustees

Montgomery United Methodist Church... Making a Difference

The women of Crawford House have been blessed by the congregation of the Montgomery United Methodist Church. Crawford House and the Church have enjoyed a wonderful relationship that greatly benefits the women in their recovery.

The women are able to donate their time and efforts to different events at the church, including set up, sorting and cleaning for the Church's rummage sales, and decorating for the holidays. Additionally, the Church has volunteers, known as the "Flying Angels," who transport the women to and from services at the Montgomery United Methodist Church.

In 2009, the congregation of Montgomery United Methodist Church chose Crawford House to be the recipient of its Abundant Life Fund. The fund was

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one of the four funding goals that the Church established through its Miracle Sunday which was part of the Open Door Campaign. All donations to the four fundraising goals were made to the Church on June 14, 2009. Through this initiative, the Church successfully raised \$5,000 for Crawford House to offset program costs.

Reverend Dr. Anthony J. Godlefski serves as the Church's Pastor. Known throughout the community as Pastor Tony, he leads his congregation's support of Crawford House. Pastor Tony believes that "the relationship between Crawford House and the Church is mutually beneficial. The women [of Crawford House] bring joy and enthusiasm to Church events." He continued to explain how touched he was that a Crawford House resident approached him after an event and shared that she "never knew you could have so much fun without using drugs or alcohol." Pastor Tony and the congregation truly enjoy their relationship with the women of Crawford House and feel that both parties are truly blessed to help one another.

Remembering David Hackler...

Crawford House and the Montgomery Township community underwent a great loss this past February with the passing of David L. Hackler. A former Crawford House Board Trustee, David made a difference in many lives through his service on the Montgomery Township School Board and the Montgomery Township Municipal Alliance. His dedication to the mission of Crawford House will never be forgotten.

Wendy's Partners with Crawford House for Job Success

A key component to the success of the Crawford House program is each resident securing employment. A job provides each resident not only with income, but also valuable real world experience that establishes self-worth and self-esteem.

In 2009, a relationship between Crawford House and Wendy's was forged when a Crawford House resident was hired for their Hillsborough location. Her strong work ethic caught the attention of management, resulting in Wendy's Human Resource Manager Audrey Melnick initiating a meeting with Executive Director Linda Leyhane to learn more about Crawford House and explore other partnership opportunities for the two organizations.

Ms. Melnick recognizes the mutually beneficial affiliation, "The relationship with Crawford House has truly been a great experience in providing Wendy's with good employees in addition to fulfilling Founder Dave Thomas' core values of putting people first and giving back to the community." While turnover in the fast-food industry is high and employee training is costly, the discipline of the Crawford House program provides the foundation for a great employee and Wendy's is happy to provide opportunities to residents working towards successful and lasting recovery.

The Crawford House resident continued her employment with Wendy's throughout her treatment and has come to be one of their most valued employees. She continues her work at Wendy's and is currently being trained to be a shift supervisor.

Crawford House is fortunate to have a positive partnership with Wendy's of Hillsborough and is looking forward to continuing the relationship into the future. Together, both organizations are dedicated to building a stronger, healthier community.

Montgomery Evangelical Free Church...

Serving the women of Crawford House so that they may serve themselves

Eighteen months ago, when Eric Couch joined the Montgomery Evangelical Free Church as its Director of Youth Ministries, he had a vision: He wanted his congregation's families to serve the community side by side. A major component in Director Couch's vision is his "reach across the street" philosophy – he believes that the Church should help its local neighbors and groups, especially in the Montgomery Township and Hillsborough areas.

Crawford House and its residents are benefiting from his "reach" with a new vegetable garden. Director Couch's group of volunteers is made up of Montgomery Evangelical Free Church's families... parents and children that are working together to revitalize an existing garden area and plant vegetables that the residents will be able to tend to and harvest for their meals.

Director Couch states that his group's goal is to "make the garden as good as if it was their own." They will be planting tomatoes, red and green peppers and cucumbers as well as other vegetables.



The garden at Crawford House sits ready for the planting of the vegetables thanks to the hard work of community volunteers.

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