TIME FOR THE 10TH ANNUAL RECOVERY CONFERENCE

The 2014 Recovery Conference is planned for Wednesday, May 28, 2014.

With a theme of “Stand Up Again for Mental Health,” this year’s conference will welcome back David Granirer who will be training another group of our consumers in stand-up comedy. With David’s help, mental health consumers turn their problems into stand up comedy, then perform their acts at conferences, treatment centers, psych wards, for various mental health organizations, corporations, government agencies, on college and university campuses, and most importantly for the general public. As his keynote address to the gathering, he will introduce them and their performances.

Granirer says, “We use comedy to give mental health consumers a powerful voice and help reduce the stigma and discrimination around mental illness. The idea is that laughing at our setbacks raises us above them. It makes people go from despair to hope, and hope is crucial to anyone struggling with adversity. Studies prove that hopeful people are more resilient and also tend to live longer, healthier lives.”

David is a counselor, stand up comic, author, and consumer. He founded Stand Up for Mental Health, a program teaching comedy to mental health consumers, in 2004. He is featured in the VOICE Award winning documentary Cracking Up. He received a Life Unlimited Award from the Depression Bipolar Support Alliance, a Welcome Back Award from the National Council for Behavioral Health, and a Champion of Mental Health Award.

We are also welcoming back Art From Ashes whose mission is to empower struggling youth by providing creative programs that facilitate health and hope through expression, connection, and transformation. Since its inception in 2003, Art from Ashes has provided poetry and creative workshops to high-risk youth. Art from Ashes will provide two breakout sessions.

To register for the Recovery Conference, please go to www.mhcd.org where you will find a link to registration.

“Most people think you have to be nuts to do stand up comedy...Counselor and Stand Up Comic David Granirer offers it as a form of therapy!”
The Mental Health Center of Denver has once again been named a “Best Place to Work in Denver” by the Denver Post. The 2014 awards were announced in a special insert in the Sunday, April 13, Denver Post. This year’s award is in the Large Employer category.

In announcing the honor to the staff, President and CEO Dr. Carl Clark stated, “Considering we work in an organization where we focus on enriching the lives of those we serve, it is heartening to know that we also take care of one another.” The award is based on a survey from our own employees.

Dr. Clark also expressed his pride in the fact that a nonprofit organization like the Mental Health Center of Denver is able to “compete” to be a Top Workplace with businesses such as petroleum, legal services, investments, etc. He believes the strong alignment we share with our mission is one part of what makes this a great place to come to work.

Congratulations to every staff member who works every day to positively impact co-workers, consumers, and our community.

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**Growth – Enrichment – Recovery**

The Mental Health Center of Denver’s *Growth – Enrichment – Recovery* campaign has reached 99% of its $8 million goal and will be completed by the end of June of 2014. The funds raised through this campaign helped fund the reconstruction of the Recovery Center at 4455 E. 12th Avenue which serves our adult consumer population. It also has supported and will continue to support growth of current and new programs as well as greater outreach into our community. Our thanks to you who helped make this campaign a success.

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**Contact Us:**
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303.504.6500  
[www.mhcd.org](http://www.mhcd.org)

**Join the conversation...**

Facebook: Like us at [facebook.com/recoveringdenver](http://facebook.com/recoveringdenver)  
Twitter: Follow us on [Twitter @mhcd_news](http://Twitter @mhcd_news)  
Blog: Follow our Recovery Blog at [mhcd.org/blog](http://mhcd.org/blog)
A NEW CHILD AND FAMILY COMMUNITY CENTER IN NORTHEAST DENVER

The Mental Health Center of Denver is excited to share a new project to expand its child and family services.

• Partnering with the Denver Urban Renewal Authority (DURA) led to the purchase of a 3.8 acre vacant lot near the intersection of 35th Avenue and Dahlia
• This one-of-a-kind center will combine healthy living practices, educational supports, community-building programs, and mental health services in one location with the goal of transforming an entire community.
• The completed structure will feature approximately 33,000 sq. ft. of indoor space surrounded by gardens and outdoor areas
• Anderson Mason Dale Architects has been selected to bring this vision to reality
• Anticipated date for ground breaking is Summer of 2014 with opening projected for late Summer of 2015
• A capital fundraising campaign will help raise funds for this project

STRONG FAMILIES – STRONG CHILDREN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

This capital campaign designed to raise the initial $5 million needed to design, construct, and operate a child and family community center in northeast Denver, has reached 50% of its goal due in large part to two lead gifts by local community and family foundations. The remainder of the amount needed to be successful will be raised from foundations and individuals.

The Strong Families – Strong Children campaign is aptly named since it will support the new child and family community center which, in partnership with community stakeholders, will create a hub of community activity and services under one roof. When completed and operational, the community center will offer children, families, and community members a welcoming place to improve their overall well-being through health promotion, prevention, and early intervention programs.

ENRICHING LIVES AND MINDS EVENT

Thursday, May 29, 2014, 5:15 – 6:30 p.m.

This informational and educational event will be held at

The Garden

3435 Albion St.

Denver, CO 80207

The Garden is easy to find – just south of the Park Hill Golf Course one block east of Colorado Blvd.

Please RSVP to Joanne Aiello at joanne.aiello@mhcd.org or 303-504-6732
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