25TH ANNIVERSARY FOR MENTAL HEALTH CENTER OF DENVER

The Mental Health Center of Denver’s 25th anniversary year began on July 1 with a kick-off of 12 months of activities and events to celebrate the growth and expansion of this organization, which was founded to respond to the mental health needs of our community. The celebration gives us the opportunity to recognize the hundreds of employees who have helped make the Mental Health Center of Denver the Center of Excellence that it is today. It also celebrates the lives of those we have been able to serve through the years as we continue with our mission of “enriching lives and minds by focusing strengths and recovery.”

Please visit our website often and learn more about the past 25 years and what dreams we envision for the next 25 years.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER OF DENVER

Save the Date!
Gifts of Hope Fundraising Breakfast
Wednesday, November 5 • 8 - 9 am
If you are interested in helping to plan this important event, please contact Joanne Aiello at 303-504-6732, Joanne.Aiello@mhcd.org

A generation of impact • A future of hope
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER OF DENVER IN THE NEWS

Colfax Marathon Honors for the Mental Health Center of Denver

On June 16 the Mental Health Center of Denver received honors stemming from its participation as a DaVita Charity Partner in the 2014 Colfax Marathon races, which were held on May 17-18. Twelve friends of the Mental Health Center of Denver and 24 staff members registered to be members of the Wellness Warriors contingent for the 5k, Urban 10 Miler, Half Marathon, Marathon and Marathon Relay events.

At the awards ceremony, the Mental Health Center of Denver received the Paul Ryan Champions Award, bestowed in honor of the late Denver Director of Regional Affairs, Paul Ryan. The Paul Ryan Champions Award came with a $1,000 donation.

Additionally, the Anschutz Run Club – a team of students from the University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine – designated the Mental Health Center of Denver to be the recipient of the $750 award it earned as the third place finisher in the co-ed division of the open relay competition.

The Mental Health Center of Denver congratulates its Wellness Warriors team for its commitment to the value of physical and mental well-being.

NEW CHILD AND FAMILY COMMUNITY CENTER IN NORTHEAST DENVER IS ALREADY GROWING

Our new facility will offer children, families, and community members a welcoming place to improve their overall well-being through health promotion, prevention, and early intervention programs. As our project team began working with an architectural firm on the design of this new site, it became apparent that we needed to expand our vision of the project.

We have therefore already enlarged the interior space by approximately 7,000 square feet to accommodate the increased number of families and children who will be able to receive services based at this site. In addition, the team determined to proceed more quickly with design and completion of the outdoor space.

We will be working to complete walking paths, play areas, and an urban garden in time for the opening of the community center which is projected to be in the fall of 2015.

Meetings with neighborhood groups continue to help us with our plans for the community center, making sure that we will include healthy living practices, educational supports, community-building programs, and mental health services in one location with the goal of transforming an entire community.
DAY TREATMENT PROGRAM Responds to Hunger Issues

One of the most exciting programs offered through Child and Family Services at the Mental Health Center of Denver is the Intensive Day Treatment program, which serves 24 children in grades 1-8. The program generally enrolls children who are having difficulty in their traditional school setting and provides them with a temporary, safe, structured environment that encourages learning both academic and behavioral skills.

Individual, group, and family therapy are integral components of the program and staff is able to include horticultural and animal assisted therapy as well. These children are eligible for Medicaid support and the program also participates in the USDA Free/Reduced Meals program.

As an added benefit, the Day Treatment program is part of the Totes of Hope™ – Children program operated by the Food Bank of the Rockies. When staff at the Food Bank of the Rockies heard children at their Kids Cafe sites talking about going home on Friday and going hungry until they had school lunch on Monday, they knew something needed to be done. In 2006, the Food Bank of the Rockies started Totes of Hope™ – Children. Through this program, kids receive totes filled with 8 – 9 pounds of nutritious kid-friendly food on Fridays. They take home the totes for the weekend and return the empty tote to be refilled the following week. For many of these children, the totes are their main source of food on Saturday and Sunday.

Food insecurity is an issue which many families in our programs face. We know that children learn much better and families cope much better if the barrier of hunger can be mitigated. While we always serve two complete meals to our students daily, the Totes of Hope™ – Children program provides donated non-perishable food items to send home to our families every Friday. This helps assure that these students will have food for the weekend, allowing them to come to school on Monday with a greater chance of succeeding in the classroom.

The Food Bank of the Rockies reports that one in seven people in Colorado wonder where they will find their next meal and nearly half of these are children. Colorado’s rate of child poverty is the third-fastest-growing in the nation. More Denver kids lived in poverty in 2012 than during the worst years of the Great Recession. More than one in five Colorado households with children (22%) reported food hardship, which is defined as a financial challenge to put food on the table (2008-2012).

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Join the conversation...
Like us at facebook.com/recoveringdenver
Follow us on Twitter @mhcd_news
Follow our Recovery Blog at mhcd.org/blog
The Mental Health Center of Denver has successfully completed its $8 million Growth – Enrichment – Recovery campaign. This campaign, which began at our Gifts of Hope Fundraising Breakfast in October of 2011, has raised over $8 million to support these three funds:

The Landmark Fund supported the remodeling of the Recovery Center
The Community Fund supported expanded services in all areas
The Outreach Fund supported continued outreach into our community

The best way to illustrate our excitement over completing this campaign is to share the impact it has had on the work we are doing in our community. Approximately 40% of the campaign went toward our Landmark Fund to complete the Recovery Center. This clinical site has been a true beacon of hope for the adults we serve in our community. Since its opening in July of 2012, the numbers of adults we are serving has grown by over 40%, the best measure of the campaign’s success.

At the same time, our other programs – supported through the Community and Outreach Funds – have also continued to grow. Our Child and Family programs are growing to the extent that limited space has become an issue and we are well into planning for a new child and family community center that will allow us to serve more children and their families in our community, especially in the northeast portion of the city.

Thanks to all of you who supported this campaign. You are helping us realize our vision of assuring that mental health care is available to everyone in our community when it is needed.