

Aurora news

News Brewing at the Cafe!

Aurora's Mechanicsburg Café continues to grow! Friday, November 7 marks the Grand Re-Launch of the Café! A new name -- Aurora Cyber Café -- tips off visitors to the reason for the "re-opening" as the Cafe continues to develop on its reputation for being a warm and inviting spot. Beginning November 7, the Café will now offer free wireless service. Stop by with your laptop and surf the net. Or use the Cafe's new computer to explore the world wide web. Two new sofas and some comfy lounge chairs complete the coffee shop aura.

And there's more! One wall now boasts a 37" Flat-Screen Television that was recently donated to the Center. The TV is connected to cable and guests of the Cafe can enjoy cable programming such as sports games and TV movies.

The Café still treats guests to the same great menu: Fair Trade Coffees and Teas, freshly baked muffins and other tasty treats. All are available at no charge or for a small donation. Staff proudly sport Aurora's new T-Shirts featuring the Aurora slogan "Where Loneliness Ends ... And Friendship Begins". We look forward to seeing you on Friday evenings to enjoy the live music, mingle with friends, and experience what all the buzz is about! ●

Introducing New Online Tools!

Aurora's website, www.auroraservices.org, recently expanded and is now home to many new features and information. One of the most exciting additions is the new ability to *collect donations online*. Other new items include online registration for CPMR activities, the schedule of films for Friday Night Flicks, upcoming Aurora Cyber Café live music performers, and activities for all three centers. *Check out all the new features with a visit to www.auroraservices.org.* ●

Seeking Donations for Holiday Luncheons

It's the time of year to celebrate! The annual Thanksgiving and Holiday Luncheons, held at the Harrisburg Center, bring the spirit of the season to our members who eagerly look forward to both events. *Help us with these festive events by donating your time or a food item.* To volunteer, please contact the office at 717-232-6675. Donations of turkeys and hams can be dropped off at the Harrisburg Center. Friends of Aurora are welcome to attend the luncheons. Please RSVP with the office one week prior if you would like to join us! ●

Thanksgiving Luncheon - Tuesday, November 18, 2008
Holiday Luncheon ~ Tuesday, December 16, 2008

In this issue:

2

Executive Director's
Report

2

A Time of Transition

3

Center Corner -
News & Updates

4

You Make the
Difference!

Executive Director's Report

Board List

Nora Neidlinger, President
William Ilgenfritz, Vice President
Wendy Hayden, Treasurer
Melissa Hoover, Secretary
Tel Gilroy
Chuck Goonrey, Esq.
Ken Rollins, Esq.
Morton Spector

Staff List

Owen Hannah, Executive Director
Lisa Ratcliff Webb, Assistant Director
Debbie Murphy, Director of Cumberland County, Mechanicsburg, Drop-In Center Services
Rebecca Sakala, Director of Dauphin County, Harrisburg, Drop-In Center Services
Kelly Thompson-Chacon, Hispanic Life Skill / IMRH Program Coordinator
Sundra Boughter, IMHR Specialist
Violet "Sam" Sweger, Perry County Program Specialist
Louise West, Dauphin/Cumberland Program Specialist
Alfred "Al" Jones, Social Rehabilitation Specialist
Kim Weirich, Administrative Assistant

As the new Executive Director of Aurora Social Rehabilitation Services, my goals are simple: *first* to continue the outstanding leadership qualities exhibited by our former director Laura Starke, and *second* to expand existing programs while adding new and innovative programs for the members. Although the challenges are great, Laura provided the means for me to continue in her footsteps.

In the coming months, friends of Aurora can expect an expansion of Café Aurora to include a warm relaxing atmosphere with comfortable sofas and chairs, live entertainment, online computer, wi-fi accessibility, seasonable coffees and teas. We also will add online registration capabilities for our CPMR activities and online access to calendars for the Drop In Centers. A complete listing of staff members with their contact information is now found at our website, www.auroraservices.org. Our full service website www.auroraservices.org will provide everyone with valuable information, activity updates, services and most importantly a means for those who are inclined to financially support our programs to donate via your credit card. We are also extremely excited to show our members participating in Center activities.

We invite our friends to visit our centers in Harrisburg, Mechanicsburg and Drumgold center in Perry County. Additionally if you are interested in volunteering your time, please contact me directly and we will find a suitable task for you.



From the Desk of our Board President ...

A Time of Transition

The last few months at Aurora have been a time of transition. After serving as Executive Director for nearly six years, Laura Starke left the agency to pursue a different career in Philadelphia. Throughout her time at Aurora, Laura accomplished several projects including the expansion of programs in both Dauphin and Cumberland Counties, as well as the creation of a new satellite program in Perry County. While the Board of Directors was sad to see her go, we wish her well in her new endeavor.

After an extensive search, the Board of Directors is pleased to announce the promotion of Owen Hannah, former Program Coordinator at Aurora, to the position of Executive Director. Owen brings a wealth of mental health, management, and personnel experience to this position. He has a number of innovative ideas and plans to expand and improve Aurora's programs to better meet the needs of our members.

Everyone from our board to our faithful staff to our generous contributors recognizes the importance of Aurora to our members. Both the board and I put our complete faith in Owen's ability to take this agency to new heights. ●



Visit our website!

www.auroraservices.org

Member Activities at Harrisburg and Mechanicsburg



Where Loneliness Ends ... and Friendship Begins



Center Corner: News & Updates

Perry County Center

Members at the Dromgold Center in Perry County recently completed their monthly goal-setting with Aurora staff Tina Gill. It's a time when they consider goals they'd like to work for and achieve in life, such as finding a job. Goal-setting is one strategy towards making these dreams reality. Members are also active with a many activities each week, like donning costumes for the Halloween Party and making wreaths and ornaments for the holidays. A favorite for the 6 to 8 members served at the center are their regular trips to the thrift store on dollar days - an excellent time to pick up great clothing buys!

Aurora

*Where loneliness ends ...
... and friendship begins*

Harrisburg Center Welcome New Staff!

Al Jones joined the staff of the Harrisburg Center in August. Al brings with him a wealth of experience. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Special Education from Cheyney University and spent 20 years as a police officer in the city of Philadelphia. Known as "Big Al," he brings with him a broad smile and plenty of energy to Aurora's programs.

Newsletter by Email

In 2009 we will begin sending the newsletter by email to share Aurora news more regularly and save costs. If you would still like to receive a printed copy of the newsletter, please let us know by calling the office at 717-232-6675 or send an email to ohannah@msn.com.

Mechanicsburg Center WRAP Program

Each week a group of 8 to 10 members at the Mechanicsburg Center gather to work through the WRAP Program. WRAP - Wellness Recovery Action Plan - is a 10 to 12 week structured system that supports members in developing their own customized plan. Members are guided by certified instructors in identifying components in their lives such as what makes a good day, triggers, and symptoms, as well as steps to take if they feel unwell. The plan, developed by Dr. Mary Ellen Kopeland, empowers members. They take responsibility in the steps for both staying well and asking for assistance in time to avoid a crisis. Aurora Staff Lisa Ratcliff Webb and Member Staff Teresa Kerns guide the program.

Help Others This Holiday Season!

As the weather turns colder and snow is in the forecast, we turn our attentions to gift baskets for our members and basic necessity kits for those who are homeless. Your donations of the following items help us to fill these needs in our community. Please bring contributions to the Harrisburg Center.

Food Donations

Your donations of non-perishable food items help others have full stomachs this winter. Please be sure all items have their complete labels. Packaged goods should be factory-sealed, in good condition, and without rust or severe dents.

- canned tuna, meats and stews
- soup
- peanut butter
- canned fruits, vegetables and beans
- packaged meals,
- pasta and rice
- pure fruit
- vegetable juices

Toiletry Items

Unused and unopened toiletry items from this list are welcome additions to our member's holiday gift baskets:

- shampoos & conditioners
- deoderant
- liquid soaps
- toothpaste & toothbrushes
- hotel amenities

Cold Weather Kits

Help others stay warm this winter! Gifts of cold-weather extras like socks, gloves, hats and scarfs in both men's and women's sizes are needed. New items are preferred.

Donate Online!

Friends and patrons of Aurora may now financially contribute to Aurora's programs online at our website. To contribute, simply visit our website at www.auroraservices.org. Click on "Online Donation," complete the user-friendly form and submit. Your donation will be immediately received at Aurora and within days you will receive notification of your donation with a thank you note. All donations are tax deductible. Your contributions benefit our members in many ways!



social rehabilitation services

401 Division Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110
www.auroraservices.org
(717) 232-6675

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
HARRISBURG, PA
PERMIT 1018

MISSION STATEMENT

Aurora Social Rehabilitation Services is a community non profit organization serving adults with mental illness and mental retardation in Central Pennsylvania, and facilitating recovery among those served with opportunities for empowerment and self-direction through life skills training, education programs, and social activities.

Aurora Social Rehabilitation Services is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. The official registration and financial information for the agency may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State, 1-800-732-0999.

You make the difference!

Community support enables us to continue to directly and positively impact the lives of those we serve. Your contributions allow us to provide services that are critical to the wellbeing of our members. Please give an amount that is significant and meaningful to you. Checks should be made payable to Aurora Social Rehabilitation Services. Or call the Harrisburg drop-in center at 717-232-6675 to discuss donations of goods and services. Whatever you give will be appreciated and will make a difference.

In addition to financial support, our current needs for goods and services includes:

- Fund Development Committee Members
- Field trip chaperones
- Canned goods
- Tickets to local sporting events or recreational facilities
- Movie theater gift certificates
- Arts and crafts supplies

You also can support Aurora Social Rehabilitation Services through your gifts to the United Way. Just designate nonaffiliated agency #**10530** to be the recipient of your United Way support. ●