

INSIDE

Winter 2008



Crisis Intervention Team Outreach Program

Since January 2005, Community Support Services, Inc. has worked closely with the Summit County Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services Board (ADM) and the Akron Police Department to develop and implement the Crisis Intervention Team Outreach Program (CIT). The mission of Community Support Services, Inc. regarding this effort is, "to utilize the capabilities and resources of mental health and law enforcement professionals to identify and outreach at risk mentally ill individuals within our community with the goal of providing needed resources and services with compassion and respect, resulting in positive outcomes".

CIT is a partnership between mental health professionals and police officers. The police officers have received expert quality training with respect to the treatment of individuals in recovery from mental illness. The police officers volunteer for assignment five days per week and are accompanied by Community Support Services, Inc. staff. This specialized team will respond to individuals who are experiencing a psychiatric crisis in the community. They possess the skills to assess an individual's well being, engage them in immediate support services, and provide follow up to ensure appropriate program linkage and treatment.

The Summit County ADM Board and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence, in a coordinated effort, have created a successful Crisis Intervention Team Training program. This has brought about the training of over 300 law enforcement personnel throughout Summit County and the State of Ohio, as well as nationally and internationally. These officers will respond to crisis calls in their jurisdiction while they perform their regular assignments. The City of Akron residents benefit from the partnership between Community Support Services, Inc. and the Akron Police Department as they jointly conduct interventions with individuals in their municipalities who are in need of CIT services.

This program has benefited case management staff as they are able to provide follow-up outreach to agency clients in a safe environment through the presence of an accompanying CIT officer. In turn, CIT officers benefit from working with Community Support Services' case management staff by learning new techniques they can utilize while on duty.

The CIT Outreach Program is the foundation from which the Mobile Crisis Intervention Service was formed. A CIT officer and a mental health professional assess a person with mental illness who has committed an offense or disturbance. In lieu of possible incarceration, these individuals are transported directly to a hospital, mental health treatment program, or a psychiatric evaluation center. Additional alternatives to incarceration include referral to a medical detoxification program, a rehabilitation program, or a social service agency.

As a direct result of the success of these collaborative efforts, Community Support Services applied for and received funding from the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice to expand our services throughout Summit County in 2008. As a result, the Summit County Sheriff's Department has agreed to designate officers, time, resources and matching funds to assist with the expansion of the CIT Outreach Program.

Sheriff's deputies will begin volunteering for special duty twice weekly to provide crisis intervention throughout Summit County. In addition, this team will be available to conduct wellness check ups and follow-up treatment linkage throughout Summit County when requested by other police departments. It is the desire of Community Support Services, Inc. to increase outreach services for individuals in recovery from mental illness who are released from the Summit County Jail, as well as those from outpatient mental health commitment or conditional release.

Community Support Services, Inc. looks forward to continued participation in the training and education of law enforcement personnel to better serve individuals with mental illness in our community. This program offers a unique service to our clients, their families, and the community.



*The Officers are Forrest Kappler (L) and Brian Boss (R).
Our staff person is Ragan Leff, CIT Coordinator.*



Community Support Services, Inc. will be celebrating 20 years of service to the citizens of Summit County throughout 2008. As part of this celebration, we have updated our logo. The new logo was created by WhiteSpace during their annual 24 hour marathon pro bono work for area non-profits.

The new logo is reflective of the philosophy of Recovery that is the basis for services provided at Community Support Services, Inc. The meaning behind our new logo is the following: One will notice that there is a larger amount of space between the S and the U than between the other letters of SUPPORT. This represents the philosophy of Recovery and Community Support Services, Inc. We are here to support our clients when they need us and yet allow our clients the space they need/want to permit them the opportunity to grow and recover. We have also changed our tag line from "Creating Opportunities for Tomorrow" to "Creating Opportunities for Recovery" The new purple and green colors are the colors of Recovery.

Adopt A Room Project

Community Support Services, Inc operates several residential facilities. As an organization, we would like to ensure that the residents residing in our group homes have a pleasant living experience. To maximize the dollars we have available for care to clients served by Community Support Services, Inc., we would like to reach out to our readers and solicit assistance in refurbishing some of the rooms in each house. If you or an organization, business or club you belong to, are interested in "adopting" a room, please contact Alice Schneider at 330 996-9141 ext. 132 or schneali@cssbh.org. Listed below are some of the items needed.

Edgerton House:

- 3X3 Square Table for dining room - approximately \$175.00
- Replace cushions on sofa and chairs – approximately \$1000.00
- Buffet for dining room – approximately \$500.00
- Stove (5 burner) 40 inches – approximately \$1900.00
- Smoking Shelter – approximately \$5000.00
- Smoking Shelter furniture – approximately \$1500.00

Waterloo Safe Haven:

- Flat screen computer – approximately \$1500.00

Maggie Carroll Smith House:

- Mattress Sets (13) – approximately \$2000.00
- Dressers (13) – approximately \$4500.00
- Couches (2) – approximately \$1000.00
- Chairs for Living Room (4) – approximately \$1400.00
- Smoking Shelter – approximately \$5000.00

Kibler Hall:

- Office chairs (5) – approximately \$900.00
- Upright Freezer – approximately \$2000.00
- Stove (5 burner) 40 inches – approximately \$1900.00

Akron Metro Regional Transit Authority

March 4, 2008 is the Primary Election in Ohio. Issue 8 is a very important levy that will be on the ballot. The Akron Metro Regional Transit Authority is asking for an additional 1/4 of one percent increase in the sales tax in Summit County.

Why is Metro asking for an additional sales tax?

- METRO and METRO SCAT are facing a nearly \$2 million deficit in 2008.
- They are facing a nearly \$4 million additional deficit by the end of 2010
 - Fuel costs are up 100%
 - State funding is down 55% since 2000
 - Sales tax growth rate has been less than half the rate of inflation

What has METRO done to reduce their deficit?

- Cut service by 33% - nearly 94,000 hours of revenue service has been cut worth nearly \$10 million per year since 2000
- Doubled METRO SCAT fares and raised general fares the equivalent of 60%
- Frozen METRO employee wages for over three years
- Cut 50 jobs over the last few years, cut 8 more in November 2007, will cut an additional 50 in April without passage
- Put off the purchase of new buses to use capital funds to assist with the cost of maintaining the current fleet of buses

METRO's Impact

- 20,000 trips are taken each day by METRO passengers going to work, school, health care and other necessities.
- Older adults and people with disabilities make more than 200,000 trips each year using METRO SCAT to reach medical care, essential shopping and employment. Otherwise, they would be homebound.
- Thousands of workers, hundreds of employers and many retailers need METRO's reliable transit services.
- The direct economic impact of METRO on the Summit County economy is \$37.4 million and 600 jobs.
- The indirect impact is \$69.2 million and over 1,000 jobs.
- METRO is used by more than 4,000 welfare to work recipients to get training and find gainful employment to become self-sufficient. They took over 60,000 trips on METRO in 2006.
- In these days of rising fuel costs and global warming, having a good public transportation system is vital for both economic and environmental reasons.

We urge you to vote for Issue 8 on March 4, 2008!

Donors 4th Quarter 2007

Judith Akins

Jim Bournival

Mary Brackle

Sharon Chu

Dorothy Clark

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Fairlawn West United Church of Christ

First Congregational UCC of Hudson

Michael Gaffney

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Ella Grace Reitz

Denise Ronk

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Target Stores

Norma Thoman

Wilma Thomas

Maureen Van Duser

Walgreens Drug Store, Inc.

Gwendolyn Wilson



ADM **Alcohol, Drug Addiction &**
BOARD **Mental Health** Services Board



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Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities

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Mission Statement

Community Support Services, Inc. is a leader in behavioral healthcare for Summit County and the surrounding region. The agency provides comprehensive, high quality, cost effective treatment, rehabilitation, advocacy and support for recovery, primarily to persons most in need, to enhance the quality of their lives.

In order to achieve our mission, the following core values and key beliefs are paramount:

- *Treat all people with dignity, fairness and respect.*
- *Deliver effective outcomes in collaboration with individuals we serve.*
- *Provide high quality, confidential and effective service through a partnership of shared responsibility among individuals served, families, staff and the community.*
- *Recognize that staff is our most important asset.*
- *Value innovation, efficiency and flexibility as the keys to our success.*

Speaker's Bureau

Community Support Services' mission is to provide comprehensive, high quality, cost effective treatment, rehabilitation, advocacy and support for individuals with severe mental illnesses. One of the ways we meet the needs of our clients and the community is by making mental health professionals available to your club or organization through our free Speaker's Bureau. If you would like to know more about mental health issues, call 330-996-9141, ext. 167 to request a speaker.

A wide range of topics is available. Listed below are some of the commonly requested presentations dealing with mental health. You may also request other mental health topics that may be of interest to your group.

*All About CSS • Forensic Services
Geriatric Services • Homeless Outreach
Housing Opportunities • Mental Health in Ohio
Schizophrenia • Substance Abuse and Mental Illness
Understanding Mental Illness
Vocational Services for Individuals with Mental Illnesses*