

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK FOR BETTER HEALTH

by Versell Smith, Jr., Executive Director



When people ask me what is the priority area of growth for the Corner, I say behavioral health.

There are two reasons for my answer. First, the Corner is the leading provider of judgment-free behavioral health services specializing in ages 12 to 25. As experts in this age group, behavioral health is critical to our integrated care model.

Through our commitment to high-quality service delivery, we ensure our patients receive the

comprehensive care they need for a healthy life.

The second reason for my answer is the overwhelming community need.

The Washtenaw County Health Department reports that since 1999, there has been a 54% increase in suicide completions for individuals under the age of 25. Ypsilanti Township rate is 63% higher than Washtenaw County as a whole.

The Washtenaw County 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment report lists mental health at the top of county concerns. The assessment shows 6.9% of high school students reported they have attempted suicide in the past year, and 32% reported experiencing depression. For those living in poverty, the numbers are even higher.

Thanks to your support, the Corner is already responding to this need.

Over the past year, we have increased the number of social workers on staff, and are in the process of partnering with Community Mental Health (CMH) in order to eliminate a long wait list for psychiatric services. Our clinic features an assigned Social Worker of the Day (SWOD) who is available when a patient expresses immediate need to speak with a therapist.

We are also implementing a new electronic risk assessment tool to help us gather information on risk behaviors impacting our patients' health and well-being. Our integrated care team will review this data for further action and treatment.

We at the Corner want to do more, particularly for our communities that are marginalized and have limited access to services. We have plans for greater outreach to targeted neighborhoods with health education programs. In addition, we have begun exploring group programs that can be implemented at the Corner as well as at neighborhood locations, and that attract participants who are otherwise not yet ready to seek therapy. One of these is an evidence-based 15-week program called Mood Lifters, developed by Dr. Patricia Deldin, Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry at University of Michigan. We have held several successful sessions at the Corner, and are currently piloting a session in one Ypsilanti neighborhood.

The Corner's integrated care model is making a difference in health outcomes for our community's 12 to 25 year olds, thanks to you. And there is much more to come.

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** In Memorial*



**Your gift today
gives our youth
a healthier tomorrow!**
www.cornerhealth.org

Meet the Corner's new Medical Director, **Dr. Patricia Wells**



Dr. Patricia Wells of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Pediatric Emergency Center has been named medical director for the Corner Health Center. Dr. Wells was born and raised in Detroit, and studied Education and Zoology at Michigan State University. After college, she spent three years serving in the Peace Corps in the Republic of Palau working in marine fisheries and teaching middle school. It was the serious illness of a friend that ultimately changed her path from marine biology to medicine. On returning to the U.S., she worked in HIV epidemiology for the Minnesota Department of Health, then attended medical school at Wayne State University School of Medicine. There she coordinated a program which sent medical students into classrooms in Detroit Public Schools to teach about STI and HIV prevention. She completed a dual residency in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics (MedPeds) at the Detroit Medical Center.

Initially in a private practice in Detroit, Dr. Wells joined the Pediatric Emergency Center at St. Joseph Mercy when she moved to the Ann Arbor area. Here she has continued her community involvement through leading youth organizations, her service on Washtenaw County's Child Fatality Review Team, The Sexual Health Education Advisory Committee for Ann Arbor Public Schools, as well as various hospital committees. Dr. Wells enjoys teaching residents and medical students, and is passionate about providing exceptional care to every patient.

"I am thrilled to join the Corner Team," says Dr. Wells. "The entire staff – medical, behavioral health, programming and administration – are deeply committed to providing the care and support our patients deserve."



47 N. Huron Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197



Your Support Creates a Lifeline through Behavioral Health

Wendy came to the Corner after she had exhausted the 12 weeks of therapy services available on her college campus. Like many Corner Behavioral Health patients, Wendy showed elevated symptoms of anxiety and depression. "We see many young people who are working hard to improve their mental wellness, and have multiple barriers," explains Breah Wasson, Corner Clinic Manager.

Wendy's barriers were the results of multiple childhood traumas. She survived sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional/mental abuse, and was unable to trust anyone. She had no family or social supports to help her, and could not maintain a job. As a result, she was unable to pass her classes and was drinking alcohol so excessively, she often ending up in the emergency room with back pains associated with heavy drinking. Even after the initial 12 weeks of therapy from her college, Wendy could not discuss her trauma, and would draw pictures or write down "where it hurt" or where she had been hurt. She knew she needed more help, and turned to the Corner.

The Behavioral Health team decided to create an integrative health care team with the Corner Nurse Practitioner to help Wendy establish trusting relationships with the goal of being able to provide Wendy with all her healthcare needs, including reproductive health and preventative care.

Over the five years she was a patient at the Corner, Wendy made great progress with this model: She stopped abusing alcohol and joined a 12-step program; she got a physical health exam after many unsuccessful attempts; and she's able to identify, label and discuss her feelings.

When Wendy aged out of Corner Health services at age 26, she was passing her classes, had worked on a new job for 2 years (and was promoted!), and had been sober and working her program for 19 months. She was exercising regularly and building healthy relationships. She acquired skills and tools that will continue to help her going forward.

"At the Corner, we are tasked with reducing barriers so our patients are able to meet their personal goals and improve their quality of life," says Breah. As one patient recently told us, "The Corner isn't a doctor's office, it's a home!"

FEATURES AND HIGHLIGHTS

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And Much More!

MISSION:

The mission of the Corner Health Center is to inspire 12- to 25-year-olds (and their children) to achieve and sustain healthy lives by providing judgment-free, affordable health and wellness care and education.

The Corner Health Center

LOTUS SOCIETY

YOUR LEGACY at the Corner

If you have included the Corner Health Center in your will and estate plans, you qualify to join our Lotus Society. As a member, you allow us to celebrate your personal commitment now, knowing your gift will help sustain the Corner as an important source for health and wellness for future generations of young people, and their children.

To notify us of your intentions, or if you have questions, please contact Paula Brown, CFRE, in the Corner Development office at 734-714-2251 or pbrown@cornerhealth.org. It is not required that you provide a dollar value to your gift in order to join the Lotus Society.



HELP CORNER YOUTH WITH YOUR YEAR-END GIFT

As you consider your year-end charitable plans, consider gifts of stock or distributions from your donor advised funds to the Corner. You may designate your gift to a particular program or where most needed. For more information, contact Paula Brown, CFRE, Chief Development and Engagement Officer at pbrown@cornerhealth.org or 734-714-2251.

Gifts in Tribute

*Thank you for thinking of the Corner
for these special recognitions.*

In Honor of Lori Bennett
Michael and Lesa Huget

In Honor of Frank Carollo and Shelly Shatterelli's Wedding
Ronald and Julie Maurer

In Honor of Neil Cole-Filipiak's Birthday
Carol Hsu

In Honor of Megan Lawson's Birthday
*Susan Colangelo
Joyce Ivory
Rebekah Post
Sherry Richardson*

In Honor of Hoai An Pham
Jesse Carr

In Memory of Howard Cooper
Marie Shaffer

* This list reflects gifts received between April 1, 2019 and September 30, 2019. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact the Development Office at aohlgren@cornerhealth.org if you have any questions.



A SUMMER OF HEALTH & FUN AT THE CORNER!

Thanks to support from Galens Medical Society and Washtenaw County Health Department, our Healthy Youth Healthy Futures Summer Program was another great success. Over 12 weeks, 25 youth ages 12-25 participated in shopping at the Ypsilanti Farmer's Market, cooking classes that began with washing and preparing fresh vegetables, outside exercise (including yoga), and a trip to the Ann Arbor Community Farm.

One of the older participants had never visited a farmer's market and did not recognize many of the vegetables. At the end of her first visit, she exclaimed, "It's such an awesome space!" Another young participant who has some cognitive delays that caused some sensitivities around food (especially vegetables), told our Health Educator, Jaz Brennan, he was not going to eat any of the plain vegetables they were cooking! He found he did enjoy "spicing the veggies," and even took one bite at the end of the class.

At the Ann Arbor Community Farm, the youth saw the direct source of the produce they were eating from the Farmer's Market. One participant was very surprised at the tall grass and weeds that exist on a farm, saying, "This place needs a lawnmower."

The Summer Program connects healthy decisions about eating with developing healthy habits for life. The participants explored topics such as social isolation, making connections, their personal values and goals. Since the program ended in August, one youth member has kept in touch with us, explaining she "misses Healthy Youth Healthy Futures Tuesdays." More cooking, nutrition, and wellness programs are planned over the fall and winter to help youth continue to make informed choices for good health.



YOUR CORNER **UPDATES**

- ▶ Thanks to Corner Board Members **Jason Bell** and **Ron Maurer**, and to **Barry Fuller** for donating a **Zingerman's-catered tailgate party at Big House Parking** as a raffle prize for a Corner fundraiser. Beverages were donated by **York Fine Wines and Specialty Foods** and **Stadium Market**. Winner **Jane Dutton** enjoyed great fun and great weather before the August 31st UM home game, and **the Corner raised \$8,700** to support our mission.
- ▶ **DTE Volunteers** once again sponsored a backpack giveaway for Corner patients. This dedicated group gave away **73 backpacks full of school supplies and books** at the Corner on August 26th.
- ▶ **The Carls Foundation** donated funds to the Corner to install a generator that will protect our vaccines during power outages. Plans for installation are in progress.
- ▶ A grant from the **Buhr Foundation** allowed the Corner to replace very old copiers/printers and purchase laptops that will help gather information to help us provide greater support to our patients.
- ▶ **The holidays are coming!** Once again, the Corner will be participating in **Giving Tuesday** and **Amazon Smile**. We will also be the recipient of books from the **Delta Kappa Gamma Usborne Book Sale**. Visit our website for more information – www.cornerhealth.org.



DTE Backpack Giveaway on August 26th.



Tailgate Raffle winner Jane Dutton with Corner Executive Director Versell Smith.



Corner Board Member Jason Bell with daughter Megan.

The Corner Store provides food, toiletries, diapers, and other needed items to our patients. **If you would like to organize a drive** for our Store, you may call Ava Ohlgren, Development Associate, at 734-714-2237. Please visit our website for a list of our most needed items - www.cornerhealth.org