



ST. ANN'S HOME & SCHOOL

FALL 2008

Celebrating 83 years of helping children and families.

Out With the Old.. In With the New

AS THE OLD SAYING GOES, "the more things change, the more they remain the same." Nothing could be further from the truth, however, for the children, adolescents, and staff at St. Ann's.

April 30th, 2008 saw the grand opening of a new, state-of-the-art Adolescent Center, twenty-eight thousand square feet of new residential rooms, classrooms, science lab, health and fitness center, modern kitchen, dining room with an outdoor patio, full-size gymnasium, and both indoor and outdoor amphitheatres. In the works for seven years from concept to completion, the new facility has beds for up to 16 adolescents and projects a warm, home-like atmosphere for those in residence. New is good.

Then, quite unexpectedly, on May 20th, the adolescent girls group home located on Broadway in Methuen was hit by a serious fire. Fortunately, the smoky fire struck during the day when the residents and staff were out of the house, averting any injuries. The fire, which originated in a clothes dryer, destroyed the rear addition which served as a living room and recreation area for the 12 female adolescent residents. Smoke, heat, and water damaged or destroyed other rooms, including the girls' upstairs bedrooms. Before the fire was even completely extinguished, staff and administration began work on a plan to relocate the displaced girls.

With the new Adolescent Center coming on line



The new Adolescent Center, located adjacent to St. Ann's existing buildings, opened April 30, 2008.

just weeks before, several classrooms and offices were relocated from the main campus building to the Adolescent Center, freeing up space for the adolescent girls to be temporarily

relocated. Furniture was moved from storage, other furniture and necessities were rapidly purchased, and the girls were able to sleep in the main campus

continued on page 3

Integrated Treatment Team *Key to Best Outcomes*

MEET ST. ANN'S PSYCHIATRIC STAFF

Most have heard the phrase "it takes a village." At St. Ann's Home & School, the saying is "it takes a team." Utilizing a multi-disciplinary approach, the St. Ann's team includes child and family therapists, residential staff, child care counselors, speech/language and occupational therapists, teachers, nurses, the child's family and/or caregivers, and St. Ann's

psychiatric staff, led by Dr. David Kaminester, Diplomate, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and Board Certified in General and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

Together with the other members of the St. Ann's team, the Medical Department provides psychiatric care and coordinates medical services for the children and adolescents in our Residen-

tial and Community-Based Acute Treatment Programs, along with providing services through St. Ann's Outpatient Mental Health Clinic.

St. Ann's psychiatric professionals include: Ellie Griffin, APRN, B.C. (Advanced Practice Registered Nurse; Board Certified by the American Nurses Association); Noreen Hogan, APRN, P.C., B.C. (Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Psychiatric

Clinician, Board Certified); and our newest member, David Klee, APRN, P.C., B.C. (Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Psychiatric Clinician, Board Certified). According to Dr. Kaminester, having a team of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses involved in a child's care benefits the child and adolescent in many ways, including "ensuring the care provided is appropriate,

continued on page 5

Resiliency Resounds at St. Ann's

THE SPRING AND SUMMER

months have been very active at St. Ann's Home, marked by both exciting and tragic events. On April 30th, we opened our brand new Adolescent Center, a project that has been in the works for seven years. For those who have seen and used it, I think all agree it was well worth the considerable time and effort that went into it.

Just days after this uplifting event, the entire St. Ann's community was stunned and saddened by the sudden passing of Stuart Santelmann, our Director of Outpatient Services. Stuart had worked

for St. Ann's for 25 years and was well known for the hard and dedicated work he did on behalf of all the children and families he helped throughout his career. Stuart will be missed by his many friends and colleagues at St. Ann's and in the community.

Shortly after this tragic event, our adolescent girls group home had a serious fire. Fortunately, no one was home at the time. With a fantastic team effort, we were able to temporarily relocate the girls to our main campus without any disruption in their care. Since the damage was so

extensive, we have opted to take down the 220 year old house and build a new home for the residents who live there, a project that is well underway as this newsletter goes to production. While we did have insurance, the proceeds will not be enough to cover the cost of replacing the house, so we have embarked on an emergency fund raising appeal to assist with this project.

While we have been tested by these recent events, they serve to remind me of what a remarkable place St. Ann's Home is, due primarily to the dedication and "can-



Denis Grandbois, President/CEO

do" attitude of our staff and friends. I am proud of and thankful for everyone's efforts to pursue our mission despite these challenges. ■

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We Invite You to Get Involved

Support from the community is vital to our mission here at St. Ann's Home & School. For 83 years we have helped children and adolescents in need through our residential facility and Chapter 766 Special Education School. Proud of our past, today, with our new Adolescent Center, we build for the future to ensure the growing numbers of children and adolescents in need can get help in a caring, warm environment. The children of St. Ann's Home & School need your help and support more than ever. To learn more about ways to give, please contact the Development Office today.

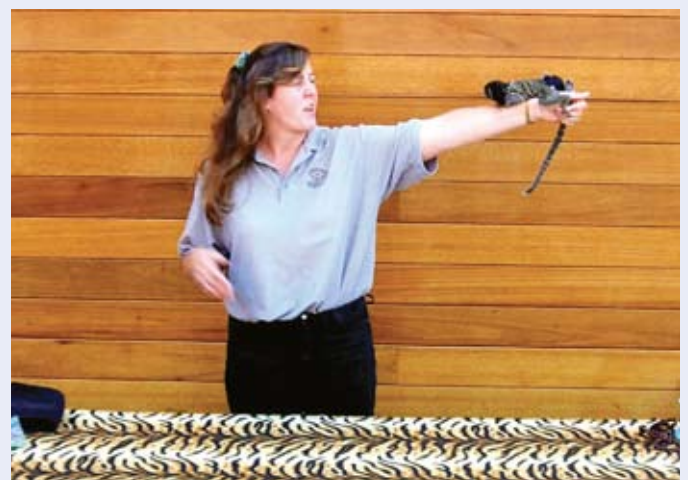
John J. Rice, Director of Development at 978-682-5276, ext. 205 or jrice@st.annshome.org or visit our web site at www.st.annshome.org. Thank you!

Stuart Santelmann In Memoriam

On May 2, 2008, St. Ann's Home & School lost a very good friend and colleague with the unexpected passing of Stuart Santelmann. Stuart had been at St. Ann's for over 25 years and was the Director of Outpatient Services, a role he put everything into. Stuart will be greatly missed by colleagues and clients alike.



Jungle Encounters



Jungle Encounters entertained and delighted the children and adolescents during a recent show held in the outdoor amphitheater.

Out With the Old.. In With the New

continued from page 1

residence that very evening. A front page article in the Lawrence Eagle Tribune the next morning told the story of the fire and the displaced adolescent girls, who lost all their possessions, including electronics, clothes, and personal items. Calls came in, as did donations of money and gift cards, and one store donated a shopping trip so the girls could each pick out a new outfit. Everyone was heartened by the response.

The Broadway group home building, owned by St. Ann's since 1974, was over 200 years old and the cost to renovate from the fire was substantial. Even then, it would still be a 200-plus year old house. Having just finished the new Adolescent Center, the administration and the Board of Trustees developed a plan to totally replace the old building with a modern group home facility designed, much like the Adolescent Center, specifically to meet the needs of the adolescent population. Soon it was underway.

Utilizing funds expected from the insurance company for renovation, St. Ann's could build a completely new group home for an estimated



additional \$308,000.

As of this newsletter, the old group home has been razed, and construction has begun. The foundation has literally been laid for a modern facility built to address the unique needs of adolescent young women. The plan is for the new group home to be occupied in early 2009.

The teenage girls displaced by the fire are doing well. While not living in the off-campus home, the specialized services and activities that were in place for them at the group home remain available and will continue as everyone awaits the opening of the new Broadway facility. ■



Our new Adolescent Center features (clockwise from the top): murals throughout, like the fireplace complete with sleeping dog, adding to the home-like feeling; modern classrooms with Smart Boards and projectors; a full-size gymnasium, to feature an indoor climbing wall; outdoor patio for adolescents; sunny indoor eating area filled with natural light, along with a sunrise theme mural.

Building for a Lifetime

THE ADOLESCENT GIRLS GROUP HOME, located on Broadway in Methuen, has been an integral part of St. Ann's continuum of care for adolescent girls, providing a bridge from residential care to less restrictive or independent living and learning environments.

Consumed by a serious fire on 5/20/08 and damaged beyond reasonable repair, the 200+ year old house has been demolished, with a new, contemporary house slated to replace the old facility. The new Broadway group home is designed around the unique needs of adolescent girls, and will feature, among other things, private bedrooms, group kitchen facilities, counseling rooms, and a group recreation area.

Already faced with multiple challenges and changes in their lives, the displaced 12 residents are looking forward to the day when they can have the kind of home away from home they've longed for.

These adolescent girls need your support to help make their hopes and dreams a reality and help them regain their place in the community. Your tax-deductible gift of any amount will go directly to help support the construction of our new community group home and will help not one but many adolescent girls as they work to help themselves.



I/we wish to support the construction of the new Adolescent Girls Group Home with the following gift:

Gift Amount: \$ _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please charge my: Visa MC AMEX

ACCOUNT #

EXP. DATE

SIGNATURE

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

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Please make checks payable to St. Ann's Home & School and mail to:

Development Office, St. Ann's Home & School
100A Haverhill Street, Methuen, MA 01844.

All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Thank You!

Integrated Treatment Team

continued from page 1

consistent, and can readily address co-morbidities or other underlying conditions which may be present.”

“The integrated team approach becomes even more valuable as we can gather detailed information and observations from everyone involved with the child or adolescent in order to make an accurate diagnosis and design effective treatment plans,” said Dr. Kaminester. The team, adds Dr. Kaminester, “is more than the simple sum of the individuals working together; rather it is a synergist whereby the whole is greater than the sum of its individual parts.”

Ellie Griffin, APRN, B.C.

enters her eighth year at St. Ann’s. In addition to her work in the residential and school areas, Ms. Griffin also sees children and adolescents in the Day Treatment Program as well as providing consultation to the Outpatient Program. Her philosophy regarding working with children and adolescents, says Ms. Griffin, “is based on a thorough understanding of typical growth and development, knowledge and understanding of the environmental stressors that the child and family may be confronting, knowledge of family history and medical history, gleaned by meeting with the child and his or her caretakers, and then evaluating the presenting symptoms of any client within this complex matrix. While the recommendation of intervention with

psychotropic medication may be made, it is important for families, children, and all involved with the child to understand that medication is only one component of a



St. Ann’s Psychiatric Staff – L to R: David Kaminester, M.D., Medical Director; David Klee, APRN, P.C., B.C.; Noreen Hogan, APRN, P.C., B.C.; and Ellie Griffin, APRN, B.C.

comprehensive treatment plan.” Ms. Griffin earned her B.S. in Nursing from the University of Massachusetts and her M.S. in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing, with a specialty in Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing, from Yale University.

Noreen Hogan, APRN, P.C., B.C.

previously worked at St. Ann’s from 2002-2005 before returning in late 2007. Ms. Hogan’s role, as she puts it, is “to view the overall picture, including family, developmental, and individual history of each child and adolescent to best determine what he or she needs to be healthy and successful,” and to “work with the St. Ann’s team to achieve that.” Her philosophy about working with children and families is that “each child deserves a chance at a better quality of life,

and children and families need to understand what their problems and issues are and what options are available to them for care.” Ms. Hogan received her

undergraduate degree in nursing from Boston College and her graduate degree in Psychiatric Nursing of Children and Adolescents from Northeastern University.

David Klee, APRN, P.C., B.C.

is the newest member of the Psychiatric team. He received his Bachelors Degree from the University of Massachusetts and his Masters in Nursing from Boston College where his focus was Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing. His clinical experience in psychiatric nursing includes the New England Medical Center Pediatric Psychiatric Unit; McLean Hospital Adolescent Residential Treatment Program; and the MetroWest Medical Center Child Development Unit, where he did a clinical rotation and worked as a staff psychiatric

nurse. His philosophy about working with children, adolescents, and families is, according to Mr. Klee, “Listen, listen, listen. Then listen some more. Be patient and allow them the opportunity to do the work they need to do.”

Medical Director, David D. Kaminester, MD,

has been at St. Ann’s for 3 ½ years. As Medical Director he provides psychiatric care for children and adolescents and coordinates the medical care for those patients, in addition to providing clinical supervision for the psychiatric nursing staff. Dr. Kaminester provides education and training to St. Ann’s staff as well as having administrative responsibilities within the department. His philosophy in working with children and adolescents is “to recognize where and why their normal development has gone awry, and use whatever mechanisms are at our disposal to restore as normal a developmental course as possible.” Adds Dr. Kaminester, “working with families, guardians, foster parents, and others is crucial because the goal is for the child to internalize the structure, warmth and containment that St. Ann’s provides and utilize this in a symbolic way so that their gains can be carried beyond the program and back out into the community.” Dr. Kaminester received his M.D. from McGill University Faculty of Medicine. In addition, he did his residency in Combined Adult/Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. ■



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Printing donated by Flagship Press in North Andover, MA.



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An affiliate of
Catholic Social Services, Inc.

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