

Transitional Services For NY Helps Disabled

In 1975, the parents of disabled children established Transitional Services (TSI) for New York, Inc. as a nonprofit agency that would address the emerging housing needs of the disabled in the post deinstitutionalization era.

Today, TSI has emerged as a multi-service mental health agency, assisting more than 2,500 mentally ill clients per year to realize their full potential through housing and psychiatric outpatient services as well as educational, vocational and social support services.

TSI presently serves 314 individuals in

our housing programs, which range from dormitory style housing to independent apartments in the Supported Housing program. The 76 bed-supervised residences and the 64-bed apartment program provide a supervised and supportive setting where staff and clients work toward building capacity in the skill sets necessary for independent housing.

TSI's Hope Houses provide supervised housing services to 39 mentally ill and mentally retarded adults who have aged out of the child care system. The Supported Housing program provides supported housing services to 135 indi-

viduals. Fifteen of these beds comprise a families, individuals and children program, which provides supported housing services to 15 parents to provide a permanent home for their families.

Through our outpatient division, TSI offers a full range of community-based treatment options. TSI's outpatient division services offer a range of services to address mentally ill clients' needs for outpatient psychiatric treatment, continuing day treatment, vocational services, adult education, blended case management, substance abuse services, clubhouse services and mobile outreach services.

Transitional Services for New York is headquartered in Queens and provides comprehensive mental health services to the residents of the borough.

If you would like a professional staff person to come to your place of employment to discuss mental health issues in the workplace or a variety of other mental health topics, please call Terry LoPiano, Executive Assistant, at 718-746-6647 extension 11. A member of TSI's Speaker's Bureau will contact you to discuss the topic that you would like to have addressed and coordinate a speaking engagement.

Chamber Helps Promote New Ronald McDonald House Video

In collaboration with world-renowned film producer, Howard Nash, who has created award-winning movies since 1991, the Ronald McDonald House of Long Island is developing a video that will capture the spirit of the House and the families it serves, and the Queens Chamber of Commerce is helping to promote it.

This venture will provide viewers with a compelling journey into the lives of the families that reside at the facility, as well as their daily interactions with staff, volunteers and other families.

Viewers will be given a flavor of the programs that are offered to residents, as well as have a glimpse of the interesting history of "The House That Love Built." The House, which is located in Queens County, has literally touched thousands of lives since its inception in 1986.

To help spread the word about the House's mission and video undertaking, Robert S. Weitzner, President of the House, has been working closely with Jack Friedman, Executive Vice President of the Queens Chamber of Commerce and other members of this organization. The Chamber has played an integral role in helping to form meaningful and long-term business relationships with the House and Queens businesses.

"This is an exciting opportunity. The video will give those who don't have the chance to see the interaction between the children and their families and show how vital the facility is to them," Weitzner said "This message cannot be conveyed

with words, pictures or a brochure. A family's experience can only be personalized in a video. The video will serve as a testimonial of our history, mission, the programs we provide and the experience of the families who stay with us."

Howard Nash, a life-long resident of Queens, is the producer of films such as the 1993 chiller, "Children of the Night" and "Prime Suspects," a crime drama released in 1997.

He has just completed the filming of two movies and is presently working on a new film with Actors, John Heard and Vincent Pastore. He has an acting role in the new film "P.J.," currently playing in five film festivals and the recipient of three awards. When Nash is not developing or producing, he can be found teaching film production courses at two colleges in New York.

He chose to spend his time making the video because in his younger days, he lived only a block away from the House and has a soft spot for the facility.

"Living around the corner from the House, I watched it being built but never had the opportunity to give my talent and resources to such a great facility until now," Nash said. "My main vision in producing the video is to communicate what the House does and use the video as a launching pad to interest the general public and get them involved."

The House is interested in cultivating business relationships within the Queens business community and is requesting sponsorships to help fund the video.



Robert S. Weitzner is the President of the Ronald McDonald House of Long Island

Sponsorships are available to anyone who can help with this endeavor. For further information, you may contact Mr. Weitzner at 718-343-5683, ext. 132.

The Ronald McDonald House of Long Island is a 'home-away-from home' for families who are caring for seriously ill children undergoing medical treatment in

area hospitals. Located on the campus of Schneider Children's Hospital, the House accommodates families in a warm and supportive environment. Since opening in 1986, the House has served approximately 12,000 families from Long Island, the five boroughs, throughout the United States and abroad.

Save the Date!

Chamber Business and Health Expo at Terrace on the Park May 15, 2008
Don't miss the biggest and best business networking event of the year.