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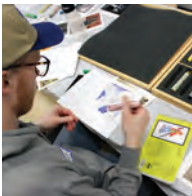
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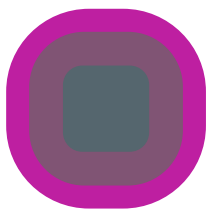


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Odyssey House

Where recovery gets real



Outdoor mural created by members of the Odyssey House Art Project promotes recovery as a safe space for all. Check out pages 4-5 to learn more.

Odyssey House to Lead New Transitional Housing Program for Parolees

Odyssey House President Dr. Peter Provet announced Odyssey House's role in running a pilot program at the Edgecombe Residential Treatment Facility in Upper Manhattan in partnership with the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) and Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS).

The \$2.5 million investment by New York State is aimed at reducing recidivism, assisting parolees re-entering the community, and diverting them away from the shelter system towards more stable housing.

"Supporting individuals as they successfully transition back into society is a core value of the work we do at the Edgecombe Residential Treatment Facility, where we have run parolee re-integration services since 2008," said Dr. Provet.

Residents will be provided with stable housing through the program for up to 90 days as they work with staff on-site to obtain

employment and permanent housing. Once an approved housing location has been secured, the proprietor of the household is eligible to receive a 12-week stipend to offset the cost of living.

"Secure housing, support in finding a job, and developing strong community and family connections are proven successful measures for individuals leaving incarceration and treatment services. We are proud to be a part of an innovative service to address homelessness and recidivism among parolees in New York," added Dr. Provet.

A collaborative effort

The Edgecombe Residential Treatment Facility (RTF) is run by the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, with Odyssey House providing ancillary services to support the parolees with their reintegration.

Edgecombe RTF has 70 beds, and DOCCS anticipates that it will be able to help the parolees find approvable housing in approximately 40 days, resulting in roughly 625 people served a year. The facility will provide on-site meals, as well as a re-entry manager who will assist in facilitating employment, permanent housing placement in the community, and access to services.

Odyssey House staff assist parolees in finding vocational and educational training, resume writing and interview skills training, and assistance with obtaining entitlements, such as housing applications and filing for Medicaid.

“Odyssey House has always worked to address various social challenges in our community by providing comprehensive and holistic services to individuals struggling with substance use, mental health disorders, and lack of housing,” said Carlo Lespes, Odyssey House Edgecombe Program Director. “It is with great pride that through our partnership with DOCCS, we are able to continue

this work by providing wrap-around services to individuals being released from State prison.”

Addressing the prison-to-shelter pipeline

According to DOCCS, two out of five people returning to New York City from prison last year were released to a shelter or another placement for homeless adults. The typical initial shelter stay for unhoused people under DOCCS supervision is 34 to 38 days, a difficult period intensified by the pressures of finding permanent housing and employment.

The lack of stable housing is one of many factors that lead to recidivism, especially for unhoused people who frequently come in contact with the police. Supportive housing with tailored-social services has been shown in some cases to reduce recidivism.

“The vast majority of incarcerated individuals in our facilities will be released back to the community, and thus it is imperative that we provide every



DOCCS Superintendent Seiveright Miller (left) and Odyssey House Program Director Carlo Lespes with Jeremy King, Director of OASAS Residential Services, and Gabriel Ramirez, Senior Director of Residential Services, at the Edgecombe RTF ribbon cutting ceremony.

opportunity that allows them to succeed,” said DOCCS Acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci. “This pilot program will produce tangible results that will benefit not only the individuals being released but their loved ones and communities as well.” ●

Street Outreach Initiative Aims to Connect Individuals to Care



Timothy Robinson (center) guides a discussion in a weekly men's group he leads for clients in treatment.

The New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) has awarded \$250,000 to Odyssey House in one-time funds to support street outreach activities in Harlem. Recognizing the many reasons individuals do not seek substance use disorder treatment in traditional settings, this initiative aims to provide in-community engagement, harm reduction, and support services to individuals not connected to care.

The Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Supplemental Street Outreach Initiative, which runs through December 31, 2023, provides funds to purchase a van and harm reduction supplies and hire one peer outreach worker based out of the admissions department. Since receiving the contract, Odyssey House has hired a Certified Recovery Peer Advocate, Timothy Robinson, to conduct the outreach and bring harm reduction resources and

connections to services to Harlem.

Mr. Robinson's work includes offering opioid overdose reversal training (naloxone) and providing additional harm reduction supplies (e.g., fentanyl testing strips, sterile supplies, socks, underwear) to those still struggling with drug use as well as to those who may be interested in being trained to use these items to help a loved one. Once he engages an individual, he works with them on a wellness plan and connects them to resources within the community, up to and including treatment.

As a graduate of Odyssey House's ElderCare program, Mr. Robinson is uniquely qualified to serve in this role. He is highly motivated to spread the message of recovery within the community and can speak about his treatment experience with passion and understanding. His work as a volunteer peer recovery coach at the Odyssey House Recovery Center and a mentor for our Odyssey House marathon team gave him valuable knowledge in engaging with the community. ●

In Memory of George Rosenfeld Chair, Odyssey Foundation



George Rosenfeld, our longtime Chair of Odyssey House, died this past November. George believed deeply in the Odyssey House mission of service to others and was a steadfast champion of our work and a great friend to all of us.

Since joining the Boards of Trustees in 1997, George helped lead and shape Odyssey House for over two decades. His visionary and compassionate public service leadership as Chair of Odyssey House and then as Chair of Odyssey Foundation helped save the lives of

thousands of vulnerable men, women, and children suffering from substance abuse and mental health disorders.

A champion of the care and well-being of elderly substance abusers, his farsighted recognition of their needs and philanthropic support led to the founding of the Odyssey House ElderCare Program and its permanent home at our newly renovated family treatment center on Ward's Island in Upper Manhattan - a center we proudly named the George Rosenfeld Center for Recovery. We are forever grateful to him and the Trustees of the Mary and Milton B. Rosenback Foundation for their generous and ongoing support.

We are immensely fortunate that George chose to join the cause at Odyssey House. He liberally donated his time and resources to ensuring that people with few champions had a true friend and ally as they struggled to overcome addiction and mental health challenges.

We cannot imagine a kinder, more thoughtful, and more compassionate leader. George was the cheerleader of cheerleaders. He guided us through challenges and prepared us to make the most of opportunities to do more for the people we serve and do it better. ●

New Board Member Brings Capacity Building Expertise to Odyssey House



Odyssey House and Odyssey Foundation are pleased to add a new member to its Boards of Trustees: Tony Jimenez, MD, MA. As Senior VP at Cicatelli

Associates Inc. (CAI), a nonprofit that helps organizations strengthen their ability to provide high-quality services, Dr. Jimenez oversees all of CAI's projects and capacity-building operations that assist over 20,000 participants a year. With more than 25 years of experience supporting health care and social services organizations, Dr. Jimenez shares our deep commitment to helping vulnerable New Yorkers.

Dr. Jimenez serves as principal investigator and faculty for the National HIV Classroom Learning Center, which builds capacity in prevention for community-based organizations and healthcare organizations nationwide. He is principal investigator for CAI's TAP-in project, which provides technical support to the national effort to end the HIV epidemic.

He received an M.D. from the Universidad Autonoma of Santo Domingo and a Master of Arts from the Institute of Human Sexuality at Universidad Autonoma of Santo Domingo. ●



Save the date

MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

A breakfast in support of the women and
children in treatment at Odyssey House

May 11, 2023

Stay tuned for more details

THE ODYSSEY HOUSE ART PROJECT EXPLORES SAFE SPACES



“Music 2” is one piece in a series of artworks created by Odyssey House graduate and current Art Program intern Juan S. “Art and music are in my DNA. For me, art and music are my Safe Space, my dreams, my haven, my therapy, and my philosophy.”

FOR OUR 2022 EXHIBITION, MEMBERS OF THE ODYSSEY HOUSE ART PROJECT EXPLORED WHAT “SAFE SPACE” MEANS TO EACH OF THEM AND CREATED ARTWORK TO EXPRESS THIS CONCEPT.

Safe spaces don't have to be physical locations. They can also be spiritual, emotional, or symbolic. They can be something as simple as a group of people who hold similar values and provide each other with a supportive, respectful environment.

Safe spaces are vehicles to help people take care of their mental health so they can actively engage in treatment. They allow people to be vulnerable without fear of judgment or harm, helping them to overcome challenges, build resilience, and focus on recovery.



"Treehouse Triptych" by Jack C. Jack was inspired to paint treehouses as his safe space because he feels most comfortable in nature. "The treehouse offers you serenity in a complicated world. You are in a safe space to meditate and think about your goals and aspirations. But most of all, it offers you a chance to be yourself!"



"Angel Ghost" by Derek D. Growing up in Brooklyn, Derek was inspired by the large murals he would see around his neighborhood. "My painting represents the spirits of loved ones who watch over us and keep us safe:"



Sheila Simmons, Mental Health Program Specialist-II, NYS Office of Mental Health with Odyssey House's Janice Slaughter, Director of Mental Health & Housing Services; President Dr. Peter Provet; and Richard O'Connor, Chair, Board of Trustees, at the exhibition's opening reception.

Corey S., with his painting, "Crows," one of his several artworks in the exhibition. "I made this to represent the freedom I feel in my recovery. Crows represent knowledge, truth, and wisdom about yourself!"



"Safe Spaces"

Haven Art Gallery

239 E. 121st Street

New York, NY 10035

Open to the public. Please call (917) 492-2582 to schedule a viewing.

ODYSSEY HOUSE ART PROJECT NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Intergenerational Workshop Encourages Reflection and Connection



Visiting artist Nancy Nowacek works with ElderCare client Deborah M. to create her sculpture: heart-shaped free weights.

The Odyssey House Art Project's visiting artist series continued with a two-day

workshop by Nancy Nowacek, a research-based artist, designer, and educator working in visual art, public art, social practice, and socially-engaged contexts.

The workshop, *(Between) Islands*, was held for women at the George Rosenfeld Center for Recovery and was specifically designed to bring different generations together to reflect on life challenges and explore new coping methods. Clients began the workshop by experimenting with clay and learning the history of strength training. The final goal was to support mental health and build new relationships.

"I'm very grateful for the opportunity to bring *(Between) Islands* to Odyssey House. For a program about mental health and creativity, the clients were amazing participants: they were as open to the ideas of the project as they were about themselves," said Ms. Nowacek. "As an artist whose work is participatory by nature, this project was special for me because the participants got something really special from it. Their engagement with the project inspired a third session to photograph their portraits with their sculptures, and their pride shows in the resulting photos." ●

MoMA Visit Inspires Exploration and Creativity



After a tour, clients visited the MoMA art lab to create their own artwork.

After a pandemic-induced hiatus, we are also pleased to announce renewed art programming with the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). MoMA's Education Department provides art educators, museum tours, and full access to on-site art studios for our clients. They also create exercises for collaboration and provide art content for discussion.

Clients from the Leadership Center visited MoMA in January. They were given

a guided tour of the museum, visiting works that relate to our working theme, art as a form of therapy. At the end of the tour, clients visited the MoMA art lab and were provided with the materials to create their own artwork. The visit left the clients inspired and excited to share their experiences and call themselves "artists." ●

A New Art Director Takes Over



Chad Porter and Odyssey House Art Project member Stephen S. with Stephen's painting from our Safe Spaces art show.

We're pleased to announce that Chad Porter, who has been working with the Odyssey House Art Project for 12 years, has been promoted to Expressive Arts Director following the retirement of longtime director Jerald Frampton.

Over the last decade, Mr. Porter and Mr. Frampton expanded the art program from a single studio to include multiple Odyssey House facilities. Our newly renovated art studio at the Leadership Center is now serving clients and is attracting a great amount of participation.

Mr. Porter also launched a visiting artist initiative at the George Rosenfeld Center for Recovery, which has hosted

artists specializing in a wide variety of media, from sound bathing to sculpture.

"I'm honored to continue the work that was started at Odyssey House more than 20 years ago, providing expressive art services to marginalized populations," said Mr. Porter. "I look forward to introducing more clients to the healing power of art and showcasing community strength and diversity through our exhibitions." ●

**SUPPORT THE
ODYSSEY HOUSE ART PROJECT**

www.odysseyhousenyc.org/donate

Make Your Miles Count at the 2023 TCS New York City Marathon



Team Odyssey at their annual pre-marathon pasta luncheon. The team has grown to 56 clients, staff, alums, supporters, and charity runners.

Odyssey House has been selected as an official charity partner of the 2023 TCS New York City Marathon for the fifth consecutive year! We are thrilled to again have the opportunity to bolster our team and bring more attention to our mission: helping New Yorkers in need overcome drug and alcohol abuse, improve their physical and mental health, and defeat homelessness.

Last year, six charity runners from all over the US joined Team Odyssey to run with us and fundraise for Odyssey Foundation. With their help, Team Odyssey raised more than \$57,000 to benefit the men, women, and families in our care.

We'd like to offer you the chance to join the Odyssey House Run for Your Life team at the TCS New York City Marathon in November.

Running for Odyssey House provides you with guaranteed entry. It also allows you to change lives and give back to your community in exchange for raising a total of \$3,000 for Odyssey House, which will directly support the men, women, and families in our programs. That might sound like a lot to raise, but we'll help your fundraising with access to an easy-to-build online crowdfunding page that you can use to track your progress.

Your entry package includes an Odyssey House racing jersey, an invitation to our annual pre-marathon team dinner, and twice-weekly training opportunities with Team Odyssey. If you are interested in running with us on November 5, 2023, please contact Carolyn Abrams at cabrams@odysseyhousenyc.org.

Spotlight on: Jeanine McGovern, 2022 NYC Marathon Charity Runner



Like so many Americans, Jeanine has lost a loved one to addiction. She joined Team Odyssey as a charity runner to honor her brother's memory.

"This will be my second NYC marathon, but this one is especially important to me because I'm running in memory of my brother Ed. I lost my brother four years ago to his battle with addiction. When my brother was struggling, I hadn't heard of Odyssey House and all of the resources that they have available.

"As much as I wish I could, I can't bring my brother back. What I can do is make sure that those that are struggling and their family members know about the help that is available. I'm honored to be a part of this team so that Odyssey House can continue changing lives." ●

The Return of Run for Your Life

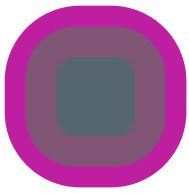


TV News Reporter James Ford (center) with the Voices of Odyssey choir after performing the National Anthem.

After being virtual for two years, Run for Your Life returned to Icahn Stadium on September 17, 2022, bringing together Odyssey House employees and their families, program staff and clients from other NYC-based treatment agencies, friends and family of people in recovery, and our corporate partners to support people in recovery from substance use and mental health disorders. WPIX-TV news reporter James Ford emceed the event, which, along with the 5K fun run and recovery walk, included fitness competitions, children's races, field games, and arts and crafts activities.

NYC Mayor Eric Adams said, "Today's 5K run and walk commemorating Recovery Month will unite participants in fellowship and physical exercise. I applaud everyone associated with Odyssey House for their efforts to equip at-risk individuals with hope and strength that will empower their journeys to recovery. Together, we are forging a brighter, safer, and healthier, future for all."

A big thank you to our sponsors, who help make this special day possible, including Precision Pharmacy, ChemRx, RSM, Urban Architectural Initiatives, and Gallagher. ●



120 Wall Street
New York, NY 10005

odysseyhousenyc.org
212-361-1600

Odyssey House

Where recovery gets real



GET REAL ABOUT RECOVERY

If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction, call us at **866-888-7880**. We can help. Residential, outpatient, and housing services available immediately.

Visit our blog for more news and updates from Odyssey House!

odysseyhousenyc.org/news



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It is the mission of Odyssey House:

To provide comprehensive and innovative services to the broadest range of metro New York's population who:

- Abuse drugs
- Abuse alcohol
- Suffer from mental illness

To provide high quality, holistic treatment impacting all major life spheres: psychological, physical, social, family, educational and spiritual.

To support personal rehabilitation, renewal and family restoration.

In all of its activities, Odyssey House undertakes to act as a responsible employer and member of the community, and manage the assets of the organization in a professional manner.