

May 2006

Prevention Department Honors Parents with a Night Out



Ms. Cecelia Chavez, Keynote Speaker



Parents and other community members gathered at the Days Inn Phoenix Airport on the evening of Saturday, April 29, 2006, as part of the third annual Parent Conference. The Parent Conference, hosted by Touchstone's Prevention Department, offered participants information about parenting skills and other social development issues. In addition, attendees enjoyed a cost-free evening of entertainment, dinner, childcare and raffle prizes. The theme of this year's Conference was *Give a Little Time to a Child; Get Back a Lifetime*, which was created by our very own, Camille Flanagan, A/R Assistant. This theme reflected the focus of the event, suicide prevention.

Keynote speaker, Cecilia Chavez, kicked off the evening with an enlightening lecture on positive parenting and increasing self-esteem within their children. Suicide Prevention Specialist, Daniel Morales, presented an informative slideshow which included facts about the warning signs and risk factors of suicide. The slideshow was followed by a skit written and performed by students from Desert Vista High School. The skit portrayed a fatal suicide event as well as the after-effects that families and the community had to deal with. The skit was written in response to real-life occurrences experienced by some of the students.

One of the most exciting features to this conference was the panel discussion, which included, Laurie Ramsbacher, M.D., Medical Director, Southwest Network, Touchstone's Clinical Director, Frank Saverino, along with other panelists who captivated the audience with their insight on the various social issues concerning suicide prevention.



Ms. Lisa Shumaker & Mr. Timothy Dunst

Special guests included: Lisa Shumaker, Manager of Prevention with ADHS/DBHS Bureaus of Substance Abuse and Treatment, Juan Aristizabal, Prevention, Education and Outreach Manager with ValueOptions and a host of distinguished invitees.

The Parent Conference successfully accomplished the goal of increasing an awareness of the tools needed to face the challenges of parenting today, as well as encouraging interaction between participants.

Job Well Done by the Prevention Department!

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As you are aware, there seems to be a lot of tension around two issues in the news today. One is the immigration issue and the other the singing of the National Anthem in only the English language. At the heart of these issues is the belief that the way I do things is the only “right” way. The thing that struck me on both of these issues was the failure of some groups to accept people for who they are, or perhaps, literally where they are.

I have been on the Board of Directors of Touchstone since 1992, and I am very proud that in all those years, Touchstone’s staff has always provided high quality services to children and their families starting at “who and where they are”. The willingness to meet families in their homes, understand their uniqueness, and offer the solutions to their problems that they can relate to is very special, and absolutely necessary if you expect to make a difference.

One thing I enjoy about Family Fun Day is the look on the faces of the adults as well as the children as they enjoy the activities. On that day they are not judged on where they were born, what language they speak, or the color of their skin, but rather can they find some value in spending some time as a family on that day. The dedication of the Touchstone staff is so evident and makes all of us on the Board pleased with our decision to be a Board member.

I guess what I am trying to say is that the Board of Directors is continually aware of all the hard work and dedication each one of you do day in and day out. Your level of professionalism and compassion is evident in the satisfaction of your clients and the image Touchstone has in the community. In 14 years on the Board, I have never had a behavioral health professional speak poorly to me about Touchstone. Each one of us on the Board appreciates you as individuals working together to make this community a little better because you are in it. I wonder how many people can go home after work and really feel that way. Each one of you truly does make a difference and we thank you for that.

*Michael Young
Board Chairperson*

E-Newsletter

The newsletter is posted on our website at www.touchstonebh.org. To receive a copy of the newsletter by e-mail, please sign up on our website.

*“I haven’t failed,
I’ve found 10,000 ways that don’t work”*

Thomas Edison



Cultural Competency Committee

Touchstone Behavioral Health has created a new and exciting committee focusing on Cultural Awareness and Competency for employees and consumers. The goal and purpose of this committee is to provide an opportunity for our agency to enhance our Cultural Competency. As a growing agency, we want to ensure that all our employees and consumers know that we are culturally sensitive to the needs of others. The committee is striving to align Touchstone's cultural competency with Maricopa County RBHA CLAS Standards.

We would like to recognize the dedicated members of this committee:

LaMonica Avriett, Anabel Ortiz, Jeremy Wilson, Sabrina Prince, Theresa Chapman, Patty Liwanag, Leticia Cuellar, Daniel Morales, Erika Collins, Kandie Lawrence, Linda Warne and Vernon Powell, Chairperson.

“Minds are like parachutes.
They only function when they are open.”

Sir James Dewar

Jennifer was hired as one of our first Bachelor Level Counselors and it quickly became apparent that she would excel in this position. She was always able to meet the needs of the families she was working with and displayed leadership qualities from the start. Last year we developed a new position, Clinical Liaison, to help us better practice the Arizona Model and the Child



and Family Team process. We selected Jennifer to be the first one and, not surprisingly, she excelled in this position. When the time came to hire a Peer Supervisor for the Clinical Liaisons she was the likely choice. She is very much a leader and represents the philosophy and spirit of Touchstone well. We are proud of Jennifer and very glad to have her with us.

Employee of the Quarter
Jennifer Castillo,
Clinical Liaison Lead

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Address Correction Requested

TO:

Editor's note

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