

GUIDE Lines

The Newsletter of GUIDE Program, Inc.

"Enriching Lives Enhancing Communities Empowering Families Embracing Diversity"

Summer 2010



GUIDE Seizes Opportunity for Environmental Responsibility

GUIDE is excited about its efforts to "Go Green!" At its May meeting, the agency's Board of Directors committed itself to lowering the organization's overall carbon foot-print. GUIDE is reducing its reliance on fossil fuels -- 50% of electricity used by GUIDE this next year will be generated by wind power! The organization is also planning to reduce overall energy usage wherever possible through weatherization efforts and using high efficiency appliances and mechanical systems. GUIDE has undertaken phase one of its Going Green Initiative by joining with 14 other non-profit and religious organizations through the Non-Profit Energy Alliance in Montgomery County to purchase green electricity. GUIDE's commitment to purchase green power meets the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's requirements for the organization to be considered an "EPA Green Power Partner."



Thermapane windows reduce energy usage in GUIDE's Therapeutic Group Homes.

In these lean fiscal times, the agency is committed to preserving agency resources in order to ensure that the maximum funding is available to meet the agency's core service mission. GUIDE is also using this opportunity to educate itself and those who receive services about shared responsibility for environmental sustainability. In addition to operating high-quality and sustainable human service programs, GUIDE is committed to reducing its carbon footprint by relying on renewable energy sources wherever possible, reducing utilization of energy through facility modifications and client education, and en-

couraging our supporters and constituents to increase their own commitment to a healthy, sustainable environment. Remarking on GUIDE's new Going Green Initiative, Scott Birdsong, the agency's Executive Director stated, "Both the board and management are exceptionally excited about the agency's renewed focus on the stewardship of resources with its opportunity to

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Energy Audits Maximize Agency Resources



Rich Gajarsky from Avalon Energy Services performs both blower-door tests and thermographic inspections (infrared scanning) in GUIDE's client residences and main office.

In July, GUIDE began the second phase of its Going Green Initiative, which involves conducting energy audits on nine of its facilities in the region. Through a cooperative effort with Avalon Energy Services, LLC -- a Bethesda-based energy consulting organization specializing in helping commercial, industrial, and residential clients conserve energy and save money on their energy bills -- GUIDE is in the process of conducting energy audits that will provide detailed solutions to improving energy efficiency in its client residences and main office building. According to the agency's Director of Development, James Gipson, "Of course we're hoping that, once armed with measurable outcomes, which can be achieved by making certain facility investments, we'll be able to call upon our supporters, constituents, and possibly other funding sources to help in what could become an agency-wide facility renovation project that will have the potential for substantially reducing energy utilization and thereby saving important agency and environmental resources. We believe this is part of being good stewards of resources -- from an agency, community, and environmental perspective."

County Executive Thanks LTL Volunteers

Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett honored Linkages to Learning (LTL) program volunteers at a spring reception held at Glenview Mansion. Some LTL staff were also honored for volunteering with Summit Hall Elementary School's (SHES) holiday party and spring dance club. Pictured, from left to right, are Hiranya Patterson, MCPS Guidance Counselor at SHES and LTL Volunteer, Kami Sankar Boyle, GUIDE Mental Health Counselor at SHES, Isiah Leggett, Ana Schmitz, Dept. of Health and Human Services SHES Site Coordinator, Leigh Rickman, SHES First Grade Teacher and LTL Volunteer, and Heather Ruth, President, Rotary Club of Upper Montgomery County, SHES Technology Teacher and LTL Volunteer. In back, Jana Panneton and Jeff Levy of Goodman and Company, Certified Public Accountants are pictured.



Support GUIDE While Supporting Renewable Energy

The GUIDE Program is partnering with Clean Currents to encourage Maryland and Washington, DC-area residents to switch to



Energy
CERTIFIED



clean, green, wind-generated electricity. There are a number of benefits. By choosing wind-generated electricity you are doing your part to reduce pollution and slow global warming, helping to support the GUIDE Program, and potentially saving money.

Clean Currents bundles standard electricity from the Mid-Atlantic grid with renewable energy in the form of national renewable energy credits produced by domestic wind farms. This bundled product is supplied through the grid by Washington Gas Energy Services. There is NO installation of equipment required and NO change to the reliability of power to your home.

Even better, mention “GUIDE Program” when you sign up, and Clean Currents will donate \$10 to the organization, and for every 100 enrollments will make an additional \$500 donation. (Signing up involves an agreement period during which your rates will remain fixed and completely predictable—which may be preferred to a “no-contract, variable rate” electric purchase arrangement, where there can be exposure to fluctuations in the energy marketplace; there may be a charge for early termination with the Clean Currents program.)

To enroll in wind power through Clean Currents you can visit them on the web at: www.CleanCurrents.com.

NonProfit Energy Alliance Offsets Greenhouse Gases

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demonstrate ways that social service organizations can preserve resources for mission critical activities, while simultaneously playing our part in helping to sustain the planet.”

The NonProfit Energy Alliance was created to assist nonprofit organizations located in Montgomery County and its neighboring jurisdictions in organizing and negotiating as a group for cheaper and greener electricity. The 14 participating pilot agencies have made an energy purchase of what will be more than two million kilowatt hours of electricity that in aggregate will save participants nearly \$178,000 while offsetting significant amounts

of greenhouse gas emissions. The purchase reduces carbon dioxide emissions equivalent to taking nearly 300 cars off the road. Montgomery County’s Department of Environmental Protection assisted the group, which is led by NonProfit Montgomery, the Arts and Humanities Council, NonProfit Round Table of Greater Washington, and Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light. The winning energy supplier was a Montgomery County business, Clean Currents, which operates out of the Rockville Innovation Center.

Farewell – Good Luck to GUIDE Interns and TGH Consultant



Dr. Marnell (ctr) participated in his last clinical team meeting at GUIDE in March with Michael Jones, LCPC, Director of Operations and Cara West, LGPC, Clinical Coordinator.

On March 3, 2010, staff at GUIDE's Therapeutic Group Home in Fort Washington witnessed the end of an era. Dr. Joseph Marnell, our consulting psychiatrist since the program's inception in 1986, participated in his final clinical team meeting with GUIDE. Dr. Marnell left Maryland to assume a new position in Minneapolis at the end of March. Dr. Marnell has been succeeded by Dr. Joshua Sussal, who is taking over Dr. Marnell's practice in Greenbelt and assuming consulting psychiatrist duties for GUIDE. GUIDE thanks Dr. Marnell for his 24 years of service to the therapeutic group home program, and we wish him much success in his new life in Minnesota.

On March 15, 2010, GUIDE's Linkages to Learning staff said goodbye to seven 2009/2010 interns with a farewell reception. GUIDE had a diverse group of interns this year, representing several mental health disciplines, with three from the University of Maryland School of Social Work, one from the Clinical Psychology Program of the American School of Professional Psychology (Argosy University), one from Virginia Commonwealth University School of



Social Work, one from the National Catholic School of Social Service (Catholic University), and one from the Clinical Community Counseling Program of Johns Hopkins University. During the reception, the GUIDE intern supervisors, Kristy Keteltas, LCSW-C, Sandra Boynton, LCSW-C, Shannon Robinson, LCSW-C, and Kami Sankar Boyle, LCSW-C, each praised their interns for their hard work and growth during the year.

From left, Erin Hollerbach (VCU), Eva Cocozzella (UMD), Alexandra Miller (JHU), Kinda Serrano (UMD), David Fafore (Catholic), Casey Marshall (UMD), and Lindsey Sullivan (Argosy).

Sharing GUIDE's Services with the Asian Community



Martie Crosby describes GUIDE's programs at the Asian/Pacific American Resource Fair in Rockville. The fair offered an opportunity for local non-profits and other institutions to tell the Asian community about the services they provide. GUIDE's Montgomery County Youth Services Centers provide short-term family counseling in English, Korean, and Spanish.

