



“TOGETHER BUILDING A NEW WAY OF LIFE”

The *Firetree Chronicle*

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Spotlight On.....

Jim DeSanto, Corporate Clinical Director



Firetree Ltd. is pleased to announce the promotion of Jim DeSanto to Corporate Clinical Director. Jim's previous position was Director of Outpatient Services.

Jim is a 30 year veteran of the human services field. He has a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Lycoming College and a Masters in Social Work from Marywood University. Additionally, he is a Licensed Social Worker and has a Co-Occurring Disorder Professional Certification, Diplomat.

Earlier in his career, Jim worked in the mental health/mental retardation field and with adolescents both in a residential and a day treatment setting. Jim's career is a god example of Firetree's philosophy of promoting from within. Jim started as a counselor at Genesis House Williamsport and was first promoted to Clinical Director then to Director of that facility. He then moved up to Director of Outpatient Services prior to becoming Corporate Clinical Director. He now oversees all inpatient and outpatient programming for all of the facilities in the Firetree family.

Jim entered the human services field with a desire to give back to others. He has 22 years of personal recovery to his credit. Jim believes that recovery hinges on mo-

tivation to change, acceptance and finally ultimately surrender. Sobriety merely allows one the opportunity to reclaim a positive lifestyle, it does not guarantee it. Unless one is internally motivated to do the "work of recovery" sobriety can be a fleeting achievement. Jim knows there are no magic fixes – one needs to be invested in the recovery process. Aside from providing treatment, Jim and his staff also donate their time providing their recovery expertise to various social service agencies in the community. Jim is also a member of Lycoming College's Coalition to Combat Alcohol Abuse on Campus and he is the Vice-President of the Pennsylvania College of Technology's Human Services Advisory Committee.

“Together Building a New Way of Life”

A Community Working Together in Trying Times

On April 11, 2007 at 8:37am fire struck the kitchen at Conewago Place. The staff's immediate response was to safely and successfully evacuating the building with no injuries. The Hershey Volunteer Fire Company along with other local fire personnel was able to contain and extinguish the fire quickly.

Extensive damage was caused to the kitchen area and smoke and water residue caused the rest of the building to be uninhabitable until a professional cleaning could be conducted. Residents were housed at the Hershey Evangelical Free Church for two nights and the local Red Cross provided cots, blankets and care kits. Middletown First Church of God allowed folks to shower there and Wal-Mart provided a gift card to buy necessities for facility residents. In addition to the community partners that assisted during this stressful time, the Conewago Place staff stepped into high gear working tirelessly around the clock to ensure that

the residents were safe and that the facility was secure while it was being cleaned. Hard work and cooperation enabled residents and staff to return to the facility by 3:00pm on April 13th.

The finishing touches on the Conewago Place kitchen were completed recently and it is now better than ever. Having a brand new kitchen is a well deserved reward for the kitchen staff. In the months since the fire, they worked culinary miracles with a steam line, roaster and limited electricity managing to provide three meals a day to the residents with hardly skipping a beat. Their creativity and motivation to get the job done went beyond what anyone could expect under such difficult circumstances.

It is often in times of trouble that we see people pull together. Although the fire was unfortunate, it was inspiring to see how the staff and community partners responded in a time of need. And for that, the

And for that, the entire Fire-tree family is truly grateful.



The new kitchen at Conewago Place

Never doubt that a group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

-Margaret Mead

Jim DeSanto, Corporate Clinical Director—cont'd.

Williamsport Pennsylvania is not only the home of Firetree's Corporate Office, but also it is the home of Little League and it is where the Little League World Series is played every year. Jim is an avid Little League fan

and is the Assistant Coach for his son's team. Jim calculated that he has not missed a Little League World Series in the past 47 years. Now that's commitment!

Firetree Ltd. is pleased to have someone such as Jim with his depth of experience and diverse background to oversee corporate clinical operations.

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Advisory Boards – Coming Together with a Purpose

A Community Advisory Board without a clear purpose flounders. In 2005, the late Anna Gonzalez, Program Manager at Capitol Pavilion, took over the Advisory Board as part of her job responsibilities. One of Anna's most valuable traits was her ability to network with people in the community and show them that it would be beneficial to attend the Advisory Board meetings at Capitol Pavilion.

At the first meetings, members learned about Capitol Pavilion and its mission. Capitol Pavilion, one of Firetree's Community Reentry Centers and provides assistance to residents with life skills, employment, housing and a host of other issues. The population consists of individuals in pre-

release and parole status. As the members of the Board learned more about the facility, they began to see how their agencies could be of assistance to the residents. As everyone shared information, a partnership was forged between Capitol Pavilion and the Community Advisory Board members that would benefit the residents by providing additional community support and services.

The Community Advisory Board at Capitol Pavilion continues to flourish and grow under Rayna Tirado, Program Manager. The success of the Board shows what can happen when initiative and drive meet cooperation and a desire to effect positive change in people's lives.

Capitol Pavilion's advisory board members' commitment goes beyond meetings. A number of members volunteer their own time to work with residents. Members provide life skills classes in subjects ranging from "Fathering" to Finance.

All Firetree residential facilities have community advisory boards. Although the composition of board members other backgrounds may vary, the intent is the same; "Together Building a New Way of Life."

Works In Progress

Firetree Ltd. Currently has several new projects in the works in Pennsylvania and New York.

Lycoming House, Philadelphia, PA

Lycoming House is a Community Reentry Center providing services to pre-release referrals from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. In September 2007 construction was started to expand the facility from 32 to 56 beds. Two empty buildings next to the existing facility are being remodeled as part of the first phase of the project. Phase I is expected to be completed in early 2008. Phase II will be a remodel of the existing

facility and will begin following completion of the of the current construction. Lycoming House is located in the Point Breeze section of Philadelphia and the community has shown overwhelming support for this project.

Colonie Pavilion

Firetree Ltd. Has secured a contract with the Federal Bureau of Prisons to open a Residential Reentry Center in Colonie New York. The new facility, Colonie Pavilion, will be new construction. There will be a total of 36 beds available to house clients. Colonie Pavilion is scheduled to open in April 2008. This will be the second facility in New York State operated by Firetree Ltd. to house Federal clients.

The other is Syracuse Pavilion located in Syracuse New York.

Outpatient Facility, West Reading, PA

Opening February 4th, 2008
Genesis House-Reading
697 Reading Avenue
West Reading, Pa. 19611
Phone (610) 372-5741
Fax (610) 372-5849

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We're on the Web!
www.firetree.com

Firetree Facilities

Drug & Alcohol Treatment Centers

Residential

Conewago Wernersville
165 Main Street, Bldg. 18-19
Wernersville, PA 19565
(610) 685-3733

Conewago Place
424 Nye Road
Hummelstown, PA 17036
(717) 533-0428

Outpatient

Genesis House
800 West Fourth Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
(570) 322-0520

Genesis House Reading
697 Reading Avenue
West Reading, Pa. 19611
(610) 372-5741

Genesis House Harrisburg
2901 North Sixth Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102
(717) 236-3126

Community Reentry Centers

Conewago Wernersville
165 Main Street, Bldg 27
Wernersville, PA 19565
(610) 685-3733

Capitol Pavilion
2012 North Fourth Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102
(717) 236-0132

Lycoming House
1712-1718 Point Breeze Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19145
(215) 468-2797

Syracuse Pavilion
701 Erie Boulevard East
Syracuse, New York 13210-1014
(315) 442-5949

PennCAPP
165 Main Street, Bldg 30
Wernersville, PA 19565
(610) 685-3733

Back On Track
165 Main Street, Bldg 30
Wernersville, PA 19565
(610) 685-3733

"Together Building a New Way of Life"