



# The Firetree *Chronicle*

*Together Building a New Way of Life*

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Fall 2005

**Drug & Alcohol  
Treatment  
Programs**

**Community  
Corrections  
Centers**

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## Reflections of 2005—Thoughts on 2006

*Corby Myers*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is quoted as saying “All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence”. In 2005, Firetree, Ltd. has continued its effort to focus on excellence in the services we provide. It has been a year of sweeping change within the organization and a time of re-evaluating, restructuring and refocusing on the mission and values of our company – “Together Building a New Way of Life”.

This commitment to excellence has resulted in the

growth of our service delivery network. We are celebrating the first full year of operation of our two newest programs; PennCapp and Syracuse Pavilion. Syracuse also breaks new ground as the first Firetree facility to operate outside the state of Pennsylvania and provides community-based services under a Federal Bureau of Prisons contract. The rapid success of the PennCapp men’s unit, which opened in November of 2004, has already led to the expansion of the program through the creation of a female unit, which began



**Dr. Corby Myers, COO  
Firetree, Ltd.**

operations in August. Also added in 2005 the Allentown Day Reporting Center opened in January and provides job skills counseling and skills development to probation and parole clients.

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## Firetree Welcomes New Conewago Wernersville Facility Director: John Faunce

*Corby Myers*

P. John Faunce, LPC, C.A.C., has been appointed to the position of Facility Director. Mr. Faunce will be responsible for the inpatient drug and alcohol program and clinical detoxification services at Conewago Wernersville Building 18/19. His background includes over 26 years experience in various aspects of substance abuse/dependence treatment, community corrections, and dual diagnosis programs. He has also worked extensively as an independent consultant to a variety of human services and substance abuse agencies. Mr. Faunce holds a Masters Degree in Human Services from and is a Certified Addictions Counselor. He serves on the Advisory Board of the Lancaster County Council on Alcoholism and Drugs, the Board of Directors for the Harm Reduction Coalition of Lancaster, and serves as an adult evaluator for the Pennsylvania Certification Board.

## EM Compliance Module—Keeping Communications On Track

*Terri Duer*

Each D & A Counselor has up to eight clients, each may be coming from a different referral agency. Each agency has slightly, or sometimes significantly different forms, desired communication frequency (as well as preferred method of communication) in general, an assortment of different requirements. On the surface it is “just eight clients” but the administrative work grows in a geometric progression. Counselors are torn between spending time with clients and providing

quality documentation. The EM system used by Firetree facilities addresses this with the recently released Compliance Module.

When the clinical director assigns a client to a counselor a “To-Do” list is generated based on the needs of the referral source. The communication needs are listed with the frequency/timeline noted. This provides the counselor with a clear outline of requirements for each client. The tasks are color coded making it

easier for the counselor to set priorities. When tasks are overdue, the clinical supervisor or clinical director are alerted.

“Dedicated counselors with the best intentions can be overwhelmed by the documentation requirements. This module provides a valuable time management tool as well as enhancing the quality of the documentation.” observed Amy Ertel, Vice President, Firetree, Ltd.

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## Reflections of 2005—Thoughts on 2006

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In 2005 Firetree also consolidated several programs in order to provide better operational efficiencies and improve our service delivery. At Wernersville, the outpatient drug and alcohol unit and halfway house programs were closed and the DUI and Domestic Relations programs ceased operations at the end of their existing contracts. This enabled us to consolidate and expand the inpatient drug and alcohol and Community Corrections Center programs and to double the size of the PennCapp program. In Harrisburg, the Conewago Harrisburg female program was moved and its operations were consolidated into the Capitol Pavilion facility which enables Firetree to provide better supervision and improved client services. Corporate level changes included the creation of my position as Chief Operating Officer and a commitment to enhanced staff training and development by establishing a corporate Training Director position. Upgrades to the computer infrastructure and EM system were completed and serve to keep Firetree compliant with licensing and accreditation standards with all facilities currently operating under full licenses.

In 2006 we will continue our efforts toward excellence by further expanding our existing services and actively seeking new opportunities both in the Commonwealth and in other states. Under the direction of the corporate Clinical Director, a new life skills curriculum is being developed for use in our programs. Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement activities will focus on preparing for the re-accreditation of our ACA accredited programs due in early 2007. The Harrisburg Genesis House outpatient program will be moving into a new building that will allow for expanded service possibilities and will share space with several corporate offices being located in Harrisburg in order to provide more centralized support for our programs and facilities. Firetree looks forward to the New Year with a focus toward continued excellence in client and customer service, improved programming and continued staff development.



## Staff Spotlight: Hats Off to the Entire Firetree Staff!



Terri Duer

Bill Brown, the president of Firetree, Ltd. sent the following email to all employees at 11:58 on September 2nd. *“One can always think they’re having a bad day but nothing compares to what is going on in the aftermath of Katrina. Firetree is going to make a \$5,000.00 contribution to the American Red Cross relief effort in the name of the company and its employees. Any employee who would like to contribute please contact the office in Williamsport. Firetree will match all contributions dollar for dollar.”* By Noon, individual donations started to come in and continued through the afternoon. Amy Ertel, vice president, stated, “I’m not surprised. Our employees are by nature caring individuals; if they weren’t, they wouldn’t be working in this field.”

It wasn’t long until the original \$5,000.00 grew to \$15,190.00.

Firetree’s executive committee also offered to house 100 victims of the hurricane at its Wernersville campus. Although no evacuees were placed there, when the offer was announced a large number of corporate and facility staff volunteered to contribute their time to help the relocation of evacuees and provide ongoing assistance.

“Firetree’s mission statement is *“Together Building a New Way of Life”* and this willingness to contribute not only money but time leaves no doubt that the staff extends this sentiment beyond the walls of our facilities,” said Bill Brown.

## Larry Early Honored

Ana B. Gonzalez

Larry Early, Executive Director of Capitol Pavilion Community Corrections center, received recognition for his work with victims of hurricane Katrina. During the House of Representatives session on November 22, 2005 Democratic Representative Harold James requested his peers honor all volunteers of the Katrina Disaster Relief effort. Mr. Early and Crystal Vinson received a Legislative Acknowledgement Citation in appreciation of their outstanding achievements.

Representative James individually acknowledged Mr. Early’s dedication to the Katrina Disaster Relief effort; Mr. Early received recognition as an employee of Capitol Pavilion Community Corrections Centers, as a member of the Red Cross Specialized-Trained

Task Force and as a retired Military Patriot.

It was an exciting moment. Mr. Early was asked to stand up and a televised close up revealed his humility and gratitude in the experience of being given the opportunity to serve his country.



Left to right:  
Larry Early, Gail Early, Crystal Vinson (fellow honoree) and Representative Harold James

## “Celebrating Contributions” at Capitol Pavilion

*Shawna Bentch*

Savory Spanish rice with sausage, garlic chicken, beef, and pork, white rice with beans.....anyone hungry? No one was at Capitol Pavilion after the Advisory Board meeting on October 28, 2005. The person responsible was Ana Gonzalez, the new Program Manager / Facilitator for Capitol Pavilion. Ms. Gonzalez descended on Capitol Pavilion in March of 2005 with a burst of energy and a cultural flare. She enthusiastically dove into her multitude of new responsibilities and soon energized the programs of Capitol Pavilion. Ana's warmth, humor, and energy have been an inspiration to both the residents and staff of Capitol Pavilion. Ms. Gonzalez is responsible for life skills, employment education, and various other aspects of resident programming. In addition, she has begun organizing community service opportunities for the residents to volunteer in the community. She also provides opportunities for the residents to attend community events and 12 Step meetings.

Another responsibility Ms. Gonzalez has taken on is the Advisory Board of Capitol Pavilion.

The Advisory Board now meets four times a year. It is composed of representatives of community organizations that can give guidance to Capitol Pavilion regarding the programs offered to residents. Soon after taking on this responsibility, Ms. Gonzalez hit the pavement to recruit new members to join the Advisory Board. Her efforts were soon rewarded. The current Advisory Board is a wonderful representation of the Community of Harrisburg. The group is a diverse ethnically, culturally and spiritually. Not only have the members of the Advisory Board contributed their knowledge and guidance during the meetings, they have also developed into wonderful contacts for the residents of Capitol Pavilion. Residents now have access to organizations that can aid them in finding home plans, finding employment, gaining spiritual guidance, and training.

Ms. Gonzalez has served to help coordinate the residents with the services that they need.

The Advisory Board meeting on October 28, 2005 was a success. Ms. Gonzalez chose the theme “Celebrating Your Contributions”. She recognized each member and the contributions they have made over the past several months to the residents and programs of Capitol Pavilion. Ms. Gonzalez then served the Advisory Board a lavish feast with a Spanish flavor. She had been working all week to prepare the meal to thank the Advisory Board members for their contributions. No one left hungry, and everyone left feeling a sense of accomplishment, pride and purpose.



*Ana Gonzalez, Program Manger*

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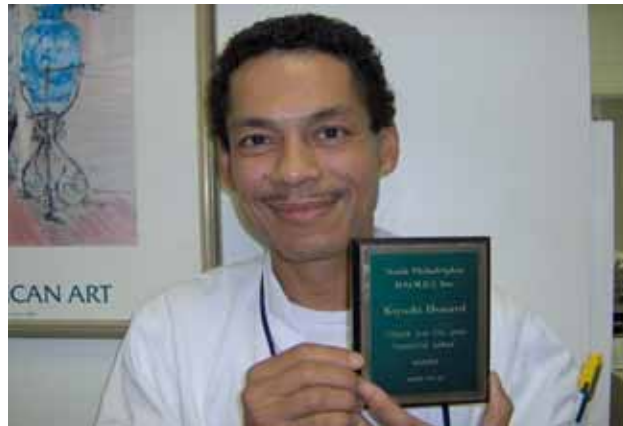
## Lycoming House Employees Receive Awards

Linda Solano

Lycoming House continues to provide community support to various local businesses and organizations. Recently, Lycoming House staff received two awards and one letter of recognition and appreciation for their outstanding community work. The awards were given to Linda Solano, Kiyoshi Howard, and Junette Butler by the Executive Director of South Philadelphia Homes for their direct involvement and participation in several events sponsored by this local business.



**Junette Butler**



**Kiyoshi Howard**

The letter of involvement and appreciation was presented to Lycoming House by the Point Breeze Performing Arts Center Director, Al Brown and President Donna Brown for the many hours of community service provided by employees and clients to this local entertainment center.



## Facilities Update

### **Genesis House Harrisburg**

Genesis House Harrisburg is on the move! As of December 12th, 2005 the new address is

**Genesis House Harrisburg  
2901 North Sixth Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17102**

The new location is larger, allowing both for more group rooms and counselor offices. The building is in a quiet residential area and, like the old building, is on the bus line.

Without rules, regulations, guidelines, & laws, the world would be filled and fueled by anarchy & chaos. I, who tried to enforce my own laws of living, have repeatedly slipped and bumped my head and repeatedly ended up in some prison or facility where I was directed and dictated to by others.

I've heard the "Learn to Live Life on Life's Terms." Remembering my life and the terms I was taught was to live by the "Law of the Jungle – Hunt or be Hunted." I did not know that I was being taught wrong.

Today I am a resident of Capitol Pavilion, a facility that enforces all their rules. But the selfish person in me wanted to try to manipulate the rules to benefit me. I was soon taught to realize that before the rules here change, that I would have to change. It is a fact that it is so much easier for a man not to try to swim up a river, but to swim down the river with the help of the current.

I have re-thought my outlook on Capitol Pavilion and life in general. I want to be with my family and

loved ones. I must begin by following these simple rules, regulations and guidelines of Capitol Pavilion. I don't know about the next person, but I'm going to do what's required and expected of me to get out of this facility. Then I'm going to get out there in society and live the life that so many others are living. This I can accomplish by following the rules, regulations, guidelines & laws of the United States of America.



**Bed Availability**  
*Would you like to receive our twice weekly bed availability report? Send your fax or email information to*  
*info@firetree.com*  
*Please include your name and phone number.*

**For more information on Firetree, Ltd. check out our website at**  
**www.firetree.com**

**Circulate to:**

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**Members of the Firetree, Ltd. Group**

**Detoxification and Inpatient Services**

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

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

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



**Outpatient Services**

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

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

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**Community Corrections Centers**

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Harrisburg, PA 17102  
(717) 236-0132

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

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

**Day Reporting Center**  
1132 Hamilton Street  
Suite 308  
Allentown, PA 18101-1025  
(610) 435-4296