

Boley CENTERS INK

Summer, 2012

Boley Centers' Mission is to enrich the lives of people in recovery by providing the highest quality treatment, rehabilitation, employment and housing services.

Where Recovery Works!

NSP Project with Family Resources & Catholic Charities



425 13th Ave. S.



430 13th Ave. S.

Boley Centers has partnered with Catholic Charities and Family Resources to develop sixteen units of housing for individuals with very low income. Working with the City of St. Petersburg's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), Boley Centers purchased the Fountain View Apartments at 425 and 430 13th Avenue South. The building at 430 13th Avenue South was in such disrepair that it was demolished and six new units were constructed on the site. The new building will be deeded to Family Resources, who plans to provide supportive housing for young adults aging out of foster care. The building at 425 13th Avenue South was extensively renovated and will be deeded to Catholic Charities upon completion. Catholic Charities will be providing supportive housing for individuals and families who have experienced homelessness. Boley Centers is proud to have been the developer on this project providing much needed quality housing for individuals in need within our community. *See the next page for more Housing News.*

Boley Centers' 30th Annual Jingle Bell Run News Flash!

For the first time ever, the event will take place on a Friday night! So save the date - Friday, 12/7/12 - and plan to join us at The Pier in St. Petersburg for Boley Centers' 30th Annual Jingle Bell Run!

Consumer Spotlight

The Jerry Howe Apartments opened last fall, featuring 13 newly renovated apartments for homeless Veterans. The seventh resident to move in was a man named Sam and this is his story of how he came to Boley Centers.

Sam is a Veteran of the United States Army. His parents were truck drivers who moved often, making his school years unstable and a challenge. After dropping out of high school in tenth grade, Sam enrolled in the military. Fast forward a year or so to when he was serving in Germany -- Sam experienced his first psychotic episode, which ultimately led him to exit the service with full benefits.

(Consumer Spotlight continued on page 4)

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Mission, Vision and Values

Boley Centers' **Mission** is to enrich the lives of people in recovery by providing the highest quality treatment, rehabilitation, employment and housing services.

Boley Centers' **Vision** is to set the standard as an innovative leader for the services we provide.

Boley Centers **Values** respect, trust, and ethics in all our relationships.

Funding

Boley Centers is funded in part under agreements with the Agency for Health Care Administration, Bessie Boley Foundation, Boley Angels, Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, City of St. Petersburg, City of Tampa, Department of Veterans Affairs, Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, Florida Department of Children & Families, Florida Department of Education, Florida Department of Elder Affairs, Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Health Partners, Georgia Institute of Technology, Pinellas County, Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless, Pinellas County Department of Justice & Consumer Services, St. Anthony's Health Care, Syracuse University, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Department of Transportation.

Avatar Roll Out



Boley Centers is in the process of implementing their new Electronic Health Record (EHR), Avatar, which will officially "go live" in July. Avatar provides staff with faster, more efficient access to clinical data allowing them to provide better care for our consumers.

Rather than chasing down paper records, comprehensive health information will be at the fingertips of all clinical and administrative staff. Being able to see the full picture of a consumer's treatment within one system permits staff to tailor the treatment to best suit the consumer. This means better individualized care and improved outcomes for our consumers. Avatar also helps Boley prepare for the federal health care requirements for Meaningful Use of EHRs and positions us better to work with primary care physicians in order to treat our consumers holistically.

Housing News



Boley Centers has begun construction on the Laurel Trace Apartments at 7211 46th Avenue North in unincorporated Pinellas County. The nine unit development is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) and will provide supportive housing

for individuals with serious mental illnesses and who have very low income. The land was purchased with funds from Pinellas County Community Development.

When Boley Centers purchases vacant land for projects, they often apply for multiple funding streams in order to build numerous phases on one tract of land, therefore maximizing the available space. Broadwater Place Apartments, located at 3615 37th Street S. in St. Petersburg, is an example of this. The land was purchased in 2009 using a bridge loan from the Bessie Boley Foundation which will be paid back with funds from the City of St. Petersburg's Housing and Community Development Department. The first part (called Phase II, despite being the first part built) opened in 2011 and provides 12 units of permanent housing for individuals who have been chronically homeless. Funding for this project comes from the State of Florida and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta via Synovus Bank.

Construction should begin on Phases I and III later this summer. Phase I is a 14 unit HUD 811 project, funded by HUD which will provide permanent supported housing for individuals who have mental disabilities. Phase III will be an expansion of Phase II, adding eight units of housing for individuals who are chronically homeless. Funding for this comes from the City of St. Petersburg's Housing and Community Development Department. Supportive services will also be provided with financing from HUD. Check out our web site over the coming months, www.boleycenters.org, for progress photos!

VIA VETERANS INTEGRATION ASSISTANCE

Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program Employer Spotlight

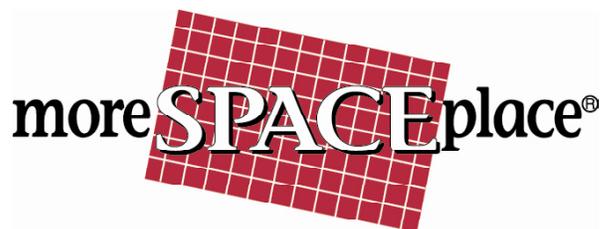
In September, 2011, Boley Centers was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor with the specific purpose of helping to reintegrate Veterans who are homeless, back into the community through employment and support services. Within Boley the program is known as Veterans Integration Assistance (VIA) and it operates in partnership with the Homeless Emergency Project (HEP)

to locate Veterans who have both the desire and the ability to work. Through the program, applicants are screened, provided employment training and matched with local employers.

Since its inception in September, 2011, the program has enrolled 83 eligible Veterans and placed 40 of them with employers throughout Pinellas County. The average income has been over \$9.00 per hour.

One business, More Space Place, Inc, a national franchisor headquartered in Clearwater, Florida, has three (3) Veterans participating in VIA's On the Job Training (OJT) Program.

OJT provides an opportunity for skills acquisition on the job, allowing the candidate to acclimate to both the work load and the environment. A minimum of two weeks paid training is provided by Boley Centers through its funding. The benefit of OJT is that it offers the opportunity to enter the work force and learn a trade, and in some cases to be trained by a company to perform to their specifications - - allowing both the candidate and employer a trial period.



America's Murphy Bed Store®

Once the candidate is trained and it is mutually determined that the placement is a good fit, the Veteran can then be hired as a regular employee. This is presently happening with the first two Veterans placed at More Space Place and the third Veteran is also anticipated to be hired when he becomes eligible.

"This Veteran's work program through Boley Centers is not only a fantastic way for our company to help Veterans, which we are passionate about, but it also makes good business sense," says Marty Juarez, More Space Place COO. He went on to say, "We are also very proud that we have also recently been named as one of the Top 100 Franchises in the United States for Veteran Ownership." More Space Place is headquartered in the Tampa Bay region and has independently owned franchises across the United States and in Puerto Rico. They offer an expansive line of space saving and organizational furniture and custom closets. They are the largest wallbed retailer in the United States. In addition to partnering with Boley Centers' VIA Program, More Space Place donated and installed a bed over desk unit at the office of the Jerry Howe Apartments. The custom unit provides a desk for every day use with the option of a pull down bed when duty calls!

For more information on Boley Centers VIA Program call (727) 528-8400 x 4232.

Boley Centers' Vocational Department has moved!

The following programs and services can be found at the Hays Center, located at 445 31st Street N. in St. Petersburg -

- ◆ Employment Services
- ◆ Supported Employment Services
- ◆ Vocational Evaluation Services
- ◆ Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

The following programs and services can be found at the Cornerstone Building, located at 300 31st Street N., Suite 125 in St. Petersburg -

- ◆ Pathways Out of Poverty (POP)
- ◆ Veterans Integration Assistance (VIA)

For more information, please call (727) 821-4819 x 5761.

Boley Centers, Inc. is a Lilly Reintegration Award Winner



The National Council for Behavioral Healthcare awarded Boley Centers with the Lilly Reintegration Award for Housing at their annual conference in Chicago on April 16, 2012. The Lilly Reintegration Award celebrates the achievements of those in the community who dedicate themselves to improving the lives of individuals with serious mental illnesses. The \$10,000 award was given to Boley for their continued development of affordable housing for people who are disabled by mental illnesses.

(Consumer Spotlight continued from front page)

Throughout his adult life, he has been a cook, a roofer and a heavy equipment operator. He last held a steady position with a local restaurant, but after being diagnosed with Hepatitis C, he left and was no longer able to work within the food industry. Sam was married at the time and had a young son, so the doctor who diagnosed him ran a second set of labs since there was obvious concern for his family. Two years later they became homeless and were forced to go to separate shelters; his wife and son to Metropolitan Ministries and he to Salvation Army Rehab Center. While at the Salvation Army, Sam took part in an AIDS screening only to find out that he did not have Hepatitis C and a repeat test confirmed that there was no evidence that he ever had. This was undoubtedly good news, but Sam's life was already gaining momentum on a downward spiraling path.

All along he has dealt with mental health problems that had never been properly diagnosed. He visited the "flight deck" (as he calls it) at the VA hospital a dozen times over the years, went through numerous programs for help, took multiple medications and on and on...all without relief. During a visit to Bay Pines in 2010, a diagnosis was finally given: manic depression and anxiety. For once, Sam was able to understand the cause of his behaviors – his aggression in particular. He was able to begin working through his illness because it finally all made sense.

In 2010, Sam spent time in the county jail after another psychotic episode and was eventually released to live at the Mustard Seed Inn in St. Petersburg. He found life there tough, with few liberties, little privacy and a chaotic environment. He was anxious to move on and hoped it would be to a Boley residence. At his insistence, his case manager called to inquire about the new program at the Howe Apartments. The response was a positive one and Sam secured a spot.

Sam has been alcohol-free for seven months and drug-free for over four years. He does not attend AA or NA but does go to a program called Celebrate Recovery. He was formerly taking 18 pills a day and is now down to five. By eliminating some of his heavier medications, he finds himself more engaged in his surroundings and not as often fatigued.

Sam is now separated from his wife and living away from both her and his son. Despite this, he is still very much involved in his son's life and spends time with him often; helping him to have the life that he was not able to enjoy himself. He is proud of his progress, his apartment and his new freedoms. He feels safe, happy and appreciates having his own space.

Sam is frank about his past and optimistic about his future. He is working hard to get his disability status approved and to obtain a HUD Section 8 Mainstream Housing Voucher. He also hopes to go back to school to earn his GED so that he can enter a two year program to counsel people on alcohol and drug addiction. In Sam's own words, "Who else better to do that than someone who has been through it himself?"

Mary R. Koenig Center Refreshed

At the time that Boley Centers purchased the Koenig Center in 1993, it was known as the Adirondack School for Girls. The agency converted it to its day services facility and renamed it the Mary R. Koenig Center, in honor of one of Boley's founders and the founder of the Boley Angels.

The property came with a train caboose mounted on rails which was believed to have been the former school's kindergarten classroom, judging from its interior. After a fresh coat of paint to the interior, it was converted and is still maintained as Threads & Things, where Boley consumers can pick out the finest in donated clothing. Pat Hart has been operating the caboose haberdashery for over 15 years.

Eighteen years later as the exterior of the train car was weathered and in the process of rusting and decaying, Boley Centers undertook the effort to revitalize this old treasure. The red luster was returned to the exterior by the agency's painting contractor who also intricately repainted all the logos to this old Missouri and Pacific Lines caboose. The property received updated landscaping and property enhancements including new signage, the addition of pagodas and outdoor tables.

Boley will proudly host the Boley Angels at the Koenig Center for their Annual Wine & Cheese Membership Event this September. The event has historically taken place at a local private residence, but this year it seems fitting to hold it at the Mary R. Koenig Center!





**National Council for Behavioral Healthcare
Annual Conference, April 16, 2012.**

*Pictured from left - Eddie Collins, Jeri Flanagan,
Jack Humburg, Kevin Marrone, Marcy MacMath,
Gary MacMath and Miriam Nordlinger.*

Upcoming Agency Events

Boley Angels' Wine & Cheese Membership Event
Friday, September 28, 2012 - 5:30 PM
Mary R. Koenig Center

Boley Centers' Annual Thanksgiving Feast
Wednesday, November, 21, 2012
Mary R. Koenig Center

Boley Angels' Gala Christmas Brunch
Tuesday, December 4, 2012
St. Petersburg Yacht Club

Boley Centers' 30th Annual Jingle Bell Run
Friday, December 7, 2012 - 7:30 PM
St. Petersburg Pier

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