

In Touch



A newsletter for people with mental illness, their families & friends

November/December 2006

MHAFC Name Change

The Mental Health Association of Franklin County has a new name - Mental Health America of Franklin County. Launched at our 50th anniversary celebration in October, the new name was chosen to communicate how fundamental mental health is to the overall health and well being of every American. The name ties directly into our new initiative - Bringing Wellness Home.

Over the next few months, you will notice changes to all communications you receive from MHA. We will be updating our website and brochures over the next few months, but our address, phone number, and website address remain the same. We hope you will look forward to MHA bringing wellness home to Franklin County.

Holiday Magic Gift Drive

It's time for the MHAFC Holiday Magic Gift Drive for patients at Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare. (Please see the enclosed flyer for details.) The success of this program is due to the generosity of individuals, groups and companies that contribute each year. Unwrapped gifts are collected early so that volunteers have time to individualize, wrap and distribute them. This year, our deadline is **Wednesday, December 13**. A Holiday Magic Open House will be held on Tuesday, December 12 from 5pm to 6 pm at our office, 538 E. Town St., Suite D.

State Parity Update

The parity bill will have a hearing in the Senate Insurance Committee on Tuesday, November 28 at 9:30 am. We are trying to "pack the house" with mental health advocates. Please help us get the word out to as many folks as possible. As of today, we have heard that the opponents to the bill are meeting to discuss allowing the bill to move forward. This is great news for the bill. We may have a good chance of passing this during the lame duck session.

Program Notes

The Westside Families In Touch group will not meet in December. A new group leader will be facilitating the group in January. There will be more details in the next Advocate.

Depression Group Schedule Change

The Depression Support group will meet on a different schedule for January 2007 ONLY. The meetings will be held on the second and fourth Mondays – January 8 and 22 at the usual time. This is because the first and third Mondays in January fall on Holidays.

End-of-the-Year Help Needed

Please remember to include MHAFC in your year-end giving. Your contribution helps keep our support groups and other programs strong. Use the envelope that came with the mailing you received recently in the mail, or visit us online at www.mhafc.org.

www.mhafc.org



**Mental Health Association of Franklin County
dba Mental Health America of Franklin County**
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please call 221.1441 and we'll be glad to remove you from our mailing list.

Westerville (NE) Meetings, held at Concord Counseling Services, 774 Park Meadow Rd.; 2nd and 4th Thursdays; 10 am to 12 Noon. For further information, call Linda Jakes, 614-882-9338, Ext. 210. Next meeting dates: Dec. 14 & 28; Jan. 11 & 25.

Worthington Meetings, co-sponsored by North

Community Counseling Centers, held at the Worthington United Methodist Church, 600 N. High St., Room 300;

2nd and 4th Mondays; 5:30-7 pm. For further information, call Barb Chuko, 614-846-2588, Ext. 2224.

Next meeting dates: Nov. 27; Dec. 11, no meeting on Christmas Day (Dec. 25), Jan. 8 & 22.

West Side Meetings, co-sponsored by Twin Valley

Behavioral Healthcare Community Support Network, held at the Hilltop Library, 511 Hague Ave.; meets once a month. No meeting in December. This group will have a new facilitator in Jan. 2007.

Depression Support Group Meetings are held at the

Overbrook Presbyterian Church, 4131 N. High St.; 1st and 3rd Mondays; 7-8:30 pm. For further information,

Northeast, co-sponsored by Concord Counseling is rescheduling their meetings. For further information, call Hugh Michaels, 614-882-9338, Ext. 207.

Central, held at Southeast, Inc., 16 W. Long Street, 2nd Floor; Fridays; (weekly) 1 – 2 pm. For information, call Bonnie Baker, 614-225-0990 Ext. 1158.

East, held at Pathway Clubhouse, 1203 E. Broad St.; Wednesdays (weekly); 2:30 - 3:30 pm. For further information, call Mike Stalego, 614-251-7820.

Sparks at North Community Counseling Centers - The Bridge, 614-846-2588, Ext. 2229.

North, held at Worthington Methodist Church, 600 N. High St. Rm. 317, Worthington; Mondays (weekly); 5:30-7 pm. For further information, call Mary Beth

Schizophrenics Anonymous

call Karen Berry, 614-221-1441. Next meeting dates: Dec. 4 & 18; for January **only**, group meets on the 2nd & 4th Mondays, Jan. 8 & 22; 7 – 8:30 pm (due to January holidays).

Please Note: Meeting schedules are subject to change. Please call individual groups to confirm.

Families In Touch
Support groups for families & friends of persons with mental illness