



MOMENTUM

NEWSLETTER

November 2011
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OKC
Metro
Alliance, Inc.

www.okcmetroalliance.com

1940 Linwood Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

405.232.1864 Phone
405.235.1071 Fax



From the Director's Desk

By Ann Simank, LCSW
Executive Director

With recent news about the struggling economy and the high rates of unemployment, the nonprofit sector has had to work extra hard to find available resources for client services and programs. OKC Metro Alliance, Inc.'s Firststep work recovery programs for men and women are at capacity with over one hundred participants in the program and a waiting list of those who want to join the program. Our staff works diligently each day to find gain

ful employment training opportunities for our Firststep clients. The economy in the Oklahoma City area has remained fairly stable and the unemployment numbers are low in comparison to the rest of the nation. For that, we are fortunate and thankful. Today, we have over eighty (80) clients in work training placements within the OKC community. Thank you Oklahoma City for recognizing the importance of helping those who are truly changing their lives in a productive way. The Firststep clients are able to give back to their community each day they participate in a work training experience!

At Firststep we believe understanding the meaning, value and demands of work, learning to establish job related skills, and developing positive work behaviors is an important component that must be addressed while in recovery. Too often we see individuals that have lost their jobs, families, and homes due to their substance abuse issues. Firststep helps individuals

recover from substance abuse and prepare for a more productive life in their community by participating in a 12 Step program and learning new skills while in job training. Having success at a job after recovery gives hope and encouragement for a better and brighter future!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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Happy
Holidays!

New Playground at Women's Firststep



Pictured: Playground at Women's FIRSTSTEP

The Mission Committee of Southern Hills Baptist Church, 8601 S. Pennsylvania, Oklahoma City, OK, raised donations for a new playground for Women's Firststep Residential Recovery center this past year. The mission committee members raised approximately \$4,000 and purchased playground equipment including an activity area and swing set for the children whose mothers are in recovery. Southern Hills Baptist Church has been a wonderful supporter of the Firststep recovery programs over the past year, providing men and women's clothing, AA Recovery Bibles, and Under Armor from Bass Pro for the ladies at Firststep who work in the cold. Thank you Southern Hills Baptist Church and Mission Committee!

§ Thank You So Much §

We would like to thank all of our friends in the community for your support throughout the year. You are key to the long term success of our programs. We look forward to continuing the work of recovery in 2012. Thank you for partnering with us. Have a Happy Holiday!

IN REMEMBRANCE



Pictured: Jerry Tullis

On May 12, 2011, the Oklahoma City Exchange Club honored Mr. Jerry Tullis, a long-time volunteer of OKC Metro Alliance's Firststep programs with the Book of Golden Deeds, Volunteer of the Year Award. The Award ceremony was held at Sportsman's Country Club in Oklahoma City and the award was presented by Mr. Charlie Swinton, Exchange Club Member. Mr. Tullis's wife Penny accepted the award on behalf of Mr. Tullis who was unable to attend due to illness. As part of the award, the members of the Exchange Club also presented a check for \$250.00 to Ms. Ann Simank, Executive Director of OKC Metro Alliance to be used for the residential Firststep Programs.

Mr. Tullis volunteered at Men and Women's Firststep for many years. He organized and participated in fishing trips for the residents, hosted homemade ice cream socials at his home, started and conducted weekly Bible studies at both Men and Women's facilities and involved over 100 members of his church, Southern Hills Baptist, in volunteer activities at Firststep. Mr. Tullis was married to Penny Tullis, OKC Metro Alliance Board President. Mr. Tullis passed away on August 18th 2011. We will miss you Jerry.

We have Moved!



June 28th, 2011, OKC Metro Alliance moved their administration offices into a newly remodeled building located at 1940 Linwood Boulevard and the PIA opened shortly afterwards in mid-July. The new building provides a larger area for the PIA program and is complete with medical rooms for clients that may be in need of isolation due to colds or other minor medical conditions. The administrative offices include a business center, a fully equipped employee break room and a large board room for meetings, along with offices for staff. The building is owned by the City of Oklahoma City. The architect for the building was Architectural Design Group, Inc. and the Contractor was Downey Contracting both of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Metal Artwork depicting calendar pages which represent "one day at a time" was designed by renowned artist Stan Carroll. Mr. Carroll named the art "ONE" and placed it on the front entrance of the building. Be sure to make a note of our new address, 1940 Linwood Blvd., OKC, OK, 73106.

The 2011 Beans and Cornbread Luncheon

April 28th, our annual Beans and Cornbread Luncheon was held at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Oklahoma City. Opening Comments were given by Commissioner Terri White of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the Keynote Speaker was Mr. Ted Jones of Athens, Georgia. Mr. Jones was introduced by Lou Kerr, President and Chair of The Kerr Foundation. The event was a huge success, raising over \$20,000 and with over 200 in attendance. Our thanks and appreciation is extended to St. Lukes United Methodist Church and Reverend Bob and Marsha Long for opening their beautiful facility to host the luncheon. Marsha Long is a board member of our agency, OKC Metro Alliance and both she and her husband Bob have been tremendous supporters of our recovery programs.

Welcome New Employees!

- ☛ Bruce Migliaccio, Case Manager for Men's Firststep
- ☛ Tamara Marshall, PIA Detention Monitor
- ☛ Ronald Denton, PIA Detention Monitor
- ☛ Randi Rice, Facility Administrator, Women's Firststep
- ☛ Herb Gilkey, Facility Administrator, Men's Firststep
- ☛ Kim Peterson, Chief Clinical Officer, July 8, 2011

Community Partner Spotlight

This November we're spotlighting the following partners:

Catherine English, Superintendent of the City of OKC Animal Welfare Division

Brian Dougherty, FASLA of OKC Community Foundation

Pear Pearson, with the OKC Zoo

Janet Walker, Horticulture Supervisor, with the OKC Myriad Gardens

Pam McGee, with the OKC Community College

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2010-2011

Program Statistics

Men's FIRSTSTEP Program

Total Clients Served 395
Average Daily Count 74

Women's FIRSTSTEP Program

Total Clients Served 260
Average Daily Count 36

Public Inebriate Alternative

Total Clients Served 5832
Average Daily Count 16

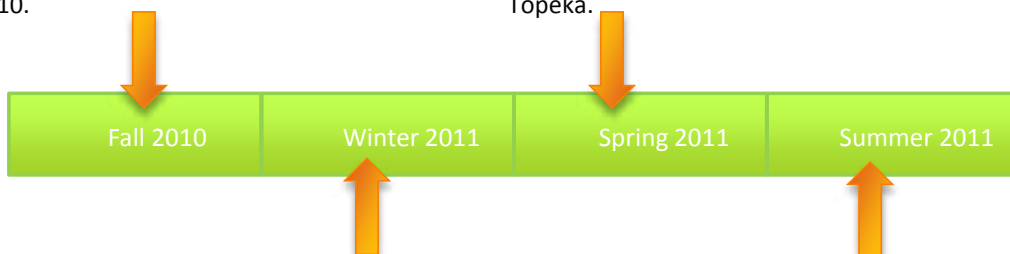
Timeline

Awarded grant from the Bank of Topeka for \$324,000 for FIRSTSTEP projects.

Completed the construction the new dormitory for the Women's FIRSTSTEP program. The new dorm has the capacity for 56 clients. Open house was held in November 2010.

OKC Metro Alliance, Inc. held the annual "Beans and Cornbread Luncheon" raising over \$20,000 to assist Oklahomans who want to recover from substance abuse.

Began construction of \$320,000 Lagoon wastewater system for the Women's FIRSTSTEP Facility. The Lagoon Wastewater system was made possible from a grant with the Bank of Topeka.



Began construction meetings with the City of OKC to remodel the new administrative offices and PIA facility. This OKC bond project dedicated \$1.3 million dollars for the new facility.

Constructed new storm shelters at the Men's Firststep facility. This project was made possible with grant funding from the Bilby Foundation and financial assistance from Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Johnston.

Office construction was completed. Moved the administrative offices to the new building in June 2011. PIA followed later in July 2011. Architects: ADG Contractor: Downey Company

Awarded a Continuum of Care grant from the City of OKC. This grant is in the amount of \$152,316 and will provide case management and supportive services for clients of FIRSTSTEP for a period of 2 years.

Awarded a transportation grant from the Department of Human Services for two new vehicles, a 15 passenger van and an 11 passenger van.

2010 - 2011
Board of Directors

Penny Tullis

President

Jimmy Durant

Vice President

Cheryl Borelli

Secretary-Treasurer

Robert Dennis

Charles Freede

William Kerr

Sara Kyte

Marsha Long

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Ryan O'Toole

Talmadge Rogers

Ken Stone

Rusty Surette

Barbara Underwood

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Blake Wade

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Ann Simank

Executive Director

Kim Peterson

Chief Clinical Officer

Talaytha Guest

Corporate Business Manager

Randi Rice,

Facility Administrator, Women's Firststep

Herb Gilkey

Facility Administrator, Men's Firststep

Antonio Walker

Facility Administrator, PIA

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**Would you like to contribute to OKC Metro Alliance, Inc.
and the
Firststep Programs?**

Financial Contributions

A cash or credit card gift is a simple and convenient way to make a charitable donation.

Please make checks and money orders payable to OKC Metro Alliance, Inc.

Our address is:

1940 Linwood Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

Donate to our endowment

You can designate a check to OKC Metro Alliance, Inc. and our Firststep programs or you can visit our website at www.okcmetroalliance.com for a link to donate to our endowment fund at the OKC Community Foundation.

In Kind Donations

such as clothing, furniture, linens, cosmetics and personal hygiene products for our clients are always accepted and appreciated.

Reminder: All donations before Jan 1st are tax deductible for year 2011. Thank you for your continued support of our mission and programs.

OKC Metro Alliance, Inc. is a not for profit 501(c)3 corporation. As a not for profit agency, your donation helps us to achieve our mission to assist Oklahomans who want to recover from substance abuse.