

DETROIT RECOVERY PROJECT NEWSLETTER



DRP OPENS NEW, WESTSIDE
RECOVERY RESOURCE CENTER,
1145 W. GRAND BLVD.
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48208

Detroit Recovery Project Goes West!

Detroit Recovery Project has expanded to the southwest side of the city. Located at 1145 E. Grand Blvd., the newly renovated 21,000 square-foot building is the former location of a Family Independence Agency office. Under DRP's ownership, the new site will house several prevention, treatment and recovery support programs.

Mike Fisher is the manager of the new site. He is a former Executive Director of the Detroit Community Initiative, a non-profit community development corporation he founded in 1995. He is also a former board member of New Detroit and helped to build the 7 Mile & Gratiot business district (see photo of Mike on page 6).

Featured below are photos of our newest location. DRP officials highly anticipate the public grand opening in June 17, 2011 from 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. with special guest speaker, Senator Hansen Clarke. We hope to see you there!



DRP COMES TO THE WESTSIDE



MULTIPLE GROUP ROOMS



INSIDE OUR NEW FACILITY

DRP Loves Detroit Youth

Love Detroit Youth is approaching its sophomore year of a \$1.5 million federal grant that ends in 2015. The program was designed to provide HIV prevention and testing and decrease alcohol, tobacco, and drug use among youth between the ages of 12 – 17.

Anecdotal evidence shows Detroit youth are bombarded by images that depict beautiful and powerful people smoking tobacco and consuming alcohol. If these images are what reality is for most of our youth, then we believe our responsibility is to expose them to more than just smoking and drinking.

Our team is fired up and ready to go:

Stephanie Homes is a prevention manager with a heart for families. As part of the LDY team, she will work with youth and their parents to eradicate drug use and promote healthy lifestyles. Realizing this will be no small feat, Ms. Homes is equipped with compassion and eight years experience as a Michigan state social worker. Her team will undertake a new initiative that aims at preventing drug use among teens as well as teaching them how to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS. Ms. Homes and her team will talk candidly with youth and their parents about risky behavior and its outcome.

“I’ve learned that parents love their children and given the right tools and resources they can parent their children and get through any crisis,” she said. “A crisis is just in that moment. If someone is there to aid you, you’ll get through it.”

Ms. Homes knows about family disasters. Her father died of HIV after years of heroin addiction. The effect on the family “sent me on that quest” to help other families live healthy lifestyles and stay away from drugs, she said.

Willie Burton

Former NBA player Willie Burton is still a hometown hero. He left the Motor City to pursue dreams of playing in nationally televised games and making his family proud. After a few drug-related stops and starts, Mr. Burton is back in the city helping teenagers avoid pitfalls that once threatened to bury him.

As an outreach worker, the St. Martin DePorres alumnus will teach high school students about the perils of drug use while helping them manage their own peer groups. For the past 13 years, he has aided youth in different parts of the country and decided to bring his passion for teenagers full circle – home.

“The youth here in Detroit suffer from long term substance abuse that reaches from generation to generation,” he said. “I’m going to work within the DRP system and use my experience to become a part of the solution. I’ll go to homes and community centers to share my experiences, strength and hope.”

Mr. Burton’s sense of teamwork was honed while he was a member of the NBA. His stints with several teams were more indicative of his drug abuse than his ability to play the game. He journeyed with the Miami Heat (’90 – ’94), Philadelphia 76ers (’94 – ’96), Atlanta Hawks (’97), San Antonio Spurs and Charlotte Hornets (both in ’98).

Darius Brantley is a youth outreach worker in the HIV & Substance Abuse section. He brings expertise from Atlanta, GA, where he worked for more than three years with Youthful Survivors, a group working to decrease drug abuse and instances of HIV/AIDS among teenagers.

He and his LDY team members plan to target 9th graders at Finney, Central, Southeastern, Denby and Martin L. King, Jr. high schools and shadow them for the entire high school careers. During this four-year period participating students will engage in open discussions, be encouraged by guest speakers, and view instructional videos that will help them internalize all they have learned.

“It’s important for us to take an active role in the development of our children and not just stand by the wayside and say how bad things are,” he said. “Working with DRP gives me an opportunity to engage the people and heal some of the ills inside our community.”

Mr. Brantley is adamant about decreasing the instances of HIV/AIDS among youth. Emotion gets caught in his throat as he speaks about the rising statistics: “Children are becoming more sexually active at younger ages... couple that with sense of invincibility and you see growing numbers. You want to save the world and it’s difficult to have people not accept the message.”



DRP Awarded New Four-Year Federal Grant for the Recovery Is Yours Program (RIY)

Recovery Is Yours is in its first year of funding through a four-year \$1.4 million federal grant awarded in 2010 to provide peer-to-peer and support recovery services. This program accepts walk-ins and referrals who will participate in on-going DRP services such as Life Skills, Recovery Management workshops, Transition Skills for Living, support groups, 12-step meetings, mentorship, and Strengthening Recovering Families workshops.

RIY is open to men and women who are exiting treatment centers or who are in long-term recovery and desire support.

We are pleased to introduce the RIY staff: **Jay Young** is the supervising manager of all DRP's programming. Formerly a chemical analyst in the automotive industry, Mr. Young has been in long-term recovery for over 21 years. In this new position, he will facilitate groups meetings and oversee recovery coaching.

While his post is newly created, Mr. Young has worked with DRP for more than two years. He began his service here as a recovery coach and peer specialist with the COPE program that deals with secondary illnesses originating from drug abuse. He then spread his expertise to the PACT program, which helps those recently released from jail and/or prison remain drug-free while re-integrating into society.

"I care about people and I always have," he said. "I have the tendency to want to see people do better, which makes this job very fulfilling."

Mr. Young was born and raised in Detroit. A graduate of Murray Wright

High School has attended Wayne County Community College District, Wayne State University and Walden University; he is currently pursuing an MBA with a concentration in Finance.

Angela Fuqua is a recovery coach and volunteer coordinator. She is the first line of assistance for new clients. Compassionate and filled with encouragement, Ms. Fuqua brings 16 years of recovery experience to the RIY team and two decades' worth of "what not to do" wisdom."

"The universe has something greater to offer..." she said. "That's what we're all looking for whether we're an 'addict' or 'normal' person: we're still all seeking our purpose."

Her commitment is to help members of the recovery community find employment and regain control of their lives. Prior to joining DRP, Ms. Fuqua worked at the Arab American Chaldean Council as a Rehabilitation Specialist.

The Detroit native is a graduate of Detroit Public Schools and holds an Associate's degree in General Studies from Wayne County Community College District. She has one adult daughter and two grandchildren.

DeWitt Gregory has worked at DRP for three years and is considered the "elder statesman" of the organization. His role on the RIY team is that of outreach specialist. Mr. Gregory searches the city of Detroit seeking those who want help with recovery but don't know where to turn.

"I'm loving my position because I get to help a wide range of people," he said. "I've pulled people off the street to get them help."

THE RIY TEAM



JAY YOUNG



ANGELA FUQUA



DEWITT GREGORY

DRP Awarded New Four-Year Federal Grant for Recovery Support Services, Continued...

Mr. Gregory services the recovery population of adults ages 18 – 60 by helping them find transportation, jobs and housing. He previously worked at Guiding Light Treatment and Recovery Center as a program assistant.

A proud alumnus of Northeastern High School, Mr. Gregory aspires to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Services from either Wayne State University or the University of Detroit-Mercy. He is the parent of three adult children, two teenagers and a toddler.

Andria Harmon is the newest employee on the RIY team. She joined DRP six months ago and is excited to work with the group. Drug-free for seven years, Ms. Harmon looks forward to bringing a positive spirit and a high level of motivation to the program to help other individuals, stay clean and be good parents to their children.

“I see our program growing and with more participation,” she said. “Our members are really exciting because of programming and the morale of the coaches. We take an extra interest in their recovery.”

According to Ms. Harmon, who holds a certification in addiction studies, she and her team have made contact with several recovery agencies in the city to recruit new members for their program. Individuals are accepted to RIY after they have gained sobriety and are ready to take the next step in the recovery process.

Before her employment at DRP, Ms. Harmon worked at Genesis II, a transitional housing organization, and led a recovery group for women at the Guiding Light Treatment and Recovery Center. She is married and has two adult daughters.



ANDRIA HARMON

DRP Coalition’s New Coordinator Brings the Heat



Krystal L. Copeland is a project coordinator who works with youth at five Detroit high schools: Finney, Central, Southeastern, Denby, and Martin L. King, Jr. She advises peer-to-peer groups led by students who work together to prevent drug use among their classmates. Her student-leaders have created two successful programs under her tutelage.

Ms. Copeland is also a member of the DRP Community Coalition made up of faith, fraternal, volunteer and civic groups that increase awareness of the pitfalls of tobacco and drug use among teens. Their overall goal is to mobilize Detroit youth to live a drug-free life.

“By working with youth I’m able to see how substances are causing their failure,” she said. “Family dynamics are being attacked by substance abuse.”

Ever seeking knowledge and new ways to help youth and their families, the Wayne State University Master’s degree student recently attended the Community Anti-drug Coalition of American (CADCA) conference in Washington, DC. She’s back home and fired up!

The DRP Coalition, is funded by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention and is a Drug Free Communities Coalition.

To become a member of the DRP Coalition, contact Ms. Krystal Copeland at 313-365-3100 x. 320.

Also, visit our Facebook Page and “Like” us!

A Message from Our CEO



Andre Johnson
President/CEO
Detroit Recovery Project Inc.

The year 2011 has been one of change and forward movement. Detroit Recovery Project is a part of this phenomenon as we have developed expanded offerings to solidify our standing as this region's leader in recovery programming and services. The paradigm shift toward universal healthcare has cleared the path for a cyclical approach to recovery. This year we will integrate primary health care with recovery support services.

The work we've done to assemble a team of medical, mental, and behavioral health care specialists has won the endorsement of forward-thinking providers nationwide. It has long been a theory that recovery is more than peer-to-peer counseling and abstinence. Many health care journals have printed white papers and studies that show a universal approach to recovery is more beneficial than traditional tactics. Recovery experts from around the country have visited

our Detroit locations to study the impact of our programming and to identify some of our practices that will help their communities.

In a nutshell, some people in recovery abuse their bodies. As a result they may feel embarrassed when visiting the doctor. We know, anecdotally, these individuals are fearful that medical providers will judge them for visible track marks so they avoid such appointments until a major problem develops then rush to the emergency room for treatment. In other cases, doctors may be too quick to prescribe medications; they could possibly recommend Vicodin® to a heroin addict if they are not properly trained. We want to ensure medical treatment with a higher level of sensitivity.

No man or woman should be subjected to mistreatment or feelings of shame when visiting their healthcare specialist. We want the ability to refer our people to doctors who are

conscientious about the recovery community and knowledgeable of their needs.

DRP is here to continue to empower those in recovery and educate persons outside of that population. We have a team of coaches and peer specialists who see folk on a day-to-day basis and help them continue to make changes to sustain drug-free lifestyles. We are trailblazers in the community and have grown tremendously over the past five years; we vow to keep that momentum going as we continue to evolve and move forward in progress.

Yours truly!

WOMEN IN RECOVERY ENHANCEMENT DEVELOPMENT

WIRED UP!

Detroit Recovery Project's WIRED is a Women's Specialty Program, designed to aid women with children in remaining drug free. The 90-day program will be offered at DRP's newest location – the Westside Recovery Center, 1145 W. Grand Blvd.

We believe many female drug users fail to seek treatment because they are afraid: They fear not being able to take care of or keep their children, they fear reprisal from their spouses or boyfriends, and they fear punishment from authorities in the community. DRP will provide a safe environment for these women where they can develop long-term sobriety, build their self-esteem and learn how to effectively parent through their recovery process.

Kyra Coleman will be focused on helping to prevent relapse among WIRED members. She takes a special stance of compassion toward the women who seek help from the program.

Her understanding comes from life experience. As she says, some people turn to drugs to cope with their issues, some turn to shopping and still others turn to people. "We've all been hurt, lonely, anxious, fearful and have family issues. The difference is the manifestation."

Before joining DRP Ms. Coleman, who holds a B.A. from Wayne State University, worked as a community organizer for a non-profit where she taught city residents how to access city services, mobilize urban communities and maintain a healthy neighborhood. That same fervor for empowerment becomes evident as she focuses on helping members create and adhere to their own personalized recovery plans.

"I know we all have the ability to do our best," she said. "We've got one life to live and that's it. We can get to living or get to dying."

Meet Mike Fisher...Senior Recovery Coach

A self-styled community activist, Mike Fisher is the Senior Recovery Coach and has been assigned to the brand new W. Grand Boulevard facility. His charge is to help other recovery coaches prepare their members to lead productive, drug-free life styles.

Mr. Fisher will also be responsible for helping DRP develop more resources for its ever-expanding chest of recovery tools. Existing DRP programming, 12-step meetings, and other outreach platforms will also be held at the new site.

"Most of the community work I do is centered on strengthening neighborhoods and breaking down barriers that challenge that," he said. "I've developed strong resources and know how to find services our members need. Together, we can meet the needs of the recovery community."

Mr. Fisher is approaching 18 years of living a clean life "one day at a time." He plans to use this same practical approach to helping others find their way through the maze of sobriety.

MEET OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS



KYRA COLEMAN



MIKE FISHER

For More Information regarding the WIRED Program or the Recovery Coaching Program, please contact the Westside Recovery Center at 313-324-8900.

FRESH FACES OF DRP



MEET OUR NEW STAFF:

(PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT)

VIRDELL THOMAS, CLINICAL DIRECTOR, DRP PROGRAMS

DARIUS COTTON, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, ADMINISTRATION

RONALD GAINES, DRP HOUSING COORDINATOR

JOHN REED, OUTPATIENT THERAPIST

EDITH SMITH, PEER SPECIALIST FOR THE
CO-OCCURRING PEER EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (COPE)

MARCUS BYNES, CASE MANAGER, PREVENTION IN ACTIVE
COMMUNITY TRANSITIONS PROGRAM (PACT)



ISLAND OF ZANZIBAR & MAINLAND DAR ES SALAAM

As a collaborative partner with the City of Detroit Bureau of Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment & Recovery and Great Lakes Addiction Transfer Technology Center, the Detroit Recovery Project continues to work with the Recovery Community in Tanzania and Zanzibar as they develop strong recovery programming. To date, the project has assisted in the development of 12-Step Recovery Groups, Recovery Housing and Sober social activities. There is a growing cadre of recovery community members and emerging leaders, such as Suleiman Mauly.