

Center for Great Expectations



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The Center for Great Expectations

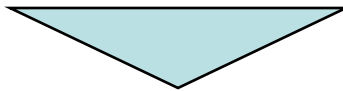
Our Mission

The Center for Great Expectations seeks to form a partnership with homeless pregnant women in creating a *safe place*, a *safe presence* and a *safe path* so that they may complete a healthy pregnancy, choose a next right step and follow through on their plan

To accomplish the mission, the Center for Great Expectations is....

- Not just a group residence
- Not just a substance abuse education and treatment service provider
- Not just counseling service provider
- Not just a provider of support services for pregnant women and adolescents

Instead, we provide all these services tailored to meet each of our client's needs



We tailor our services for each client to help them break the cycle of abuse, poverty and homelessness for themselves and their children

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Our Clients

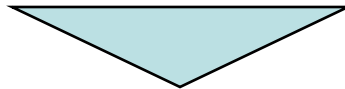
Our clients are homeless, pregnant (and parenting) and seeking to create a better future for their child and themselves

Our clients in the Comprehensive Drug & Alcohol program also generally have....

- Life-long addictions
- Suffer from multiple dependencies
- Repeatedly failed treatment
- Never had any prolonged sobriety

Our clients in the Adolescent program generally have....

- Been exposed to the addictions of a parent or other caregiver
- Used or abused alcohol and / or drugs



In addition, our clients suffer from other significant traumas:

- More than half have a diagnosed mental illness
- Over 50% have been physically abused
- Almost half have been sexually abused

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The Need to Grow

Responding to the great need for its services, the Center embarked on a project to expand both its capacity and broaden its program

- The Center operated at near peak capacity throughout the year, which forced it to turn away many women who desperately need help
 - Limited to just 6 beds in current facility
 - Of the over 200 women and adolescents referred to the program last year, well over 100 met our criteria for acceptance, however, the Center was only able to accept 22

- Limited discharge options exist for parenting adolescents
 - Discharge planning was driven by the event of delivery rather than the ability of the client to take that next right step
 - When family reunification was not possible, the Center had relatively few discharge options

- Shortage of treatment options for pregnant adult women
 - Discharge planning was driven by the event of delivery rather than the ability of the client to take that right next step
 - Research has shown that longer treatment, tailored to the needs of the client, can significantly improve outcomes
 - Few facilities take a methadone-maintained pregnant woman
 - Limited treatment options for for a pregnant woman with children

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The Plan to Grow

The Center built two new “homes” in Franklin Township – one that houses the expanded adolescent program, the other that houses the expanded adult women substance abuse program

- Adolescent program house
 - Expanded from 4 beds¹ to 8 beds for adolescents
 - Space meets licensure requirements for housing infants / children enabling us to allow adolescents to stay after delivery with infants and participate in an aftercare program as warranted

- Adult women substance abuse program house
 - Expanded from 2 beds to 8 in the new facility
 - Space meets licensure requirements for housing infants / children enabling us to accept women with a child and allow clients to stay after delivery of the infant

- Both houses are purpose built and include space for staff offices as well as residential spaces

- Both houses preserve the warmth and intimacy of the homelike setting that was an essential component of our program’s success

¹ Previous average annual beds used by adolescent program

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The Plan to Grow

Incorporating “green” features was not a primary objective of the Center as we developed our plan and funding sources for the new facilities

- Primary goal was “getting the project done” and significant attention was spent in keeping costs under control
- As funding sources were identified to make the project viable, it was at that point that we identified a couple of green features and began working with the Department of Community Affairs’s Green Homes Program to solicit funding for those features
 - Limited renewable hardwood flooring
 - Some formaldehyde free / low VOC millwork
- Introduced to the New Jersey HMFA to solicit additional funding and recognized an opportunity to incorporate those green features more broadly as well as to introduce additional environmentally friendly features to the project
 - Renewable hardwood flooring throughout
 - Formaldehyde free / low VOC millwork throughout
 - Hardi-plank siding
 - Photovoltaic system

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Green Building Features

The Center began to understand (and value) the benefits of these features to enhance the safety of our residents, to reduce operating costs as well as to reduce the impact of this project on the environment

- Photovoltaic system
 - Benefits CGE by reducing the Center's dependency on the electrical grid and our utility bills for operating the center
 - Broader environmental benefits from using a clean energy source
- Hardiplank siding in place of traditional vinyl siding
 - Benefits CGE due to its greater durability and fire resistance
 - Broader environmental benefits due to use of silica (a plentiful substance) as opposed to petroleum-based vinyl
- Bamboo flooring in lieu of carpet and linoleum
 - Benefits CGE's residents that suffer from dust-borne allergies and asthma
 - Broader environmental benefits due to use of a rapidly renewable resource in place of products consisting of petroleum and chemicals
- Formaldehyde-free, low VOC millwork throughout the facility
 - Benefits CGE's residents (pregnant and parenting) by eliminating exposure to off-gassing chemicals from millwork and the negative impact on indoor air quality

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Green Operational Practices

Prior to the expansion, environmentally-friendly operating practices were driven more by financial imperatives than by a commitment to sustainable practices

- Reduce – all supplies kept to a minimum
- Reuse – many supplies reused where possible such as paper, binders and other program materials
- Recycle – All bottles, cans etc. and papers to reduce disposal costs

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Green Operational Practices

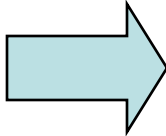
Working with Rutgers Cooperative Purchasing Program, the Center is adopting /enhancing several operating processes to enhance the safety of our residents, reduce operating costs and reduce our impact on the environment

- The overall goal of this program is to develop, implement and sustain a Green Purchasing (GP) program at Rutgers University and organizations that share the University's green purchasing policy and priority (organizations that include but are not limited to universities, schools, cities, townships, counties or any other local government agency, public or private sector entity)
- Program was designed with the environment, supply chain, purchasing and waste stream integration as one cohesive system-thinking concept
- The cooperative purchasing of equipment and materials is a means to help Rutgers , Municipalities, Schools and Organizations integrate green criteria into their contracts while saving money - the principle behind cooperative purchasing is that the more materials or equipment a group can purchase at one time, the less the unit price will be

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Green Operational Practices

Additional factors beyond price and performance are taken into account when making decisions about “green” purchases, including:

- The raw materials, including energy and water, used in the manufacture of the product
 - The type of production (i.e. use of cleaner production processes)
 - Packaging or distribution method
 - Source reduction and reuse
 - Distance of transport / localness of production
- 
- Is the product less hazardous?
 - Is it reusable or more durable?
 - Is it made from recycled materials?
 - What happens to the product at the end of its life? (Can it be recycled? Returned? Require special disposal?)
 - Does it conserve energy or water?
 - Is it made from plant-based raw materials?

Environment + Price + Performance = Environmentally Preferable Products

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Green Operational Practices...Initial Priorities

The Center has been operating in its expanded facilities for just two months now, but we have already been able to implement several new green operational practices with assistance from the Rutgers program

Purchase / Practice

- Improved recycling practices
- Green cleaning methods
- Reduced use of paper towels
- Use of 30% recycled content paper

Benefits

- Greater recyclable waste, less non-recyclable waste; lower disposal costs and frequency
- Environmentally friendly (e.g. don't include the toxic chemicals found in many common cleaners but made from renewable bio-based materials); less hazardous to employees and residents; able to adequately clean the facility
- Less waste and lower costs
- Lower cost; solution to community disposal problems; reduces demand for virgin trees as well as energy and water

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Green Operational Practices...Next Priorities

Next steps are likely to include the following green purchases and practices:

Purchase / Practice

- Recycled content trash bags
- Toilet tissue, paper towels and hand soap
- Increased purchase of locally-grown food products
- Environmentally-friendly ice melt
- Biodiesel fuel?

Benefits

- Conserves both energy and natural resources
- Paper products will contain the highest percentage of recycled fiber possible; no chlorine used in manufacture; hand soap will not include APEs above trace amounts
- Improved freshness, nutrition, safety and taste; conserves both energy and natural resources used for packaging
- Use of CMA as a low corrosion, environmental alternative to road salt; minimizes runoff resulting in ground water contamination, soil compaction and vegetation burn
- Use of domestic renewable fuel; reduced air pollution vs. conventional diesel; no sulfur

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Key Learnings

We've learned a lot along the way and will likely continue to learn as we implement new practices

- Need for tailoring choices and implementation to meet the needs of the mission and the clients
- Importance of education of both staff and residents to change behaviors
- It's a team effort – both in identifying opportunities and in implementation
- Waste avoidance is better than waste reduction – think before you print, copy, etc.
- If you want something, ask for it! Create the demand for environmentally sustainable products.

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Our Partners

The green construction features and operations were made possible by the support and sponsorship of several key constituencies, including:

- Our Board of Trustees
- The New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency
- The Department of Community Affairs / Green Homes Program
- Rutgers Cooperative Purchasing Program
- The Prisco Group / Architect's Construction Group

Thanks!