



GILEAD
COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC
Improving Lives, Building Futures

SUMMER 2024

BALM OF GILEAD

ROAD TO RECOVERY

CELEBRATING CLIENTS

The client banquet is an annual tradition that gathers the agency to celebrate our amazing clients and have some fun!

This year's Mardi Gras theme celebration had over one hundred attendees. The committee decorated the space with colorful tablecloths, beads, feathers and masks. Some of the programs put their creativity to work and designed their own masks. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal and desserts together as we celebrated one another. We had music throughout the evening and danced the night away!



Program staff enjoy the celebration too!



The award ceremony is the highlight of the evening. Clients receive awards for the hard work they have done over the past year and their commitment to being the best version of themselves. It is amazing to hear about how hard people work every day to overcome different struggles. This part of the evening was truly inspiring!

It is events like this that bring us all closer and remind us that Gilead is a family.

By Shannon Brewer,
Clinical Department Director

ANCHORAGE ACHIEVEMENTS

A young man at Anchorage Home has achieved several milestones.

J.M. is a born leader, a positive role model, and always steps in to support others. He is an active member of the Special Olympics, where he excels at basketball and track and field, and has been training to be a Special Olympics coach. J.M. is a positive contributor to the community, where he actively participates in the local Fire Cadets program and was recently promoted to First Lieutenant. He also shares his love of basketball and assists in coaching a youth basketball team.

On June 5th, he graduated high school! The celebrations continued into that evening when J.M. earned the Leadership Award at Gilead's Client Banquet. His accomplishments will not stop there! Since graduation, he has continued to follow his goals and has already started his vocational skills training program. Please join us in congratulating this young man on his continued success!

By Jess Gallman,
Residential Program Director



Congratulations J.M.!

GOOD NEIGHBORS

WITH GRATITUDE

Gilead's invitation to the annual Gratitude Gathering featured a healthy tree with strong roots that run deep, anchoring the tree in place, supporting and feeding it.

On a lovely Friday evening in June, we gathered at Kalmia Gardens in Durham to celebrate all those who help make the Gilead tree flourish - one hundred volunteers, donors, staff, board and legacy members, who not only support and strengthen Gilead's mission, but do so much more! During our program, four speakers shared their experiences with Gilead as ambassadors of our mission and stewards of community.

Lucy McMillan, Chief Development Officer, spoke about the impact that her parents, Reds and Jane McMillan, had on Gilead – from serving on the board to helping create the endowment fund. “My parents helped develop strong, deep, far-reaching roots of philanthropy, kindness, and community building that have branched out and made meaningful differences in the lives of so many people. The power of their lives, of their setting down roots within this community has inspired so many others to become members of the Gilead family.”

One of those individuals impacted by Jane and Reds' philanthropy is Jean Monahan. Jean is a former board member who came to Gilead via Quizine, our annual fundraiser, almost 20 years ago. First as an attendee and then, after much coaxing, a Quizine dinner host. Jean spoke about her relationship with a Gilead client who has become like family. She encouraged others to consider mentoring clients and was met with a standing ovation.

We heard from Stacy Owens, who has worked at Gilead for over 18 years in Gilead's Finance department. She has volunteered at every Quizine since its inception, digs deep to support the agency with numerous donations throughout the year, and walks and fundraises for the annual road race. The amazing thing about Stacey is that her love of Gilead has inspired her family, co-workers and friends to fall in love with Gilead too!

Rob Snyder embodies Gilead values every day. Starting as a clinician over 30 years ago, Rob's love of data and his can-do attitude brought him to create Gilead's Quality Assurance department. Rob attends and fundraises for every event and has cultivated his friends and family to commit to the mission. Rob treats everyone with respect and builds community by listening, investing in others and showing up. Rob truly brings out the best in those around him.

We also welcomed our newest Legacy Society members, Ben Ludwig and Justin and Christine Salvio. Gilead's Legacy Society is a group of donors who have agreed to include Gilead in their estate planning. Their compassion and commitment to creating ripples of change will continue to impact the people we serve and our community now and for years to come!

By Denise Gable,
Director of Development



Our speakers all make our Gilead "tree" healthy and strong.



Lucy and Jean are also lifelong friends.



Stacey and her whole family are Gilead event pros!



Rob makes a positive impact on those he knows, from his staff to his family.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

MODERNIZING FOR BETTER CARE

Gilead was awarded two grants totaling \$176,844 through the Connecticut Nonprofit Grant program.

The Information Technology award will be used to upgrade and replace all the clinical laptops and monitors which will provide clinical staff with modern security functionality and more efficient productivity.

The Energy Conservation award will be used to waterproof the basement and upgrade the HVAC system at Gilead II in Middletown. These changes will preserve the foundation and balance out the heating and cooling system, improving the quality of life for the residents.

Gilead is so grateful to receive these generous awards that will enable us to make these improvements.

By Jennifer Peifer,
Grants and Community Engagement Coordinator

CULTURE CORNER

With a presence at Middletown's Juneteenth parade and celebrations at programs, Gilead is sharing and embracing cultural diversity.

Gateway Community Treatment celebrated a great Brazilian tradition called "Festa de São João" for the second consecutive year. The festivity is extremely popular in all urban areas especially in the Northeast of Brazil and it happens every June during the time of the corn harvest. The celebration features traditional clothing, food and dance particularly "quadrilha" which is similar to a square dance.

By Maria-Adriana Coler,
Program Director



ADDITIONAL GRANTS AT A GLANCE...

\$95,000 from **Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services** AARPA funds for Gilead II and SCAP program improvements.

\$6,120 from **Workers' Compensation Trust** for traction device shoe covers for staff.

\$3,500 from the **Town of Westbrook** to support their residents receiving outpatient clinic services in Middletown & Chester.

\$2,000 from **Essex Community Foundation** to subsidize outpatient services for residents of Essex, Ivoryton and Centerbrook.



Gilead marched in Middletown's second annual Juneteenth Parade. Staff, clients, and board members joined the festivities in downtown Middletown in our colorful "Who Will You Move For?" shirts. It was a record hot day, but our parade squad persevered with smiles!

Juneteenth marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, TX in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people were freed. This arrival came a full two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth honors the end to slavery in the United States and is considered the longest running African American holiday.

Staff expressed interest in Gilead's participation in cultural community events like these. **As we further our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, we hope to embrace more cultural traditions both in and out of our programs.**

By Marcella Micillo,
Development Coordinator

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CAN GILEAD KICK IT? YES WE CAN!

Gilead I and Gilead II are on a mission to have fun and start a new Gilead tradition.



Team "Straight Ballin'" represented Gilead I.

On June 21st, the **New Kicks on the Block** and **Straight Ballin** competed in the first ever kickball game between programs. Each team recruited players from different departments including staff from other programs and administration. Clients from each program picked team names and jersey colors, and every player got a chance to pick their jersey number and name.

Our very own "coach," Kareem Grant, Recovery Assistant, outlined the rules of the game before we kicked things off. On this hot day in June, the teams hit the field for an abbreviated, four-inning game. At the end, **New Kicks on the Block** were victorious against **Straight Ballin**. No matter the winner, everyone enjoyed the chance to get out, be active, and have a little fun!



Kareem explains the rules of the game.

"We try to do activities with clients that are outside of the norm," said Camille Roach, Residential Program Director about the choice to play kickball. Camille's program staff at Gilead I and Gilead II organized the game and the cookout after. She hopes that this starts an annual tradition and maybe something even bigger. "Maybe next year Gilead I and Gilead II can play against two other programs?" Sounds like a fun challenge to look forward to!

By Marcella Micillo,
Development Coordinator



ROAD TO RECOVERY

WELCOME TO THE BRIDGE PROGRAM

In collaboration with Oak Hill, Gilead's newest program opens its doors.

On Friday, July 19th the staff at The Bridge Program hosted an open house for Gilead and Oak Hill staff and board members. Staff members at the program welcomed guests with delicious homemade food and tours of the new living space.

The Bridge Program is a collaboration between Gilead and Oak Hill. The program is for individuals with co-occurring mental health challenges and intellectual disabilities. Gilead staff will provide residential services, clinical support, and day-programming while Oak Hill staff will provide nursing and a behavioral specialist. The original name of the program - Community Transitional Residence - was changed to The Bridge Program after a naming contest within the agency.

The Bridge Program will house three clients who will learn the skills to transition into more permanent housing in the community. The new facility is fully furnished with private bedrooms, a new bathroom, laundry facilities, game room, a communal living space, and a new kitchen.

This is an exciting new addition to both Gilead and Oak Hill programming and creates a much needed model of care for individuals needing both mental health care and other disability services.

LOOKING FOR MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING?

Gilead is offering FREE Mental Health First Aid training to our community!

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is a skills-based course that gives people the tools to identify, understand, and respond to someone who might be struggling with a mental health or substance use challenge. MHFA training, like CPR, is designed for anyone - no clinical experience necessary! **Thanks to a generous grant from The Cigna Group Foundation, Gilead is able to provide this training for FREE to our community.**

Interested in MHFA? Please contact jpeifer@gileadcs.org or visit www.gileadcs.org for more information.



The Bridge Program has support from Gilead, Oak Hill, and the Department of Developmental Services.



Wendi Blakey leads a tour of the new program.



Program staff started cooking at 6am to prepare for the open house!



Gilead CEO Dan Osborne leads a MHFA training at First Church in Middletown.



GILEAD
COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC
Improving Lives, Building Futures

222 Main Street Extension
P.O. Box 1000
Middletown, CT 06457
(860) 343-5300
gileadcs@gileadcs.org
www.gileadcs.org



“Like” us on Facebook

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #543
Middletown, CT

UPCOMING EVENTS

**19th Annual
Quizine for a Cause!
Oct. 27th**



WISH LIST

Toothbrushes & toothpaste
New socks
Soap
Books about smart recovery, refuge recovery, or holistic
healing
Kitchen items
Small kitchen appliances
E-readers/tablets

Please note that according to Gilead policy, we cannot accept used clothing, upholstered furniture, bedding, or mattresses. Thank you for understanding!

**Please contact Marcella Micillo at 475-321-2735 or mmicillo@gileadcs.org if you wish to donate an item from the wish list.*

Gilead Community Services is funded in part by



Most of Gilead Community Service programs are CARF-accredited

