



Executive Director's Corner

Addiction is a cancer...

In the movie "Traffic" (2000), Michael Douglas, the "Drug Czar" whose teenage daughter is a heroin addict convenes his staff of the "best and brightest" to create policy regarding the "drug" problem. He implores his staff to think "outside of the box" in creating solutions-programs, new methods of intervention, new means of prevention and education. There is an uncomfortable and ultimately sad silence. No one says anything. There are no answers, just new problems. As Dr. Ted Dushan, a former Swampscott pediatrician and one of the founders of Project COPE in 1970 used to tell me "This is not a drug problem. This is a people problem." Ted was right.

We know treatment works...

Addiction is not a war, it is a cancer; and it needs to be approached the way we approach any disease: with creativity, money, science and especially compassion. In my 25 years of experience in the addictions field, I have never met a person whose life goal was to become a drug addict. Addiction is a complex, progressive and, if left untreated, fatal disease that victimizes hundreds of individuals and families in our community. What we do know is that treatment works, and with the right structure and supports, long-term recovery is not only possible but probable.

Help support the miracle of treatment...

Project COPE has a long history of providing addiction treatment services in the Lynn community. I am very excited to about our current project of converting a former nursing home located on 66 Johnson Street into a new residence for women who are in treatment for substance abuse disorders. We have been working on the project for over two years, and I am pleased to report that construction has started with an anticipated opening date of this fall. I would like to acknowledge the contributions and support of the St. Jeans Credit Union, and the Lynn Housing Authority, as well as several donors who have made significant contributions to the project. We still are looking for an additional \$100,000 to fully complete the renovations. If you are interested in supporting the "miracle" of treatment, please consider making a gift to support our new home for women.

Thank you.

Mark S. Kennard
Executive Director
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