

# Alumni Newsletter

## UPDATE

I am sure many of you have heard that our DSHS funds for indigent clients have been reduced for next year. We have actually gotten some of the funds back, and have made budget adjustments to account for the remainder of the short-fall. While this situation is not optimum, you should know that Charlie's Place will continue to operate as always, but wait times may be a bit longer. God continues to look out for Charlie's Place, and we will continue to look after those who need our help.

## Another first for Charlie's Place....?

Since all our staff is used to dealing with a lot of "out of the ordinary" issues and circumstances, not a lot surprises us anymore. But once in a while something happens at Charlie's Place that really stands out. We all scratch our heads and wonder "has that ever happened before?" In April of this year just such an incident occurred.

In March of this year, we took in a client C.B. (not a real name) that had a vision impairment requiring a service dog. This is not that unusual for us, since we try our best to help anyone who asks, and we have had other special needs clients with issues ranging from hearing impairment to language barriers. But I'm not sure any of

the staff actually remember having a service dog at Charlie's Place. Of course, since none of us have been around since the old days, no one is totally sure. However, since the client and the dog "J.J." (also not a real name) did so well here and successfully completed treatment, the treatment staff decided when the client graduated in April, the dog deserved a graduation certificate too.

Now to my knowledge, this is a real first, and I've not found anyone who remembers Charlie's Place ever having a dog complete treatment and graduate. So, I can only wonder what new "first" may be next. Our congratulations to C.B. and J. J.

J.J. (not his real name) is now a really proud graduate of Charlie's Place as you can see from the photo (not really him). He became one of the family while he was here, and all the staff wish him and his owner all the best.



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## News you can use....



Volunteers worked in teams to come up with a new design for the alumni shirts. This t-shirt design is the winner of the contest. All of the entries were really great, making it a tough decision for the Judges. Buy one and support the alumni.

## A bit more....

- ⇒ If anyone is interested in chairing the monthly birthday night meeting please contact Jennifer at [jspencer@cbadrc.org](mailto:jspencer@cbadrc.org) or Debbie at [dtownzen@cbadrc.org](mailto:dtownzen@cbadrc.org)
- ⇒ Alumni shirts are in and going fast. Get yours for \$15 at the admissions desk. Also, some of the alumni are also selling them ( Lou G., Bobby S. and Martin C.).
- ⇒ Help us recruit all your friends who went through Charlie's Place to be in the alumni. The only requirement is that you were once a client at Charlie's Place (discharge status not an issue after 90 days).
- ⇒ Look us up on facebook and become a fan!!! Tell your friends!!! There is a fan link on our website [www.charliesplaceonline.com](http://www.charliesplaceonline.com)

## Norman's Corner

The first day of summer has already arrived. The times of beach parties, fishing trips and family barbeques in the backyard. Unfortunately, these are times and occasions when the beer and drugs come out to be shared and to make the party worthwhile.

For many people this is a true statement.

They are able to have a few cold ones, or smoke a doobie, do a line and continue with their lives the next day.

As for the rest of us, well, these are dangerous and deadly times for us. The encouragement of friends and family members who do not understand the disease of addiction is an easy trap for us to become ensnared in, leaving us with the results that are sometimes fatal and always brutal.

These are times

when our recovery will be put to the test. These occasions can be viewed as an opportunity to grow and to practice new found skills and behaviors we never knew we possessed. Or, they can be an excuse to return to old behaviors and then blame it on the family members who lured us into the traps.

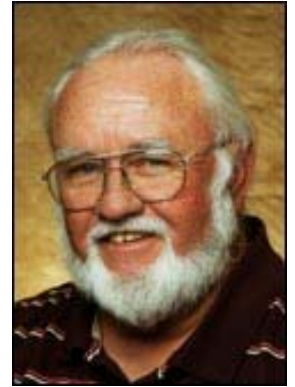
It is at these times when our recovery must come first and foremost. We may have to risk the chance of hurting some family members' feelings by not attending the function. We may have to bring another person who is in our recovery along with us to the barbeque. We may have to announce to our friends and family that we can only stay for a specified period of time and then we must leave. We should always call

our sponsor before making any decision to attend or not to attend the function. We could easily return to the horrors of our addiction due to the insistence of friends and family members. But we can also listen to the insistence of our new friends and recovery family members who tell us we do not have to use "No Matter what."

I hope and pray we all have a fun and safe summer this year. I also pray that we all keep our recovery first so we will be able to enjoy more summers in our lives.

Well, cherished readers, I enjoyed your visit to Norman's corner today and do not forget, I will always be in your corner.

-Norman S.



Norman has been with Charlie's Place since 1997 and his 12-step groups are well known for breaking down the steps and explaining them to the newcomer.

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*"The encouragement of friends and family members who do not understand the disease of addiction is an easy trap for us to become ensnared in."*

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# Crossing the Stage

## A graduating client gives some perspective on leaving treatment

There is no doubt in my mind when I began to think that Charlie's Place is "God Sent". The walls here are filled with faith, hope and love. Faith in recovery, hope for brighter days and love for ourselves and for one another. Walking through these doors, burned out and broken, Charlie's Place welcomed me with open arms. Since day one, everyone from the front desk to the administration staff, from techs to counselors, from detox to residential and everyone else in between has been kind and helpful. People here truly did love

and care about me, and continue to do so while I learn to love and care about myself. They are always willing to listen to our words, to our needs and to offer a helping hand. And all are working towards the same goal, to serve and to help others recover who suffer from the disease of addiction. I must express a special appreciation for our counselors. Their hard work, dedication and love shine through them like the sun. Their knowledge and wisdom about the disease of addiction has shown me that I can live life without

having to drink and use drugs. The assignments and suggestions that have been given to me have not only helped me understand my disease, but have helped me understand myself. I have learned that I do have the courage to face this addiction head on and that, with my Higher Power, I do have the strength to work through it for a better life. I have learned more about myself here than I ever have before. Charlie's Place has given me hope where before there was nothing but darkness. For this, I will be forever grateful with all my heart.

-Dina P.



**The real work begins after you graduate.**

# Behind the Scenes

## Non-treatment staff help keep it all working.

Hi! My name is Rosie Calderon. My experience here at Charlie's Place started way before I started working here. My husband Geno was a client here many years ago. He passed away in October of 2000 and if it weren't for all the friends I made here at Charlie's Place, mostly through my husband, I would have had a much harder time. But I got through it and started working here about 9 years ago. I started at the receptionist desk at the old Charlie's on Country Club. I worked very close with Norman Spells back then.

We were a team!!! I would call people on the wait list and Norman would admit them. It was a very satisfying job. I got to see people make such big changes for the better from the time they got here to the time they left. A few months later an opening came up in accounting. I had some experience in accounting so I applied and got the position. Shortly after that my mom passed away unexpectedly, and again I had friends and co-workers here for support. Getting this position

was a blessing because back then it was Lisa B. and me in accounting so we were super busy all the time. I have learned so much from her over the years I've worked with her. In the last 9 years Charlie's has grown so much, accounting now has 4 staff. Yes, I have experienced a lot of loss in a short time, but Charlie's is not only where I work, it also feels like home.

-Rosie C.



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*Some of the staff, like Rosie, work behind the scenes at Charlie's Place. Even though they are not directly involved in treatment, they are essential to our operation and often have a personal connection with addiction and recovery.*

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# New Additions

## Aftercare group

Aftercare is a vital part of the total treatment experience. It allows clients leaving treatment to continue to return to a familiar environment for peer assistance in transitioning back into the "real world". Most treatment centers have aftercare programs, and even though Charlie's Place has had aftercare from time to

time, there has always been some budget crunch or staffing issue that has caused it to go by the wayside until another one could be started up again.

Well, here we are again. Staff recognizes the importance of this aspect of treatment, and we are once again beginning an aftercare group. The new group will

meet every Wednesday from 6:00 pm till 7:30 pm. starting on July 14th. The group is free for all discharged clients, and hopefully we'll see some of you there who have been out a while. Linda Hinojosa will be the facilitator, and the meetings will be in the Founders Club off the main lobby. Coffee and snacks will be provided.



**Linda Hinojosa is a Counselor Intern at Charlie's and will be the Aftercare coordinator.**

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Visit us online at [www.charliesplaceonline.com/](http://www.charliesplaceonline.com/)

## How do I get someone into treatment?

Know someone who is the life of the party and it is going to be the death of them? Think Charlie's may be the answer? Well you are on the right track. First two things to do are find out if the person is willing, and make the phone call. When a potential client calls he/she will be asked some questions about use, age, medical, and insurance. Charlie's is non profit and we do not take insurance as payment. If the person meets criteria at this point we will schedule them for a screening with one of our counselors. Cost of treatment is \$1750 for Detox and

\$4500 for 30 day residential services. Do not get discouraged if there are no funds, we do have some state funded beds. A person can try to qualify for state funding to cover the cost of the bed, however there is a wait list involved. Waiting times for state funding vary and can be anywhere from a week to a month depending on priority. For more information or to schedule a screening please feel free to call us at 361-826-5350. We will be more than happy to answer any additional questions.



*Debbie J.*

**Do you know someone who needs help?**



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**GET A FRIEND TO SIGN UP FOR ALUMNI**

**Join by e-mailing information to [alumni@cbadrc.org](mailto:alumni@cbadrc.org)**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SOBRIETY DATE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: Charlie's Place Alumni Assoc.  
P.O. Box 4996, Corpus Christi, TX 78469-4996