

# STRAIGHT news

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## CHC Clubhouse helps in prevention of AOD

Contributed by Adam Feltes,  
CHC Board of Directors

With nearly 1.5 million Americans suffering Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injuries per year, TBI and ABI is quickly becoming the fastest growing epidemic in the United States. Here at the Community Health Center, with our merger with Ballinger TBI Clubhouse, we are proud to be a front runner in addressing the needs of people who have experienced a brain injury. Furthermore, the merger is a significant one because of the direct correlation between Acquired Brain Injuries and Alcohol and Other Drug addictions (AOD).

James, a member of the TBI Clubhouse, recounts his story of how he received his brain injury.

"Before my brain Injury, I would try any and every drug; in fact I began drinking when I was ten." One day after leaving a bar drunk, James walked in front of a moving truck and sustained a serious brain injury. "Now, I don't even smoke," James tells people proudly. "When I wake

up in the morning, I'm excited to go to the Clubhouse. Otherwise I would be at home watching TV." James is not the only Clubhouse member to fight addiction; many members have a similar story. Clubhouse unit coordinator, Eric First, explains, "Our goal is to set up a support network for our members to reduce the risk of relapses occurring."

Brain injuries don't just happen as a result of AOD like in James' case, but the temptation of falling into addiction for a person with no prior history of AOD is also very prevalent. Oftentimes, when dealing with a new disability, people will become depressed and turn to alcohol or other drugs as a means of coping. By decreasing the isolation felt by many people after a brain injury we are reducing the risk of AOD and also addressing the mental health needs of our members.

Treating underserved populations has always been our goal at CHC and we are proudly continuing our mission of prevention and treatment with the Ballinger TBI Clubhouse. To learn more about the Clubhouse visit [www.ballingerclubhouse.org](http://www.ballingerclubhouse.org).



Jan Seibel, program manager and Jim Perge, supervising lead teacher of the Akron Alternative Academy stand with Farren Murphy after he was recognized in July for his work with the students.

## Academy recognizes Murphy's impact

The "Making a Difference" award was presented for the first time by the Akron Alternative Academy during their graduation ceremony this past July.

The award recipient, Farren Murphy, was chosen by the Alternative Academy's administration staff-Jim Perge, Jan Seibel, and Bill DiMascio. Murphy is a case manager at CHC assigned to the school which is designed for non-traditional high school students, ages 16-21.

In the presentation speech Perge explained the newly established award was presented to an individual in the community that has made a major contribution to student success.

"Farren Murphy came to our school this year and from the onset, made a major impact on our students by engaging them, providing direction and support, and promoting positive behaviors," Perge said. "Farren will do whatever it takes to get the job done, whether that means taking kids to their drug and alcohol treatment, mental health or doctor appointments. He also helps the kids find housing and job interviews in addition to running groups and working individually with the students on a personal level. He keeps it real and gets it done."

To learn more, visit [www.akronschools.com](http://www.akronschools.com).

## 'Help Is Here Express' tour visits Akron

The national "Help is Here Express" bus tour visited the Community Health Center Family Practice on August 12 to help uninsured and financially-struggling citi-

zens access prescription medicines for free or nearly free.

The organizers reported that the Akron

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## HOUSING NEWS

### Continuum of Care Awards, continuation of important programs

The Ohio Multi-County Development Corporation (OMCDC), a sister organization of CHC, received funding awards from the Summit County Continuum of Care/ U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The funding will renew two successful housing programs under the OMCDC housing umbrella to include: \$219,000 for Hope 1 and \$349,000 for Meadowlark Lane. This two-year renewal will ensure operations and supportive services to those residents will continue. "Residents in our housing receive more than just a roof over his/her heads. They receive full support from CHC and OMCDC staff through constructive dialogue, case management and other services for their needs so they can move into totally independent homes," commented Corliss Newsome, associate director of OMCDC.

### Fox Creek, newest housing program

Opened earlier in 2008, Fox Creek is the latest housing program offered by OMCDC. This program is made up of two group homes for eight residents scattered in the Akron Area. Fox Creek is designed for individuals living with disabilities. This type of housing is in such demand that by the time the renovation was complete, both group homes were at full occupancy.

All residents in OMCDC housing comply by a traditional lease and pay 30% of their gross income or \$25 per month in rent. The OMCDC operates in nine counties and is the managing partner of 250+ units of Community Health Center housing, working cooperatively with the Community Health Center to ensure residents maintain recovery and adhere to a treatment plan. For more information about OMCDC visit [www.omcdc.org](http://www.omcdc.org).



The team from Buckeye Community Health Plan were the winners at the 2008 Golf Classic. Todd McCollough, Steve Bailey, John Creer and Shane Franks.

# Golf Classic receives record support

On August 18, over one hundred golfers came together to support the mission of Community Health Center at our 7th annual Golf Classic. This year the outing found a new home at Fairlawn Country Club and exceeded our guests' expectations. "We had a great time! The volunteers, staff and course were great," commented Todd McCollough, part of the winning team from Buckeye Community Health Plan.

Sixty community leaders and businesses joined our presenting sponsors, The Alpha

Group Agency and J.P. Morgan Chase, in supporting this year's event. "Introducing new people to the CHC was very exciting," remarked Ron Kara, 2008 Golf Classic Chair. In total, we raised over \$42,000 for the vital substance abuse treatment and prevention programs offered by the CHC.

Mark your calendar for our 2009 Golf Classic at Fairlawn Country Club—Monday, August 17, 2009. It's never too early to pledge your support for next year! Contact Rachel D'Attoma at 330.315.3770 for more information.

#### THANK YOU TO THE 2008 MAJOR SPONSORS:

- Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing
- Commercial Building Services
- Summit County ADM Board
- Buckeye Community Health Plan



# Local pilot visits CHC

Ohio native and career pilot has a heart for the everyday customer

Community Health Center hosted Captain Denny Flanagan of United Airlines at a staff training on customer service in September. Capt. Flanagan gained recognition nationally for his one-of-a-kind customer service as a pilot with United Airlines and has been featured on the Today Show, Good Morning America and many other major news programs. He has a “work from the heart” philosophy which leads him to do many extraordinary things, from doing on-flight raffles with passengers to buying cheeseburgers for guests whose flight was canceled.

“We invited him to our agency because our patients *are our customers*. Sometimes in your daily interactions you forget that, but we want our staff to remember to always go above and beyond. Their personal contact with them can make an impact on their recovery,” explained Maureen Keating, director of women & family services and



After his presentation to CHC staff, Capt. Denny Flanagan makes a special trip to KidSpace to give the kids a flying lesson.

chair of CHC’s training committee.

Flanagan, a native of Richfield and a retired Navy pilot, has true compassion for his customers and profession. “We all feel hardships, and I have many friends who have lost their jobs at United because of 9/11 and the economy. I felt it was my mission to help my colleagues get their jobs back and show our customers why they should continue to trust and fly with us,” explained Flanagan.

“Likewise, as a captain of an aircraft, it is my job to set the tone with my crew and inspire them to do great things.”

His enthusiasm is quite contagious. In fact, he helped many of our staff look at their jobs in a different light. “I feel inspired by Capt. Denny’s story and we too often forget who our customers are and fail to thank them,” commented one staff member.

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stop was the most well attended event in Ohio. “We’re excited to be the Akron host of the ‘Help is Here Express’ for the second time since 2006,” said Ted Ziegler, CEO of CHC. “This is a very beneficial program for the hundreds of patients we serve every day as well as other citizens in need.”

The bus tour is part of the Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA)—a nationwide effort sponsored by America’s pharmaceutical research companies to raise awareness of patient assistance programs and the need to effectively address the rising and alarming rates of chronic disease.

When the “Help is Here Express” moves on, patients can visit PPA’s website at [www.pparx.org](http://www.pparx.org) or call 1.888.4PPA.NOW where trained operators can assist consumers.

## STRAIGHT news

Straight News is a publication of the Community Health Center and the Community Health Center Foundation.

Ideas for articles are welcome and should be addressed to the Editor at: 702 East Market St., Akron, OH 44305 330.315.3715

CHC and CHC Foundation are equal opportunity employers and providers of services.

Theodore P. Ziegler, CEO

Editor: Chrissy Lockhart

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The Community Health Center facilities and services are certified by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations



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702 East Market St.  
Akron, OH 44305

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