

## Director's Report

The vital work of Corner House is only possible thanks to our many "connections" throughout the community. It all begins with the many volunteers who support our efforts—the Corner House Foundation, the Princeton Alcohol and Drug Alliance, Corner House Student Board, and the newly created Corner House Board. These individuals devote countless hours to our fundraising events, our community education programs, and our numerous "alternative" activities for our young people in Princeton. Their help and advice allow us to serve the community more effectively.

Our student peer leaders from the Teen Advisory Group, GAIA, and Peer to Peer, "connect" us to what's happening with the adolescents and teens we serve in our prevention programs. These students wonderfully represent the diverse Princeton community and are boundless in their enthusiasm and insight into what teens want and need to cope with the challenges of today's hectic and often troubling times. They are outstanding peer educators and excellent role models in their schools.

The strength of Corner House truly

lies in our exceptional professional, administrative, and support staff and their "connections" to the people we serve in our treatment and prevention programs. These dedicated individuals work steadfastly and passionately each day to help teens and their families confront the realities of substance use, abuse, and addiction. The struggles are many, but the rewards are great as we watch young people build positive self-image, stay in school, and redirect their energies away from a drug-centered lifestyle.

Corner House "connects" throughout the community; with the Public Library, HiTOPS, the elementary, middle and high schools, the Princeton Human Services Department, the Princeton Recreation Department, University Medical Center at Princeton, the local Y's, Princeton University, the Eating Clubs, Committed Princetonians, —the list goes on and on.

Thank you for "connecting" with us. We appreciate your financial support and promise that your dollars will be used to provide the best and most needed services for the adolescents and young adults in our community.

Gary J. De Blasio, MS, CEAP  
*Executive Director*

# Corner House

Counseling  
Center for  
Adolescents,  
Young Adults,  
and  
Their Families



## 2006 Report

**Connected to the community through  
prevention • education • treatment  
counseling • peer leadership • peer modeling**



## Serving the Community Since 1972

**Our Mission:** *Through prevention, education, and treatment programs, Corner House promotes the health and well-being of Princeton area young people and their families, as they confront substance abuse and other emotional issues.*

Established 34 years ago as a joint agency of Princeton Borough and Township, Corner House, a non-profit counseling center for adolescents, young adults, and their families, has been the leading force in the community's response to substance abuse and youth crisis issues. As in the beginning, we remain dedicated to providing quality programs in a warm, friendly, and supportive environment. **Our treatment and prevention programs are open to the entire community and no one is ever turned away because they are unable to pay for services.**

In order to keep programs operational and meet the pressing needs of our clientele, Corner House relies on the generous financial support of individuals and corporations. All donations and contributions help subsidize essential services not covered by client fees, insurance, and public funding (which includes Princeton Township and Borough, the NJ Department of Human Services Division of Addiction Services, Mercer County Department of Human Services, Mercer County Juvenile Drug Court, Princeton Regional Schools, Mercer County Youth Services Commission, and Cranbury Township).

**FACT:** During the past year, Corner House clinicians conducted 2,645 individual and family sessions and 1,258 groups. A full 73 percent of the 248 new clients had no health insurance for treatment services provided.

Corner House clinical programs provide substance abuse treatment services along a continuum of care. Our master's level clinicians offer individual, group, and family counseling. Services include:

- Comprehensive Alcohol and Drug Evaluations/Treatment
- Early Intervention Programs
- Adolescent Outpatient Program
- Aftercare Groups
- Latino Men's and Women's Groups
- Latino Couple's Group
- College Student Support Group
- Drug Court Treatment Program for Adolescents/Adults

Corner House is licensed by the State of New Jersey Department of Human Services as an Ambulatory Care Facility. Clients range in age from 11 to 35; some individuals self-refer; others are referred by local schools, the courts and law enforcement, the religious community, or by an array of public and private health and human service agencies in the Princeton area and beyond.

**FACT:** Our 56 peer leaders represent all 4 public and private high schools in Princeton. Through their programs and role-modeling, they impact 1,000s of teens each year.

Corner House prevention programs strive to turn the challenges of adolescence into opportunities for growth. Designed to be fun and educational, our programs stress:

- healthy decision-making skills
- coping techniques
- positive self-image
- substance abuse refusal skills for everyday living.

**Academic Success Today** mentoring program for students in grades 6-8. **Growing-up Accepted As An Individual In America (GAIA)** peer leaders promote acceptance and harmony throughout schools and the community. **Nuestra Voz (Our Voice)** outreach program for Latina high school girls and their mothers.

**Peer To Peer** student leaders from John Witherspoon Middle School conduct prevention workshops.

**Super Teens Acting Responsibly (STAR)** support groups for "at risk" middle school girls.

**Teen Advisory Group** peer leaders develop and deliver substance abuse prevention education workshops.

**Transitions** support groups focus on the academic and social challenges of starting high school.

**World of Work for Youth (WOWY)** teaches job preparation strategies and practical life skills. Funded by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

**FACT:** Corner House programs connect with every segment of the public—teens, parents, teachers, school administrators, law enforcement, mental health professionals, businesses, the library and other service organizations—all working together for the betterment of our community.

Corner House community outreach programs address matters specific to adolescents and their families—from parenting issues to addiction.

- Alternative Activities for middle and high school students that are "cool" & alcohol- and drug-free. Events are spearheaded by the Corner House Student Board.
- Relevant Parent Forums presented with the Princeton Alcohol and Drug Alliance.
- The Harriet Robertson Community and Family Resource Center offers videos, books, and other materials on alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, and a range of family-related issues.

Corner House also provides:

- Crisis Response – As a joint agency of Princeton Borough and Princeton Township, Corner House staff members are available to assist with the community's response to emergency/crisis situations.
- Employee Assistance Program services to Princeton Township employees.

To protect the privacy of our clients, Corner House student volunteers from our prevention programs appear in uncaptioned photos, with permission.

Graphic design by Patrick Lyons/Lyons Graphics • Written by Marian Levine • Photographs by Melissa Levine

Corner House Foundation is a private 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds to support essential agency activities.

**Corner House**  
Counseling  
Center for  
Adolescents,  
Young Adults,  
and  
Their Families

369 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, NJ 08540  
[www.cornerhousenj.org](http://www.cornerhousenj.org)

Monday through Thursday 9 am to 9 pm  
Friday 9 am to 5 pm  
For further information or to make a referral,  
call 609-924-8018

## Brand New at Corner House!

This year, Corner House launched the *Princeton Youth Project*, a comprehensive community-wide, prevention/intervention effort to reduce/eliminate juvenile delinquency and gang involvement. An Outreach Coordinator oversees the project and works directly with the youth one-on-one to empower them and provide opportunities for them to refocus their energies toward new and healthier pursuits. Program components include mentoring, tutoring, and employment services. This project is made possible through financial support from Princeton Borough, Princeton Township, the Mercer County Division of Youth Services, the J. Seward Johnson Foundation, and the Scheide Fund.

In June 2006, Corner House celebrated with “graduates” of Princeton’s first *Strengthening Families Program*. This intensive 14-week prevention program teaches the communication skills and boundary-setting techniques necessary to enhance relationships within the family. At graduation, the participants reflected on the outstandingly positive impact

SFP has had on the quality of their family life; increased understanding, better cooperation, and more fun! The Strengthening Families Program is ongoing. Funded by the NJ Division of Addiction Services.



*Strengthening Families Graduation Celebration, June 2006.*

Speed! Flight! Exploration! Students from John Witherspoon Middle School discovered a new “alternative” activity aimed at combating after school boredom and examining exciting career options in the sciences. At the *Science and Engineering Club*, projects are hands-on and challenge the students weekly. Funded by a grant from the Seymour Bogdonoff Scholarship Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation.

**One hundred percent of all donations given to Corner House Foundation go directly to the agency’s treatment and prevention programs.**

**Our current fundraising goal is \$250,000**

# 2005-2006 Campaign

*Corner House thanks every one of its contributors during the past year. We couldn't do it without you.*

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