



a discovery house newsletter

DOORWAYS

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the AMTA plan

We've heard them all before... cliché's. Some are cheesy and corny, some trite and overused. However, Some hold universal truths, such as, "There is no I in TEAM" and "A chain is only as strong as its weakest link." Then there are others which just need a little twist to add extra emphasis or meaning. As many of you already know, David L. Piccoli II is particularly fond of "If it ain't broke, break it and make it better!" Well, at the 2000 AMTA Conference in San Francisco these cliché's found new meaning.

Each clinic, in turn, brought them to life, and rather than being trite, they ended up being our mantras.

"All of us can see and feel how DISCOVERY HOUSE is a real leader in the field."

– John DeStefano
Director,
Portland clinic

The feeling of "team work" was evident through the entire conference. David L. Piccoli II, Vice president of DH remarked, "It was clear to me that each director has the same values. DISCOVERY HOUSE's philosophy, mission and commitment to our patients is each clinic's goal."

Each director came to AMTA prepared to give a presentation on his or her clinic. "The fact that all of our directors not only had well planned and organized presentations, but were all convinced that they were going to win the prize for having the number one program gave me a very special feeling" said Rick Froncillo of the Home Office Team. Rick further stated that "continuity" was the word to best describe the conference. "For the first time I can honestly say I witnessed all of our clinics speaking the same language."

The first day began at 8:30 am with the first presentation, each director ready for business. 11 presentations and nearly 8 hours later, a feeling of family was shared. Each director echoed the words of Steven Gumbley, director of the Woonsocket clinic, when he
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Cappuccino Anyone?

It's been unusually quiet here at Home Office for about 2 months now. No more whipping, grinding, steaming noises followed by the smell of espresso. No more daily Italian lessons or quick, cheesy jokes from what we affectionately refer to as "the closet" office. And the sweet melodic voice of Sarah McLaughlin no longer fills the air.

For those of you who haven't guessed, or heard yet, SmartWest is back out west. Callum Grieve, better known to us all as Cal, has returned to his wife Dina and home in California, and Home Office just hasn't been the same since.

With this article, we wanted to both pay tribute to, and thank Callum and Dina for all of their countless hours of help and support. They were responsible for so much growth and opportunity in this family and we are reminded daily of their absence.

Whether it was just a quick smile and hello, the sound and smells of little Italy or hours of support, Callum was always there, smiling and helpful. Thank you Cal, for your selflessness and commitment to our patients, clinics and family. Thank you, for putting your life and plans on hold to help us reach our goals and work toward our dream. You touched each member of this family during your stay, and your generosity has left a mark on each of us. You are truly missed, more than you know.

We wish you well in all your endeavors and want you to know you are ALWAYS a part of the family here, no one could ever fill the void you left behind!

Endless Thanks,
The Team at Home Office



DOORWAYS WELCOMES A NEW EDITOR,

When David Piccoli, II approached me to be a part of the Doorways Newsletter, I was quite honored. Having worked as a graphic design consultant for SMART Management through my company GLAD WORKS for the past 4 years, I have been involved in numerous projects that I'm sure most of you have come across.

Gina L. DiSpirito

My portfolio boasts all of the AMTA materials such as the threefold mailers that were sent out prior to the conferences right down to the recent gallery posters featuring the SMART thumb print. We also developed

SMART's new high-tech website and will be working on a new look for the Discovery House site in the months to come.

As we spoke about this newsletter and this latest issue, David felt it important to recognize the wonderful influence of its last editor, Callum Grieve. I, of course, worked very closely with Cal over the last few years and feel as though I have quite a big pair of shoes to fill in taking on this project. My goal is to work with and get to know all of you better in order to keep up the standards which he has set. I will look to you for inspiration and new ideas, and will welcome your involvement in this transition!

Fittingly, we are currently calling for anyone who is interested to join in and be a part of the Doorways editorial staff. I can use tons of creativity, enthusiasm and insight from people who are entrenched in the industry. If you are interested in participating, or even if you simply have some suggestions, please contact me at 401-729-6181 or at gina@gladworks.com ASAP so that we can begin working on our next issue. I look forward to receiving your feedback and hearing from all of you!

Sincerely,
Gina L. DiSpirito
GLAD WORKS

the AMTA plan (continued from cover)

remarked that "the best part of the directors training was the opportunity to meet and talk with other directors. I was able to see that some of the problematic issues in my clinic were also shared by other clinics."

Many issues received special attention as they came up multiple times during the presentations. Patients, quality of care, and physical plant issues were on the top of the list. No one could dispute the importance of clinic appearance and how it affects the patient when he/she enters. The way that they feel about the clinic itself is crucial to how they feel about their treatment.

It seemed as though by the end of the conference, the idea of a united "team" had not only taken shape, but had taken hold and immersed as the overwhelming theme. Denise Howard, director of the Providence clinic, emphatically stated, "I was proud to be a part of the team." She continued by saying that AMTA "reinforced that the people I work for are supportive and interested in helping me to refine my skills."

Michael Carruthers said it best when he summed up the closing energy of the attendees. "I was especially touched

"I cannot describe in words the joy I felt and the strength I gained from fellowshiping with people who have so much in common through the vision we share."

– Walter Filmore
Lake County Indiana

by the sincere and creative presentations done by our Clinic Directors. The enthusiasm and energy level clearly show why DISCOVERY HOUSE is the Center for Recovery and Hope. I believe we all boarded our departing planes feeling a renewed sense of respect, team work and commitment to being the best substance abuse facilities in the world."

As we close on yet another successful conference, the team at home office would like to extend it's thanks to those of you who made it all possible. To quote another cliché, You were "the stars of the show". You all did a great job and, keeping with the family theme, thank you for making the Home Office the proudest parent in the field! Through all of your individual efforts we are truly creating a family out of a corporation!