

The Counseling Center of
Wayne & Holmes Counties
2285 Benden Drive
Wooster, OH 44691

CENTER UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2015

DERUE RECEIVES SHINING LIGHT AWARD



Diane DeRue, MPA, LSW

Congratulations to Diane DeRue, Vice President of Rehabilitation and Recovery, who was the recipient of the 2015 Shining Light Award. The award is presented annually by the Mental Health and Recovery Board to an individual who has made a significant difference to those in our community living with mental illness and/or substance use disorders. When presenting the award, Judy Wortham Wood, Executive Director of the MHRB, noted DeRue's many accomplishments during her more than 25 years tenure at The Counseling Center.

DeRue worked to transition long term residents of state hospitals to the community and to establish housing for them locally. She established the local National Alliance on Mental Illness chapter, launched a Compeer program to match those with mental illness to a community peer, and started the Crisis Intervention Training Program which trains law enforcement personnel how to work effectively with the mentally ill. She also is responsible for securing funding for a 15 unit residential facility that will house young adults with a severe mental illness. DeRue noted that she is inspired by the resilience of the clients with whom she works and expressed her philosophy, "Don't give up. Don't ever give up."

HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR

The Adult Community Psychiatric Supportive Treatment team (CPST) at the Counseling Center held a health fair for patients on October 23 and October 30. The goal of the health fair was to increase patient knowledge about increased physical and mental health, as well as to educate patients on area services to improve quality of life. Among the presenters were: Judy Wortham Wood of the MHRB; Heidi Geib, pharmacist for Genoa Healthcare, Patrolman Fatzinger of the Wooster Police Department; Taylor Blades, dietician at Wooster Community Hospital; Attorney Heather Smith of the Wayne County Probate Courts; and the following staff of the Counseling Center: Diane DeRue, Vice President/Chief of Rehabilitation & Recovery Services; Ryan Murphy, Director of Emergency Services; and Brian Gerber, Director of CPST.

The fair was held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and lunch was coordinated by CPST staff Brenda Snyder, who spoke to clients about healthy diet on a limited budget. Jeremy Clvenger, CPST staff, played guitar and sang over the lunch hour. Feedback from patients indicated that they were excited to be there, learned much during the fair, and are anxious to see other similar events in the future. Thank you to CPST staff, Carolyn Collins and Brenda Snyder, who arranged the event, and put multiple hours of work into the project.

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Check out our website at: www.ccwhc.org

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