

INNAGURAL
ISSUE!

Outside In

To the Fullest...

Insighter

OI MISSION STATEMENT:

From the beginning, Outside In has been all about living life to the fullest. Embrace the adversity that each day presents and overcome it! Rise above the mundane concerns that so easily beset us. Dare to imagine bold new ways of being and strive for excellence in all things! Our vision is lofty indeed, proclaiming that joy does not derive from circumstances but from the attitude of the heart. The fullness of life is experiences with each step of the journey as we seek to bring out the very best in ourselves and in each other.

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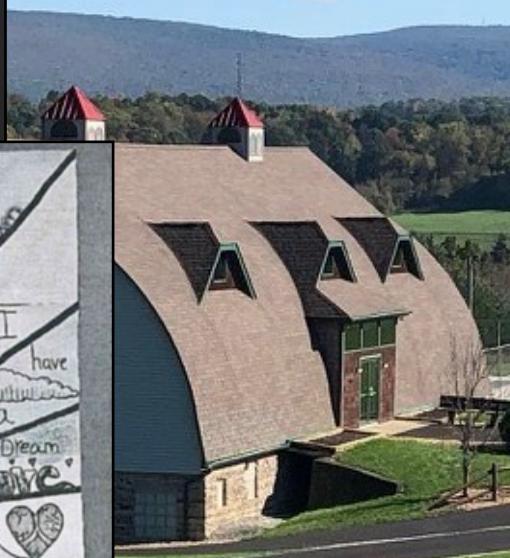
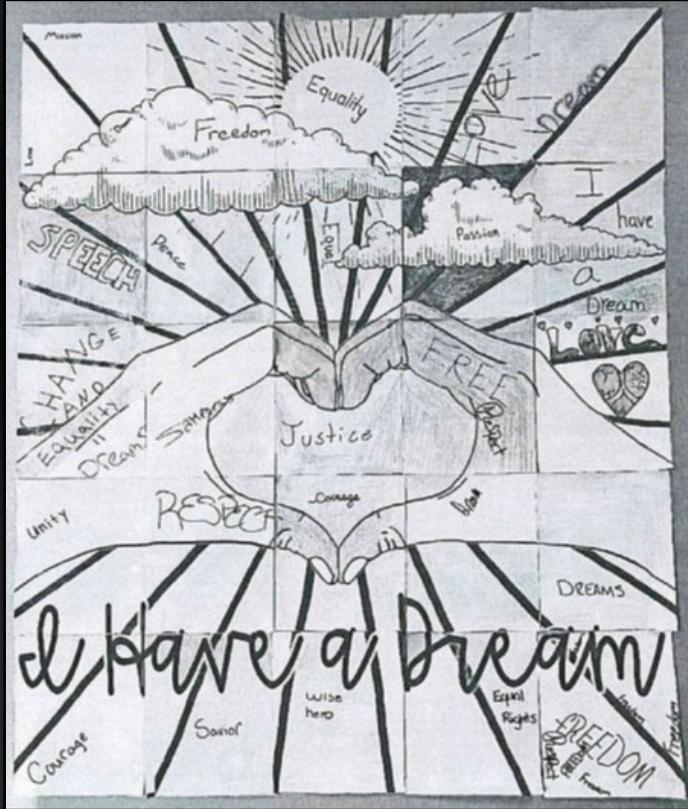
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Creative Work By Our Students

By Tressa Henry, Educational Aide

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the students in the Pathway to Recovery program were tasked with personalizing individual pieces of a mosaic poster honoring the late Civil Rights leader. Each student chose one word or phrase that best described Dr. King in their eyes, and wrote it on their piece of the poster. The students then colored their piece of the poster following the general guidelines, but without knowing how the pieces next to theirs were being colored. The finished pieces were assembled on the hallway wall. The collective result of the students' hard work and creativity is a touching reminder of the legacy of Dr. King, and a reminder that the lessons he taught are still valued by the youth of today. The mosaic poster will remain in the hallway outside the cafeteria throughout the month of February, so it can be enjoyed by all.



Outside In Celebrates Black History Month

Freedom Calls

Harriet Tubman wasn't born to be a SLAVE
Freedom ran inside she defined the word BRAVE
Run through the woods to EMANCIPATE
Humble leading others to a free, STATE
Taking slave to slave she was on a ROLL
Her dream was for all slaves to be free that was her GOAL
Running, Jumping, Hiding was a TOLL
She was motivated for freedom her heart was NEVER COLD
They called her Moses I am not talking about the BIBLE
Nothing can stand in her way she was her own RIVAL
You want to see freedom call Moses she will find, YOU
The passion she had for slaves will blind, YOU
She fought in the civil war as a woman not a MAN
No One could catch her she ran she Ran
Getting slaves to freedom that was her PLAN
Through the underground railroad to the PROMISE LAND

By: Nasir B.

Mrs. Decker's English class read *Harriet Tubman: Freedom Leader* by Tanya Savory, for Black History Month. As a final project, the students were to write a poem about Harriet and her accomplishments. In this poem, Nasir used vocabulary, metaphors, evidence from the text, and literary devices to paint an accurate picture of Harriet Tubman's heroic life and human rights contribution.



OUTSIDE IN WELCOMES SKIP AND SARAH TO OUR ADMISSIONS TEAM

Outside In recently added to their admissions team by bringing Skip Eicher and Sarah Jackson on board.

Skip, who joined the agency as the Director of Program Development, has worked in the juvenile justice field for over 23 years. He has worked as a counselor, caseworker, supervisor, director, and vice president. Skip has a Master's Degree in Community Counseling from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor's Degree from West Virginia University in Elementary Education. Additionally, he has an elementary teacher certificate (grades K-6) and secondary principal certification. Skip spent most of his time in residential programming, but also worked as an administrator in Education, and has experience in Community Based Services as well. Skip has experience in education, training, and treatment, and has worked in various leadership positions throughout his career.

Sarah joined the team as an Admissions Specialist. Prior to working at Outside In, Sarah worked in a leadership role at Planet Fitness, where she strived to improve the lifestyles and health goals of over 5,000 members. In January of 2017, Sarah had started working at Planet Fitness in a part time role as a second job to her Dietary Aide position at Westmoreland Manor (a nursing home with 500+ residents). Within a month, Sarah got promoted to the assistant manager position, where she developed a leadership role and learned to take on new, and often challenging tasks. Sarah has an Associate's Degree in General Studies from Westmoreland County Community College.



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OUTSIDE IN GETS W.I.L.D.

Outside In gives students the opportunity to participate in the W.I.L.D. (Wilderness Intensive Leadership Development) Program in a smaller group setting while at Outside In allowing students to improve on their leadership skills. This is a four week long cycle in which students learn wilderness competencies, complete a student journal handbook and participate in weekend and multiple day trips to local areas backpacking, canoeing, bike riding and rock climbing. At the end of each cycle students receive a certificate for completing a W.I.L.D. cycle. "Bodies were meant to move, minds were made to think."

- Mr. Hart Wilderness Team Coordinator



Community Family Based Services

The Community Based Family Services (CBFS) team, under the guidance of Clinical Director Jenn Miller, was awarded the opportunity to expand existing services in the region with the support of local Single County Authorities, school districts and juvenile probation offices. We have been providing school based outpatient substance abuse treatment in all 14 public school districts in Washington County this school year. Our Washington County team includes Karlee Young, Krystal Edgreen, Heather York and Laura Grasinger with supervision provided by Teresa Roble. We have also been providing school based outpatient substance abuse treatment to six Westmoreland County school districts. Those services were provided by Maureen Ritson and Krystal Edgreen. All of the employees involved in the school based treatment program have clients who have committed to continuing treatment beyond the end of the school year and have also received positive feedback about the services. Our Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) Team welcomed three new members since December 2018-Nick Matalik, Alyssa Kilbourn and Frances Emert. Each new team member is on track to be certified within the timeframes set forth by MDFT. Clinical Supervisor Teresa Roble recently began the MDFT Clinical Supervisor training. This is the first new MDFT supervisor OI has had since 2014. MDFT is now offered in Westmoreland, Washington, Armstrong and Indiana Counties. The MDFT program continues to be supported by the hard work of Therapist Assistant Matt Geis. Dave Spisak has honorably served clients at OI since 2003, he has worked in both community based and in clinic settings.



2019 Audit Information From Our Residential Compliance Manager

Outside In School of Experiential Education Inc. maintains regulatory compliance with numerous agencies within the state of PA and nationally. Within the fiscal year of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, the agency has been audited by the Department of Human Services (DHS), the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), and the Division of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP). Each of these audits went without issue and OI was praised for the work done with our clients. All of our licenses and accreditations could not be possible to maintain without the desire to provide excellent services to our clients.

Outside In is currently accredited by the Commission on Accrediting Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) and the American Camp Association (ACA) as well as affiliated with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), Pennsylvania Academic and Career/Technical Training (PACTT), Title 1 and the Department of Education through Ligonier Valley School District. Both the Voyagers and Pathway to Recovery residential programs are currently going through the 2nd round of the performance improvement stage of the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP). The SPEP process will be completed by the end of 2019.

Outside In is also rolling out the agencies new Pre-Employment/Onboarding process. This is scheduled to begin in April. Onboarding will provide new agency employees the necessary education and skills needed to work successfully with our clients.

- Justin Franco



Editors:

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We currently have openings in our residential programs

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