



Nurturing Wellness and Self-Sufficiency in Vulnerable Youth, Young Adults and Their Families.

The LifeTies Buzz

LifeTies earns a Three-Year Accreditation for Their Group Homes and Supportive Housing Programs

A word from our Executive Director

I am very pleased to announce that LifeTies' Group Homes (Triad House and Rainbow House) and our Supportive Housing program (Mary's Place) has earned a Three-Year Accreditation from the Center for Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). The Three-Year Accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be given to an organization and demonstrates LifeTies' substantial conformance to the CARF standards--meeting international standards for providing high quality services.



I am so proud to have such dynamic board members and very talented, nurturing and open staff who worked in teams over the last 14 months to ensure that all of our policies, procedures and practices are aligned with the best practices delineated in the CARF standards. While many of our practices were already in conformance with CARF standards at the start of the process, the preparation for our accreditation survey provided our team with a unique opportunity to have extended time to reflect on areas that needed improvement.

One of the most exciting outcomes of this process is that we have developed a performance improvement system at our agency. We are committed to offering programs and services in which the impact can be measured systematically; this will enable us to use performance analyses to assist us in quality improvement and organizational decision-making on a continual basis.

In learning of this phenomenal news of the accreditation decision and reaching this milestone, I feel a mix of emotions: relieved, renewed, but mostly grateful. While accreditation provides us with validation that we are doing many things right to serve our vulnerable youth, I also know that this wouldn't be possible without you. As our community and corporate partners, donors, and volunteers, you have supported us throughout the years and believed in your hearts that there could be brighter futures for the youth we serve. Each of you have helped us get to this point.

We look forward to sharing with you the impact the programs are making on our youth throughout the year. We also hope to see many of you at our upcoming Spring Benefit featuring a world premiere of Broadway-bound show of "Other World" on April 4th; I am looking forward to celebrating our accomplishments and the progress of our youth with you.

Lori Morris

Mentor Spotlight

Luke Sokolowski, is a mentor who has been with LifeTies Mentor program for the last six months. He is a resident of Somerset and a project manager for Rutgers University - Department of Genetics. His mentee, James*, was referred to our program by his school, due to being chronically absent in school. The goals they are working on are: exercising to become more healthy, working on basketball skills, increasing his reading skills, learning cursive writing and pursuing

his career interests in becoming an architect.

When asked why Luke decided to become a mentor, he noted, "I'm more of a 1:1 type of person. I like to actually make a true impact. While there is a greater responsibility, there are greater rewards and it's meaningful for both of us. I grew up without a father and could have used a mentor to guide me in the right way."

Luke describes his mentee as the "best kid ever, bright and honest." They enjoy exercising together, Luke works on instilling confidence in his mentee. They have been doing small handy work jobs. They worked on a bike, and are currently building a shelf. He is teaching him how to be more self sufficient.



When asked how Luke has benefited from the relationship, he said, "there's something just right about giving your time to be an influencer. He's given me a more meaningful life, by me being able to impact his. Being that I get to freely contribute what I know to another human being is what its all about."

*The name of the youth has been changed to protect the identity of our mentee.

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LifeTies Welcomes Our Newest Board Member



LifeTies welcomes Dominique Carroll, Esq. to our Board of Trustees. Dominique is a dynamic trial and appellate litigator at the national law firm Fox Rothschild LLP. He represents individuals and companies in a diverse range of business litigation matters including intellectual property and commercial disputes of all varieties. During his legal career, Dominique represented youth involved in the juvenile justice system and a common characteristic of many of those youth was that they suffered complex trauma predating their involvement with the juvenile justice system. Dominique notes that he is "committed to the mission of LifeTies and ensuring that youth, young adults and their families have the skills and resources necessary to live healthy, productive and fulfilling lives." Dominique earned his Juris Doctor degree (with honors) and MBA from the University of Illinois and his BA in English (with honors) from Rutgers University-Newark.

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OTHER WORLD

with special guest

Bob Egan at the piano

Saturday, April 4, 2020

Bucks County Playhouse

New Hope, PA

6:00 PM:

Pre-Show Reception

with hearty appetizers, cocktails, silent auction and special guest, Bob Egan at the piano!

8:00 PM:

OTHER WORLD performance

Tickets:

\$125 per person

RSVP by March 14, 2020

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