Ohio Association of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Counselors
presents
“Honoring the Past and Looking into the Future”
Holiday Inn Westlake
October 17, 2013
A Short History of Alcohol & Drug Treatment

- **1784** – First Temperance movement in the U.S. is started by Dr. Benjamin Rush. Dr. Rush is the first to suggest the concept of alcoholism as a disease in early writings, with *Inquiry into the Effects of Ardent Spirits on the Human Mind and Body*. Rush also suggests the creation of “Sober Houses”
- **1826** – The American Temperance Society, the first national temperance organization, is created
- **1849** – Swedish physician Magnus Huss describes a disease resulting from chronic alcohol consumption, “Alcoholismus chronicus,” marking the introduction of the term “alcoholism”
- **1851** – Maine passed the first prohibition law. Four years later, $\frac{1}{3}$ of the states had laws written to control the sale and use of alcohol
- **1870** – The American Association for the Cure of Inebriety is founded under the principle “Inebriety is a disease”
- **Post-Civil War** – The Women’s Crusade, Women’s Christian Temperance Union, and the Anti-Saloon League (1893) led the Temperance movement, which later became the Prohibition movement
A Short History of Alcohol & Drug Treatment

- **1921** – Dr. Frank Buchman founded a movement called A First Century Christian Fellowship, which in 1931 became known as the Oxford Group. The Oxford Group went on to have a large impact on the structure and foundational principles of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- **1930’s** – While serving as Director of the Charles B. Towns Hospital for Drug and Alcohol Addictions in New York City, Dr. William Duncan Silkworth introduced patient Bill W. (who would later co-found Alcoholics Anonymous) to the idea that alcoholism had a pathological, disease-like basis.
- **1935** – Bill W. and Dr. Bob begin Alcoholics Anonymous.
- **1944** – Marty Mann founds the National Committee for Education on Alcoholism (today the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence).
- **1958** – The halfway house movement culminates in the founding of the Association of Halfway House Alcoholism Programs of North America.
- **1965** – The American Psychiatric Association began to use the term *disease* to describe alcoholism. In 1967, the American Medical Association followed suit.
- **1992** – The Center for Substance Abuse Treatment is created to expand the availability and quality of addiction treatment.
What the Founders Taught Us

**About the Disease**
1. Addiction is a primary disease that is a brain disorder. Addiction is **not** a symptom of something else.
2. Addiction negatively impacts the user’s physical, social, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual development.
3. Even for those who are abstinent, even for long periods of time, it is not safe to return to using.

**About Recovery**
1. Recovery is a process built one day at a time.
2. People do get well, even though for some, multiple episodes of treatment are necessary.
3. A comprehensive understanding of the nature of addiction as a brain disorder improves the outcome of lasting recovery for the individual.
What the Founders Taught Us

About Recovery, continued

4. Long term sobriety and other positive outcomes are more predictable when the recovering person involves his or her self in a recovery maintenance program such as Alcoholics Anonymous or other similar 12-step based programs.

5. A measure of effective treatment is the successful integration of the newly recovering person into the 12-step recovery community.

6. Recovery requires one to abstain from alcohol or other drug use and then to address the negative impact the disease had on their social, physical, spiritual, emotional, and intellectual development and growth.

7. Addiction and its progression not only impacts the user’s life but also the individuals who make up the systems of which he or she is a part such as family, for this reason family and helpers benefit from counseling and support programs such as Al-Anon.

8. Well intended individuals who do not understand alcohol and other drug addiction as a progressive neurological brain disease can sometimes do more harm than good when trying to assist the user, members of his or her family, coworkers, or friends.
Nominations for Ohio Addictions Professionals Hall of Fame

Criteria for the Founders Class:

- Demonstrated early leadership that helped shape the Addictions Field in Ohio
- Employed in the Addictions Field for at least five years between the years 1930 – 1980
- Demonstrated innovative and creative approaches to programming to best meet the needs of the local community
- Demonstrated an active role in building State, Regional or Community services
- Created a legacy that endures
- Impacted the way services are provided to clients
- Demonstrated excellence, achievement, endurance, dedication and creativity in service to clients and community
Nominations for Ohio Addictions Professionals Hall of Fame

**Criteria for the First Class:**

- Worked in the Addictions Treatment or Preventions Fields between 1930 and 1980
- Contributed significantly to laying the foundation upon which the Addictions field has been built
- Worked at least five years in the addictions field.
- Contribution to the beginning of the Addictions Field in Ohio
- Legacy to the Treatment or Prevention Field
- Contributions to the Community and State in shaping services
- Commitment to minimizing the harmful impact of substance dependency
- Advancing the network of services focused on wellness/prevention and recovery for residents of Ohio
Founders Class & First Class Nominees

**Founders Class Nominees:**
- Sister Ignatia Gavin
- Dr. Bob S.

**First Class Nominees:**
- James Wolfe
- Rembert Glass
- ORCA House Founding Board of Trustees
- Bill Findley
While in charge of patient admissions at Akron’s St. Thomas Hospital in 1935, Sister Ignatia Gavin, CSA (nominated by St. Vincent Charity Medical Center) worked with Dr. Bob Smith of Alcoholics Anonymous to admit the first alcoholic patient under a diagnosis of acute gastritis. This admission resulted in St. Thomas Hospital becoming the first hospital in the world to treat alcoholism as a medical condition. St. Thomas Hospital eventually became the first religious institution to recognize the right of alcoholics to receive hospital treatment, even going so far as to open a hospital ward for alcoholics in 1939.

In 1952, Sister Ignatia was transferred to St. Vincent Charity Hospital in Cleveland, where she was instrumental in the development of Rosary Hall Solarium, an alcoholism recovery wing. Known as the “Angel of Alcoholics Anonymous,” Sister Ignatia also contributed to the implementation of the first Al-Anon program. She retired in May of 1965 and passed away in April of 1966. She will always be remembered for her compassion and humility, as well as her dedication to the treatment of alcoholism as a medical condition.
Dr. Bob Smith became friends with Sister Ignatia during the 1930s. As a result of their friendship, Sister Ignatia began admitting Dr. Bob’s alcoholic patients to St. Thomas Hospital, where she was the current Director of Admissions. Sister Ignatia and Dr. Bob ultimately erected the first hospital ward for the treatment of alcoholism in 1939 at St. Thomas Hospital. Known as the “Prince of Twelfth Steppers,” Dr. Bob helped more than 5,000 alcoholics before his death in 1950. At the time of his death Dr. Bob, who was a recovering alcoholic, had enjoyed 15 years of continuous sobriety.
Mr. James Wolfe (nominated by The Counseling Center) has over 30 years of experience in the field of addiction. During the 1980s, Mr. Wolfe coordinated the formation of outpatient programs in 10 different counties for the Southern Ohio Regional Council on Alcoholism. He also created agencies that now function as The Counseling Center, Pike County Recovery Council, Family Guidance Center, and Family Recovery. His other contributions to the field include several years spent extensively training hundreds of counselors on addiction as a disease, advocating for addicted people, and starting the Loved Ones group in Highland County. Presently, Mr. Wolfe continues to aid his community through providing free help to families through the church that he attends.
Mr. Rembert Glass (nominated by The Counseling Center) acted as the first Director of The Counseling Center. Mr. Glass was incredibly instrumental in promoting and bringing the disease model of alcoholism to the Tri-State area, as well as training numerous staff and counselors in understanding alcoholism as a disease. A strong proponent of the 12-step recovery program and the importance of linking treatment centers to Alcoholics Anonymous as a component of treatment, Mr. Glass designed a power treatment option that diverted patients from psychiatric hospitals to full recovery centers. Mr. Glass’s other donations to the addiction field include founding the Scioto County Counseling Center, recruiting recovering addicts into the treatment field, and acting as a very active counselor. He passed away in 1988, leaving behind a legacy of service and advocacy.
The founding Board of Trustees of ORCA House (nominated by ORCA House) consisted of Basil F. Ramey, Esq.; John L. Bailey; Johnnie Marshall; Ruth Hawkins; Gertrude Overton; and Alfonso Holman. All of the members were actively involved well before the inception of ORCA House on April 21, 1950 and for many years following. The personal effort and fierce dedication of these six individuals contributed to the continued growth and success of ORCA House.
Mr. William “Bill” Findley (nominated by Lorain County Alcohol & Drug Abuse Services, Inc.) has been actively involved in the development of treatment and recovery programs since 1968. In 1968, he became the Director of Lorain County Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, and for 10 years beginning in 1972, he served as the Director of Catholic Charities Alcohol and Drug Program – Matt Talbot Inn. Mr. Findley then went on to found or co-founded and develop a number of grassroots recovery organizations such as the SOS Club and The Giving Tree, which provided direction and hope to those who could not access care in any other way. These early efforts, along with the creation of the 317 Board, which Bill also played a significant role in establishing, resulted in his founding of Compass House in 1989, which ultimately became the largest treatment agency in Lorain County. Mr. Findley acted as Director of Compass House until his retirement in 1996. With high standards for care and compassion, Mr. Findley has left behind a legacy of Compass House, Compass Alumni, and countless lives and families saved.