

# PCE



Partnership for  
Children of Essex  
*A Pathway for Hope*

# PRESS

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# HAPPY 2011!

## Introducing PCE's Executive Director-Mr. Victor Alvarez!!!!



Former PCE Director of Operations, Victor Alvarez, MSW, LCSW has advanced to becoming the new Executive Director of PCE and he is welcomed with open arms. Mr. Alvarez has a proven track record of hard work and dedication to the children and families of Essex County. He continues to be a huge advocate for the complex needs of children within the system and especially those with behavioral and emotional difficulties. Mr. Alvarez's Management Team includes: Vanessa Matos, Director of Operations, Luz Villagran, Program Coordinator, Yanira Gonzalez, Finance Manager, Jim Moschella, Quality Assurance Director and Erika Holcomb, Director of Community Resource Development. We are proud of his accomplishments as he embarks on this new adventure and we could not think of anyone more deserving.

**Congratulations Victor!**

## New to our Nest

PCE would like to extend a hearty welcome to the newest staff of the UCM family:  
Jeffrey Brutus - Care Manager  
Veronica Beltres - Care Manager Supervisor



## Resource Highlight: The Rites of Passage Program

Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance is the motto of the young men and young ladies that enter this 20 week program aimed to teach them how to be successful citizens of society. They take a journey of learning about positive peer and family relationships, character building, self-esteem, community service and most importantly the innate strengths that they possess from within themselves. Under the direction of Mr. Derrick Knighton, Mr. Robert Smith and Ms. Lakeeya Jackson, these young men and women unlock things about themselves that they never knew they had. In the end, there is an emotional yet graduation ceremony where participants highlight to the facilitators, family and care managers what they have learned. Their touching testimonies also afford them the opportunity to win a crisp \$100 bill! PCE continues to support the hard work and accomplishments of our young people.



Its letters like these that make us proud...and keep us going!!! Ross Croessmann, Care Manager Supervisor and one of his Care Managers, Ashley King received this e-mail...

*Hi Ross,*

*I wanted to send a long overdue email to you, thanking you and Ashley, for an incredible job well done for my son "B".*

*Ross, your knowledge and willingness to help me, when you have had a million other things to do, was outstanding and extraordinary. I will never forget your calming influence and creative ideas and positive attitude. Thank you so much.*

*As for Ashley King, I am not sure that words will ever express how, at times, Ashley got me through the good, the bad and the ugly. Her honesty, spirit, energy and "can do" approach were simply amazing. You are so lucky to have her working at UCM. Ashley is a true professional who also manages to be a friend, a confidante, and a case manager all at one time. She knows her stuff and makes it look easy. Like you, she never says no, and works constantly (sometimes late at night or on the weekends) to make sure that the kids are okay. My son "B" adores Ashley and her words were golden to him. He still talks about her and how she cared about him, even when he wasn't so sure he could care about himself. Ashley believed in my understanding of his illnesses and my intuition as a mom, and even dealt with several less than professional health care organizations with ease. Ashley was able to think of things I could not and guide me through things even when I could. I believe Ashley is the main reason "B" went to the group home. I could go on and on about Ashley. I hope that we always keep in touch.*

*If there is ever any way that I can return the favor to you or Ashley to help either of you, please let me know. My door is always open for a cup of coffee, tea or a laugh!*

*Thanks again.*

*"A"*

## And the Oscar goes to...

Each year PCE Highlights the wonderful work being done by our Care Managers and Supervisors and honors them with prestigious awards. While we are all winners in the work that we do, the 2010 awards went to:

Carla Coreas-Creativity Award  
Ross Croessmann-Leadership Award  
Amy Godfrey-Advocacy Award  
Monique Wilson-Courage Award  
Jeremy Adam-Spirit Award  
Tiffany Brown-Hope Award  
Ciara Rivers-Star Award  
LaToya Stevens-Wraparound Award



**WAY TO GO TEAM!!!!**

## Moving up the ladder of success...

PCE would like to congratulate the following for their well deserved promotions within the agency:

Laura Araujo: CM Supervisor  
Joi Preston: CM Supervisor  
Rohesia Hicks: DDMI Specialist  
Tiffany Brown: Senior Care Manager  
Firishtha Ahmadshahy: Senior Care Manager  
Latoya Stevens: Senior Care Manager



**All of you exemplify the idea that hard work truly pays off! Congratulations!**

## Quotes to Think About...

- “I am always doing that which I cannot do, in order that I may learn how to do it.” –Pablo Picasso
- “I get up every morning determined to both change the world and have one hell of a good time. Sometimes this makes planning my day difficult.” –EB White

## Education is the Key...

PCE hosted a “College Bound Reception” for PCE youth that recently graduated High School and wished to further their education. PCE was humbled by the generous assistance of Sovereign Bank of East Orange (Ms. Sharon Hardesty) which enabled us to provide \$1000 scholarships and a college care package to 15 students attending various colleges. We were ever so proud and the youth and their families were ever so happy! We wish our PCE Scholars the best of luck with their endeavors. Thank you Sovereign Bank for giving back to the community! We greatly appreciate you.

## **PCE lends a helping hand to those in need...**



PCE continues to extend themselves as an agency willing to assist those who are less fortunate. In recent months, the true spirit of giving was capitalized by the staff here at PCE by way of our Clothing Drive, Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive and Snowflake Gift Giving.

~ Our Annual Clothing Drive afforded the opportunity for families to come and take advantage of free new and gently used clothing, shoes and accessories for men, women and children. These items that filled our large conference center were generously donated primarily from UCM staff, family and friends. All that came left happy and grateful!

(We would like to say Thank You again by acknowledging PCE Board Member, Mattie Wilkerson and her daughter for their time spent assisting us with this worthy event.)

~Each year, UCM staff collects non-perishable food items around Thanksgiving for the purpose of creating food baskets for the more needy families that we serve. This is always a very special time of the year because we transform our Conference Room to a supermarket full of goodies and baskets to fill. This year we were able to make over 60 baskets which truly made our hearts smile. (We would like to extend a special thank you to Care Manager, Jessica Monaco for securing 20 additional baskets that included a Turkey and all of the trimmings.)

~Snowflake Gift Giving-UCM attempted to fill the Christmas gift wishes of children that may not otherwise receive a gift for Christmas. Snowflakes were created that contained a youth's first name, last initial and two Christmas gift wishes for the holiday. We are proud to say that all of the snowflake wishes were fulfilled!! Teamwork always prevails!

## **Thank you to the following for your generous donations during the Holiday Season:**

Toys for Tots  
Calvary Security  
David Seibel and Capacity Benefits  
West Orange African Heritage Organization  
Positive Steps-Pediatric Occupational Center  
UCM Staff, family and friends...



“Acts of kindness go a long way...”

## **Upcoming Events**

February/March-“UCM staff after work fun”...Stay Tuned! You won't want to miss this...

February 14<sup>th</sup>-Valentines Day (Tell a child that you love them...)

February 21- UCM Youth Artwork Contest Kick-off

March 4th- Teen Network-Skate Party at Branchbrook Park Skating Rink

April 16<sup>th</sup>-PCE Annual Camp & College air-Free and open to the community 11am-2pm

May 7th - Healthy Bodies/Healthy Minds-Mental Health Walk-collaboration with Hudson and Passaic CMO's and FSO's.