

Mission

To instill hope, inspire change, and build community

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Update for 2020

U.S. Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services Visits Penn Foundation

U.S. Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, Eric Hargan, visited Penn Foundation on September 14, 2020 in recognition of National Recovery Month and to discuss the ongoing federal response to combat the opioid epidemic in America. He met with Penn Foundation's leadership to discuss the work Penn Foundation is doing to address substance use disorder (SUD) in Pennsylvania as well as the efforts being made to adapt treatment, prevention, and recovery services during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Penn Foundation Designated as a Blue Distinction® Center for Substance Use Treatment and Recovery

Penn Foundation was one of the first facilities to be designated by Independence Blue Cross as a Blue Distinction® Center for Substance Use Treatment and Recovery – a new designation under the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program. This designation recognizes our work to diligently establish innovative partnerships with our stakeholders that help individuals achieve and maintain their recovery.



Thomas K. Leidy Retires from Penn Foundation Board of Directors After 35 Years of Service

On June 30, 2020, Tom Leidy retired from the Penn Foundation Board of Directors after 35 years of faithful service. He will be missed, but the impact he made will live on in all of us as we carry out the mission and do our part to help those we serve. Tom's tenure on the board included 16 years of service as Board Chair (1995–2011) and eight years as Vice Chair (2011–2019). He has been a passionate and tireless advocate for Penn Foundation, cultivating relationships with donors, guiding our growth, and leading numerous campaigns to ignite support and expand our mission.



Senior Psychiatrist Vernon H. Kratz, MD Retires After 47 Years of Service

On July 31, 2020, senior psychiatrist Vernon Kratz, MD, retired after 47 years of service at Penn Foundation. Dr. Kratz is the only person in the organization's 65-year history to hold the roles of Medical Director, CEO, and Board Member. For me, psychiatry was a calling. It was where my heart was," Dr. Kratz says. "There is a lot of satisfaction in being able to walk with people in their perplexity, some of whom I've seen over decades. I believe that part of the care for a patient is to care for the patient, and you do that by listening and by taking time and by trying to put the story together and by just being there. Remember, sometimes you are the medicine a person needs."



Penn Foundation Introduces Camp Crossroads

After several years of partnering with Eluna (formerly The Moyer Foundation) to offer Camp Mariposa, Penn Foundation decided in early 2020 to launch Camp Crossroads, its own camp experience and outreach program to help children impacted by substance abuse in their families. Camp Crossroads is inspired by Jeremiah 6:16 – "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it; and you will find rest for your souls." "The benefit of moving in our own direction is that we can develop meaningful camper-centered curriculum and programs to create life-changing experiences," says Candis Ubiles, Director of Children's Services. "We gain the flexibility of offering camps and other relationship-building activities based on a frequency that we believe will drive the best outcomes. We also put our own brand and influence on the camp name and mission, further aligning it to Penn Foundation."



The Transcendent Power of the Arts

Through its membership with Art-Reach, a Philadelphia-based nonprofit that creates, advocates for, and expands accessibility opportunities in the arts so the full spectrum of society is served, Penn Foundation secured 975 tickets over five years for clients to experience the arts and was recognized with Art Reach's 2020 Member Agency Award. Additionally, Penn Foundation partnered with Brush with the Law, a nonprofit organization that partners professional artists with socially marginalized populations to use visual arts in community-based beautification projects, to beautify and adorn an exterior stairwell and community entrance to the its Village of Hope residential program for women.

