

I am Coleman

A quarterly publication of

 **COLEMAN**
Professional Services

A Note from Nelson

Typically in this column, I like to keep our readers updated on high priority issues at Coleman and in the region. This time, the highest order of importance is asking for your support. Behavioral health care in Northeast Ohio is at a critical crossroads.

As you know, we've come a long way in our 30 years of caring for persons suffering with behavioral health issues. However, the challenges of helping those in need continue to grow at epic proportions. Coleman provided more than \$270,000 worth of services last year that were unreimbursed by the client or the county. We did this because our mission is to help individuals regardless of their ability to pay. Coleman is working hard to continue the provision of services to those in need by fundraising and holding events like the annual Right at Home benefit and art auction, which took place on September 6, to help raise money to pay for unreimbursed care, but our efforts alone are not enough to fill the gap.

We need your support to help us continue to serve our community's needs. If you are resident of Stark or Portage County, please vote on November 4 in favor of the issue in your county that supports mental health providers like Coleman with the funds necessary for us to operate at our current level of care.

Also, Coleman is seeking corporate partners with which to establish mutually beneficial relationships to promote the health of the community. Every second issue of this newsletter will feature a local organization that has become a valuable partner in health with Coleman on page two.

If you would like to learn more about the variety of ways to help, please contact me at 330-676-6844. Please consider a way to help lend your support today.

Nelson

Nelson W. Burns
President and Chief Executive Officer

30th
Anniversary
1978-2008



Shrinking Services

How community support can reverse the trend

America's health care system is a hot topic of discussion both in the news media and around the water cooler these days. Most realize that something seems to be broken. However, few are aware of the complications that the system's problems cause for the behavioral health care field.


As more Americans are living without health care coverage, the amount of unreimbursed care is rising at an alarming rate. For organizations like Coleman, there are plans in place to subsidize the partial cost of behavioral health care for uninsured clients through avenues such as endowments and funds raised through enterprise companies. However, as the number of uninsured clients rises, the amount of funding available to cover the cost of their care is not rising at the same rate.

This imbalance results in the provision of a significant amount of unreimbursed care. Organizations begin to go in the red trying to sustain their levels of services and keep their operation running smoothly. Some behavioral health providers are implementing cuts in the services provided to the uninsured or underinsured. This is a dangerous situation for our country, as those who need treatments and medication can no longer receive the help they need to stay healthy.

As the stigma surrounding behavioral health slowly diminishes in America, people have become more aware of the concerns surrounding the level of care that citizens receive. In July, the Senate approved a bill that will phase out Medicare's higher co-pays for mental health services, bringing them in line with co-pays for physical health care services. In the past, Medicare has required 50 percent of a co-pay for mental health services, compared to 20 percent for other health care services.

This is an important step in the behavioral health care of our country's seniors. It is imperative, however, that support for non-seniors is improved as well.

As a concerned citizen, there are ways to help support behavioral health care providers in your area. On November 4, residents of Portage and Stark Counties will both have a levy on their ballot to support mental health services in their counties. Both levies (Issue 65 in Stark and Issue 36 in Portage) will not raise taxes, but will provide much-needed funding to behavioral health providers to keep operating at their current levels of service. Please help spread the word in your community regarding the importance of these levies to the families and individuals struggling with behavioral health challenges.

If you'd like to help support Coleman directly, there are a variety of giving options set up through Coleman Foundation. Please visit www.coleman-foundation.com. 

Partners in Health



Coleman is thankful to have the support of organizations within our community. Some are donors, some hire Coleman clients, others sponsor events on our behalf. Each is important, and we'd like to recognize them for their efforts to help improve the lives of individuals, families and businesses in our neighborhoods. Every other issue of the newsletter will recognize a valued Partner in Health.



The Campus of Anna Maria is a family owned and operated continuing care community with a full range of services and care settings including short-term rehabilitation, skilled nursing, assisted and independent living, memory care and home care.

The Campus of Anna Maria, set on 60 acres in Aurora, has been providing care and services to seniors in Portage, Geauga, Cuyahoga and Summit counties for more than 40 years.

Anna Maria has been a Coleman donor since 2001. In addition to donating to Coleman Foundation on behalf of behavioral health and rehabilitation services in Portage County, Anna Maria has also been an active partner with Coleman Employment Services. Over the years, the continuing care community has hired # persons who have gone through extensive job training and preparation with Coleman Employment in order to work at their facility.

Our sincere appreciation goes to Aaron Baker, CEO, and the staff of The Campus of Anna Maria for their partnership with Coleman to help improve our community. Thank you for being a Partner in Health.

24/7 Crisis Help: 877-796-3555

Picking up the Pieces

I grew up in small town south of Canton. As the oldest of three kids, growing up with a stay-at-home mom and a business-owner father, I moved rather easily into sports and college preparation as a youth, then on to earn a college degree.

After nearly completing my Master's Degree at Ohio University, I had to quit school to join the workforce in order to provide for my wife and two children. I became an accomplished salesman, but the negativity of rejection in the sales cycle had become a debilitating mental health issue. Because of the career path I took to provide for a growing family, I was not really happy. Over the years, I became very money oriented, egotistical, and I self medicated by showing off wealth and possessions. Inside me was a quiet desperation and unknowing of what was going to happen to me in the future.

Eventually, I collapsed from all the mental health stress I held inside for ten years. I was admitted to Aultman Hospital's mental ward for five days. When I was released, I went home to an empty house because my family had left due to my poor behavior. I was alone, and it seemed my life was falling apart quickly. I was diagnosed with Bi-Polar Disorder, Borderline Personality Disorder and Narcissism.

I became involved with Coleman in early 2005 during the stress of selling my house, moving, unemployment and relationship issues. I knew I needed help with my life and I sought out what I

thought was the best agency in Stark County.


However, I only stayed in counseling with Coleman until I accepted a fantastic job opportunity in October 2005.

Thinking I was cured at the time, I began working extensively and traveling again. I left counseling for about a year and a half. I didn't fully understand that these mental health issues will not go away like

a bad cold after you take some medication. During this time, I made some very bad choices, which ultimately led to my divorce. In early 2007, my job was terminated and I've been unemployed since.

I realized that I needed Coleman counseling again and

I also joined their employment group. The specialists who conduct the open, relaxed gathering provide subject matter that helps with primary solutions for getting a job. Plus I've gained great friendships in the group.

Coleman has changed my life for the better. The courtesy extended from all employees is exemplary. Each doctor, counselor and specialist provide confidence to me as a consumer that I am getting what is needed - honesty, sincerity, and dependability to help me continue my recovery. I am under the care of a psychologist who provides empathy, support and truth. I appreciate knowing we have a plan of action and that I can get centered and work on completing my part of the tasks to continue my recovery. Coleman is my trusted partner in lifelong recovery for my mental health issues. 

As told by a Coleman Behavioral Health-Stark client.



The Facts

- County levies through the Mental Health & Recovery Services Boards provide vital funding to service organizations such as Coleman.
- Many Coleman services are dependent on the success of the Portage County and Stark County levies this November.
- In 2008, Coleman received \$1,280,171 in levy dollars from Portage County. This was 6.55% of our total revenue.
- Through the assistance of levy funding last year, Coleman served over 11,000 individuals. The annual incomes of 73 percent of those served were under \$16,000.



Give the Gift of Mental Wellness

Vote FOR Issue 36 in Portage County

Helping our neighbors in Portage County, headquarters of our organization, achieve superior mental health is top priority to Coleman, and it has come time for the residents of our county to help assist us in reaching that goal.



On November 4, the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, one of Coleman Professional Services' partner agencies, will ask Portage County residents to vote to renew an expiring 0.5-mill levy that will benefit the thousands of families and individuals who require special care for mental illness or addiction. It will affordably provide proper mental health care to those with limited incomes based on a sliding scale.


This levy, Issue 36, is not a residential tax increase; it is the renewal of a levy that originally passed in 1978 and will expire in 2009. Issue 36 will generate approximately \$581,000 per year over the next 10 years, which is roughly \$4.25 per year for a resident in Portage County owning a home valued at \$100,000. The renewal of this important levy will maintain a network of services for Portage County residents of all ages through a distribution of funds to Coleman and five other community organizations.

Coleman Behavioral Health provides residents of Portage County with a variety of mental health care services for children, adolescents, adults and families that are under- or uninsured. Services included psychiatric and psychosocial services including the OPTIONS program; case management; individual, family or couples counseling; and several areas of specialty, such as services to aid individuals with ADHD, Bipolar Affective Disorder or Schizophrenia.

Coleman Professional

Services currently receives 6.5 percent of its total revenue from Portage County, which calculates to \$1.28 million. Without this backing, it would be difficult, if not impossible, for Coleman to provide the quality and quantity of current services to individuals requiring care.

The number of Portage County residents receiving MHRSB services continues to grow – a 150 percent increase for children and teens and a 39 percent increase for adults since 1998 when the levy was last renewed. Coleman has certainly felt the effects, and we are working hard to continue to provide care to those in need. Please help maintain the quality of behavioral health care to your neighbors in Portage County by voting FOR Issue 36.

For more information, call the Mental Health & Recovery Board at 330-673-1756, ext. 201, or visit www.networkofcare.info. 

Change Lives with Your Vote

Issue 65 on ballot to support mental health in Stark County


The Stark County community will soon be presented with a chance to join Coleman in our mission of helping people change and improve their lives.

This November, Stark County residents will be asked to support mental health and recovery directly by voting FOR Issue 65, a levy which will help provide a system of care to those suffering from mental illnesses or addiction in Stark County. The levy money will help support psychiatric, counseling, psychosocial, case management, and employment services, including vocational evaluation, job coaching and placement for individuals with disabilities.

The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Stark County, a partner agency of Coleman Professional Services, is proposing an additional levy to the current 1-mill property tax. Issue 65 will not increase property taxes; however, it will replace the current levy which will expire in 2009.

MHRSB's proposed levy plans to provide \$7.3 million per year for the thousands of under- or uninsured people in Stark County to receive the required care for mental illness or addiction struggles. This levy would take effect in 2010 and last for 10 years. It would not cost homeowners any more than what they are paying for their current property tax, \$30.63 per year, to those owning a home valued at \$100,000.

Coleman depends significantly on its neighbors to assist in offering mental wellness to everyone in our county. Without their assistance, it would become a struggle to provide the care and support many of our county's residents need.

Please vote FOR Issue 65 this November and help us improve the lives of our neighbors struggling with behavioral health challenges. To learn more, visit www.give-us-strength.com. 

Help us save money and save paper. Sign up to receive this newsletter via email. Please visit www.coleman-professional.com/content/13.htm.

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Thank you for your dedication and service!

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A World of Opportunity

Coleman Professional Services is a nationally recognized not-for-profit provider of behavioral health and rehabilitation programs that improve the lives of individuals, families and businesses in Northeast Ohio. The company relies on an enterprise business model to diversify its funding. Coleman's foundation and three enterprise companies produce more than 40 percent of the company's funding for its award-winning programs.


 **COLEMAN™**
Professional Services
Corporate division of the organization.
www.coleman-professional.com

 **COLEMAN™**
Foundation
A philanthropic organization designed to raise money in support of behavioral health and rehabilitation services.
www.coleman-foundation.com


Programs

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Behavioral Health
Provides mental health and rehabilitation services in Portage, Trumbull, Medina and Stark Counties.
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www.coleman-access.com or 877-796-3555

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In association with Portage, Medina, Stark, and Trumbull County Mental Health Boards

www.coleman-professional.com

F: 330-678-3677
800-673-1347
330-673-1347

Kent, Ohio 44240
5982 Rhodes Road

Executive Offices

Picking up the Pieces

Change Lives with Your Vote

Shrinking Services

In This Issue

 **COLEMAN™**
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