



The Drenk Center's mission is to partner with people to create opportunities for recovery and wellness by offering behavioral health services.

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## What Are You Thankful For?

by Harry Marmorstein, CEO

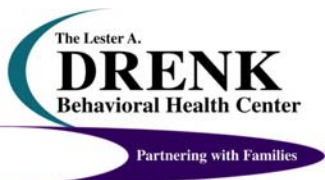
During this holiday season, I challenge you to step back and think about what you are truly thankful for in your life. For some of us, it might be our health or steady employment. For others, it's a hot meal on the table each night. And for a very special group this year, it is the joy of having their families reunited and together for the holidays.

The Department of Children and Families and The Drenk Center are proud to celebrate the accomplishments of reunified families at a special "Home for the Holidays" party scheduled for December. The guests of honor will be families whose children were removed from their homes by the Division of Youth and Family Services who have since been successfully reunited by our Mercer Reunification Services and Therapeutic Foster Care programs. I am proud that our services have helped these families become stable, loving homes, offering their children the chance at a brighter future instead of a future in foster care.

Services like these highlight the vital work of The Drenk Center and the importance of supporters like you. While times are tough for all of us, they are even harder on others. Aside from families working toward reunification, we see so many in dire circumstances - some are suffering with a mental illness, some do not have a place to call home or food to eat, and many are all alone with no holiday celebrations to enjoy. It's the work of The Drenk Center that keeps these people functioning while helping them to lead healthy and productive lives. The Drenk Center offers programs that provide treatment, housing assistance, basic needs, case management, and a variety of supportive services.

To carry out these programs, we rely on and need your help. Through the Drenk Foundation, you can support The Drenk Center's mission and critical work in these extraordinary times. The Drenk Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the programs and services of The Drenk Center, works diligently to raise funds throughout the year by sponsoring events such as the Drenk Golf Classic and Monte Carlo Night.

Remember, times may be difficult for us this year. But chances are, there are others struggling even more. If you are in a position to help, please consider contributing to The Drenk Foundation's Annual Fund Drive. This is our only appeal for the entire year. Your 100 percent tax deductible donation will be used to provide critical services to children, adults, and families suffering from mental illness. Thank you for considering this request. Have a happy and safe holiday season.



## Money Raised & Won at Drenk Golf Classic



*Dana Keane watches his 50-foot putt drop into the hole to win \$10,000 during the putting contest.*

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Drenk Golf Classic was held on September 22<sup>nd</sup> at Burlington Country Club. The Golf Classic is one of two major annual fundraising events for The Drenk Foundation. Golfers enjoyed a great day on the course, followed by dinner, awards, and prizes. Due to the generous contributions of the many sponsors, supporters and golfers, The Drenk Foundation raised a net profit of \$33,000. All proceeds from the tournament support The Drenk Center's programs and services.

The highlight of the day was seeing Dana Keane, Account Executive at Ancero LLC, qualify and sink a 50-foot putt to win \$10,000. To view the video of the putt and photos from the event, please visit [www.drenk.org](http://www.drenk.org).

The Drenk Foundation and The Drenk Center thank the following companies for their generous support of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Drenk Golf Classic:



Tournament Sponsor



Platinum Sponsor



Silver Sponsor



Dinner Sponsor



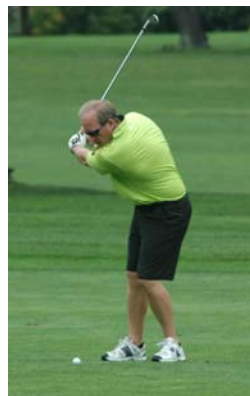
Golf Ball Sponsor



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Cocktail Hour Sponsor



*Tim Irons, Member of the Drenk Foundation Board of Trustees chips to the green.*



*Paul Boyer, Fred Barilotti and Barbara Hizer celebrate with Dana Keane after his \$10,000 putt.*

*"I had a great time. It was even more enjoyable to know that I was helping a great cause while I was having so much fun."*

**Tim Checetto**  
Regional Channel Manager  
Whaleback Systems



*Tim Checetto takes his best shot.*



*George Morris celebrates as he drops a long putt.*

## Sterling Bank Teaches Students about Financial Issues

The School Based Youth Services Program (SBYSP) recently partnered with Sterling Bank to educate Pemberton Township High School (PTHS) teens about credit, credit reports, identity theft, and budgeting.

“We were pleased that representatives from Sterling Bank were willing to come into the school and teach students about these extremely important financial issues,” noted Jennifer Rodier, Director of Prevention Services. “Hosting these sessions aligns with our mission of preparing students for life after high school.”

“The students were extremely interested and interactive during my session,” noted Carmen Cucinotta, Vice President for the Commercial Lending Division at Sterling Bank and Secretary for the Board of Trustees for The Drenk Foundation. “I fielded many excellent questions, provided the students with a lot of useful information, and had fun in the process!”

SBYSP is a partnership between The Drenk Center and Pemberton Township School District and serves as a resource for more than 400 students each year. The program offers support services to the students of PTHS in areas such as violence prevention, drug and alcohol prevention, pregnancy prevention, mental health services and learning support. The School Based Program strives to help students graduate from PTHS healthy and substance abuse free.



*Carmen Cucinotta talks with the students about identity theft.*

## Target Grant Encourages Reading and Family Time

The Drenk Center’s Mercer Reunification Services Program (MRUS) was recently awarded a \$2,500 child literacy grant from Target. This funding will be used to purchase new children’s books in an effort to encourage reading as a family activity. “Children who have been removed from their parents’ custody generally long to be with their parents, look forward to their visits, and the activities they will do together during that time,” noted Toni Harrison, MRUS program director.

After learning that more than 50 percent of enrolled families do not own any children’s books, MRUS began gradually developing a lending library through donations of gently used books and will now be able to significantly grow the library thanks to Target. While in the program, parents will read to their children as part of their supervised visitation and family engagement activities. The children will then be given three books of their own to take home with them.

“Reading with their children is an activity that parents can continue to build on after reunification,” noted Harrison. “Being able to take home their very own books will provide a sense of pride and will serve as encouragement to continue reading after their time in the program ends.”

Mercer Reunification Services works to avoid future incidents of abuse and neglect, decrease the amount of time children spend in foster care, and reunify families. To achieve these goals, staff provide basic skills training, parenting education, and supervised visits in a home-like setting. Staff work with families from the time they complete an intake until either they regain custody or their case plan goal changes (either to adoption or kinship legal guardianship), however long that takes.

Since opening in October 2007, 36 children and families in Mercer County have been successfully reunited through Mercer Reunification Services.

# Please Support The Drenk Center

## Give Today!

This is our annual appeal  
for the year.

Please support  
The Drenk Center's  
programs and services  
by making a year-end,  
100 percent tax-deductible  
donation.

Please mail your donation in  
the enclosed envelope.

Thank You!

## A Message of Hope

My name is Michael and I work for the Screening & Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP) at The Drenk Center. My story is about my journey from being a consumer to becoming a Peer Advocate and working with people in crisis. I want to convey one simple message: the message of hope. Hope is a valuable tool on the road to wellness and recovery.

As a person with a mental illness, I truly understand the feelings of being alone and the hopelessness that can surface while having a mental illness. For many years, I suffered alone with my mental illness, until my family brought me to SCIP. I didn't realize that going to SCIP would be a life changing experience. What I found there was something I have never experienced before, people who truly understood how I was feeling. I met Peer Advocates; people who were once in crisis, overcame their struggles, and are living happy, healthy lives. They are people who really understand what it's like to suffer from a mental illness. They once felt how I felt. Their words were true and from the heart. They gave me hope by setting an example that I can overcome my illness.

Meeting and talking with people who understood my struggles made my life change. Now, through hard work, I am achieving wellness. I've become a Peer Advocate to pass on my knowledge and understanding to those in need. Let's never forget that there is hope.

Monte Carlo Night is April 17, 2010

*Save the Date:*



*Recovery is Possible for Everyone*

The Lester A. Drenk Behavioral Health Center (The Drenk Center) is a private, non-profit organization headquartered in Hainesport, NJ. With sites throughout the state, The Drenk Center offers a continuum of behavioral health services for both children and adults including prevention programs, emergency and crisis intervention, outpatient therapy, psychiatric services, residential programs, and case management services.

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