



Pyramid Professional Resources



March 2009 166 Market Street; Lexington KY 40507-1173 Vol 5
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Jobs Needed By Our Clients:

Civil Engineer
Construction
Clerical
Dishwasher
Elder care - sitter
Landscape
Mechanical Engineer
Receptionist
Sales & Marketing

PPR Board Members

Mr. Tom Howard, President
Ms. Carroll Tarvin,
 Vice President
Ms. Diane Wiles, Secretary
Ms. Susie Lawrence,
 Treasurer

Directors:

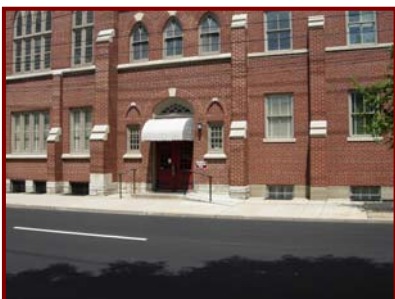
Rev. Keith Barbour
Mrs. Lori Bruner
Dr. Gil Daley
Mrs. Ruth Mark
Mr. Michael Noyes
Mrs. Grace Perreiah

Marketing:

Mrs. Carolyn Daley

Webmaster:

Mr. Lee Owen



A Hello from Linda Martin, Substance Abuse Counselor on Staff

Pyramid Professional Resources is a coalition of Lexington area churches, business and individuals whose purpose is to provide a vitally important service for area homeless persons. Our goal is to help each client obtain and maintain full-time employment, which we believe results in self-sufficiency, and success in other life areas. We service about fifteen clients per week, and 50% of these persons find and maintain full-time employment. Our services include providing a phone, voice-mail, and a mailing address, as well as transportation options, clothing, showers, resume writing services, and a nine station bank of computers used for job-seeking. We provide education and skill development around applying for and interviewing for jobs, and assist our clients in identifying habits or personal characteristics which may interfere with success (continued, p.



2).

One of our many success stories . . .

My name is James Robert's born here in Lexington from a family of ten (six sisters and four brothers). With that big of a family we didn't have a lot. The one thing we did have were loving parents. Growing up most of us made bad choices and got into drugs and alcohol. At 17 years of age, I got married and had a ready made family with two kids. I was married for 14 years and did real well for about ten years until the marriage started to fail. The last five years of the marriage got bad, but we still worked together. I took a night job at a bar and decided not to go home. That's when the drug use really went out of control. By 1994 I got divorced and went as a partner at the bar. By 1998 drugs took every thing that I was living for. I got "busted" for dealing drugs. It was time to make a change in my life. For the next seven years (continued p. 2)

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PPR is a 501c3 organization and could use razors, shampoo, deodorant, large bars of soap and funds for Monthly Bus Passes @ \$30.00 each.



Mission Fairs: February found the Director at a Missions Fair at Calvary Baptist Church, February 20th at Christ Church Cathedral during a Gallery Hop and March 1st at Second Presbyterian Church Mission Fair along with several volunteers.



Linda Martin continued: A primary deterrent to success for our clients is use or abuse of, or dependency on drugs or alcohol. As a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor in the State of Kentucky, I am qualified to evaluate clients around their need for substance abuse prevention, education, or treatment, and can assess and refer individuals to appropriate programs. I have joined the staff at Pyramid Professional Resources in order to perform this task. I am hopeful my service to the agency will result in a higher number of successful clients, and will bring needed intervention to people at an earlier time, having the effect of deterring clients from a more deleterious involvement with substances, preventing relapse, and providing both inpatient and outpatient referral services to those who need immediate treatment.

The homeless population is a group with which I am intimately familiar. I am retired from the Common Pleas Court Probation Department in Cincinnati, Ohio, where I supervised a caseload of, and then a specialized unit for the supervision of a variety of mentally disordered felons. Most of these persons had a substance abuse issue as well. Prior to this, I worked in a mental hospital in Cincinnati, from which I was recruited to work with offenders, in the 1970's, when many people were being released from mental hospitals, and being incarcerated instead. I worked at probation for the next 27 years, then retired and returned to my home state of Kentucky, where I worked for the next six years as a substance abuse counselor with Comprehend, Inc., in Mason and Fleming counties. There I provided DUI assessments and outpatient therapy to persons who needed education or treatment, including services to inmates in the Mason County Detention Center.

I am privileged to have an odd academic history. My undergraduate degree is from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. I started on a Masters' Degree in music theory and composition in 1969, but was told women could not obtain employment in that field. As a result, I transferred to a program called Group Communications, prior to the existence of advanced degree programs in social work or counseling. When certifications begin in social work and substance abuse counseling in the State of Ohio, I was initially "grandfathered" in, while working as a Probation Officer, and continue to be licensed in Ohio as a Social Work and Licensed independent Chemical Dependency Counselor. I have often joked I prefer working with felons to giving piano lessons to children. I hope I can help Pyramid Professional Resources decrease the number of homeless and substance dependent persons in Fayette County.

James Roberts continued: I struggled with trying to change my life. But as of Nov. 12, 2008 I have been clean of cocaine for one year. And I hope to God I never go back. In June of 2008 I hurt my back. I ended up at the Hope Center and tried to get surgery for my back. I heard about Pyramid Professional Resources and got into their program. I started out trying to get help with my disability. The ladies at PPR have done much more for me. They gave me back my self esteem, and a feeling of self worth. They also got me a job that came with my own place to live. These ladies have done more than they will ever know. As of August 18th 2008, I took God into my life, and turned it all over to Him. And it's great to live in His Grace. The people at PPR are more than people, they are Angel's and will always have a place in my heart. God bless the people at PPR