

HIGHER GROUND
A TIYOSPAYE INC.
PROGRAM

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Higher Places

“Helping People Choose to Change”

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- Promoting Healthy Families
- Substance Abuse Prevention / Intervention
- Bilingual Spanish Services

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Higher Ground’s 2006 “Breakfast of Champions”

Higher Ground has always had a heart for the people around them. They not only believe in helping their clients recover their lives, but also in providing hope to the community.

The 2006 “Higher Ground Breakfast of Champions”, was a start on getting to know the community and providing that hope. About 60 people were in attendance for the early morning breakfast. They enjoyed a free meal, while listening to a program that showcased Higher Ground’s programs and dreams. “We could not be happier with the outcome,” commented Mary

San Martin, Executive Director of Higher Ground, “We had the opportunity to



Shirley Toy, Assistant Director, Dr. Rob Dopps, a local chiropractor, and Executive Director, Mary San Martin at the 2006 Higher Ground “Breakfast of Champions”.

meet new people and connect with their hearts, which is exactly what we wanted to do.” The event raised funds for youth ser-

vices, and launched a long-term fundraising program by making new community friends and partners.

The event, held on September 20, 2006, at Crestview Country Club, lasted about an hour and included speeches delivered by Higher Ground’s founding executive director Mary San Martin, board chairperson, Delia Jackson, and board vice-chair, Dr. Tex Abay.

Board member, Celia Chin, and a teenage client and her mother gave inspiring testimonials about how Higher Ground has impacted their lives.

See “Breakfast” page 3

A Future for Higher Ground

The future for non-profits is always an uncertain thing. Government and foundation resources are shrinking everyday. Higher Ground understands this and is planning for the future. The Board of Directors and Administration at

Higher Ground are please to announce the launching of our 2006-2007 Endowment Campaign.

Thanks to an Endowment Challenge Grant, awarded to Higher Ground by the Wichita Community

Foundation, we can start building and looking toward the future.

The grant will allow Higher Ground to begin building long term financial sustainability by providing up to \$33,000 in

See “Endowment” page 3

Staff Spotlight



**Margaret Maniaci,
Higher Grounds
Clinical Coordinator.**

“Margaret lives her life away from the office with the same commitment and compassion she shows for her work.”

**Martha Arana (left) and
Monica Faz at the 2006 Higher
Grounds “Breakfast of
Champions”**



For five years, Margaret Maniaci, has been the Clinical Coordinator at Higher Ground. It was tough for a New Yorker like Margaret to start at the time of the 9/11 tragedy, but she has not looked back.

She is responsible for supervising clinical staff in adolescent and adult Substance Abuse Treatment programs.

She also tracks the outcomes and results of treatment groups. Margaret is one of several people at Higher Ground who are trained as AEI Certified Challenge Ropes Course Facilitators. In her case, this is impressive, because, at 60 years of age, she leads clients through our Ropes Course, climbs 40-foot poles and qualifies for rescue.

“I always knew I wanted to help people,” Maniaci said when asked

why she went into the field of substance abuse counseling

Margaret received her bachelor’s degree in Liberal Arts from Barry University in Miami, Florida. She then went on to earn her Master’s Degree in Pastoral Ministries, from St. Thomas University in Miami, Florida.

Her interest in the field of addictions led her to become a certified alcohol and drug counselor. She is a member of NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals. She has been a counselor, in some capacity, for the last 22 years. “She has a huge heart for this work,” said Mary San Martin, the Executive Director of Higher Ground.

Margaret lives her life away from the office with the same commitment and compassion she shows for her work. “I

am living a blessed life,” Maniaci remarked.

She has been happily married for 37 years. She and her husband raised three children who are now ages 36, 33 and 30. Those three kids have given her four beautiful and lively grandchildren, all of whom live in Florida.

She also has a three-year-old cat named Jack. As a first-time cat owner, she has been surprised by how much he has changed her life. “He runs the house, and is spoiled rotten,” Margaret laughs.

In her free time, Margaret likes to play Computer and video games. Spider Solitaire is her favorite computer game.

Her adventurous side reveals itself in her love of trying new flavors and ethnic foods. She also enjoys staying in touch

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HG Staff Updates

Higher Ground is pleased to welcome four new staff members. Monica Faz and Rebecca Echols began working at Higher Ground in July 2006 in the Administration Support Department. Monica is the new receptionist and is fun, up-

beat, and always smiling. Her bilingual Spanish skills are a huge benefit at the front desk.

Rebecca works as General Support for the office and is a trained ropes course facilitator, who works with clients at our ropes

challenge course in Augusta. She is currently working toward a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing at Wichita State University. They both have brought unique and appreciated skills to Higher Ground.

See “Staff” page 4

Endowment (from page 1)

matching funds for the contributions raised during the campaign.

“With this challenge grant, donors can be assured that their contribution will not only begin to establish Higher Ground as a permanent resource for the community, but will also be matched one dollar to three by the Wichita Community Foundation.

“Wichita will always need a safe haven for teens and

families suffering from the heartbreak of substance abuse, and this endowment will keep us viable into the future,” said Mary San Martin, Executive Director of Higher Ground.

The board has created an endowment committee to oversee the fundraising efforts for this campaign. The committee is presently seeking community members to help with the drive. Higher Ground is planning a

two year campaign, but will need to meet the \$100,000 matching goal for the Wichita Community Foundation by June, 2007.

This endowment grant will provide the seed money for Higher Ground to continue to serve teens, adults and families in Wichita. “Our goal is to always provide a safe haven for anyone who needs us,” commented Shirley Toy, Assistant Executive Director.

“Our goal is to always provide a safe haven for anyone who needs us”

Thank You!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who made donations at the “Higher Ground Breakfast of Champions”. Your generous contributions will allow us to continue to impact the lives of teens in Wichita, and alleviate the desperation of their parents.

The Breakfast raised a total of almost \$15,000 for Higher Ground’s adolescent program.

We would also like to say thank you to the companies that sponsored the event: Abay Orthodontics, Abay Neuroscience, Entermotion Design, Central Bank and



Delia Jackson, Higher Ground Board Chairperson, and Peter Salmeron at the 2006 Higher Ground “Breakfast of Champions”

Trust, Rico’s Salon and IBM. It would not have been possible without you!

Breakfast (from page 1)

Steve Shaad, a local businessman, did a wonderful job of acting as the master of ceremonies. “The program truly went off without a hitch, everyone involved was very pleased with the end results,” commented Shirley Toy, Higher Ground’s Assis-

tant Director and event manager.

Guests left Crestview Country Club that morning with a new awareness of the purpose and passion behind Higher Ground’s life-saving mission. This was Higher Ground’s first fundraising

event, but they are already looking forward to next year’s breakfast.



Michael Hunter (far left), a counselor at Higher Ground with Tessa Heard, Mrs. Missouri, and several clients at the 2006 Higher Ground “Breakfast of Champions”

Staff (from page 2)

Janell Anderson, the new Community Relations Specialist, arrived at Higher Ground just in time to put the finishing touches on our first fundraising event in September. She graduated from WSU in May of 2006 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Strategic Communication, and is thinking about pursuing a graduate degree.

The newest addition to our staff, Michele Lawrence, began in October as a full-time Adolescent Counselor. Michele recently graduated from WSU with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. She will be finishing her drug and alcohol certification at Butler Community College in December.

Welcome to all our new employees. We are excited to see where the future takes us!

Spotlight (from page 2)

with her family and friends through email. For Margaret, life is best when it is busy and full.

When asked why she thinks the work that Higher Ground does is important, she replied, "We empower people to make wiser choices, not only pertaining to drugs and alcohol, but life as well. We help clients recognize their full potential and then reach that potential."

Fast Facts

National statistics on Alcohol and Drug use

As published by the Greater Dallas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

- By the 8th grade, 52% of adolescents have consumed alcohol, 41% have smoked cigarettes, and 20% have used marijuana.
- 40% of those who started drinking at age 14 or younger later developed alcohol dependence, compared with 10% of those who began drinking at age 20 or older.
- Most people begin smoking as adolescents, and among youths who smoke, the average age of initiation is 12 ^{1/2}.

All facts come from the article "Substance Abuse: The Nations Number One Health Problem"

Get Involved!



There are many ways you can become involved at Higher Ground.

- Volunteering
- Financial Donations
- In-kind Donations
- Friend and Family Referrals

Please contact Janell Anderson at (316) 262-2060 for more information on how you can make a difference in our community!

Higher Ground Community Relations Department

Higher Ground, a Tiyospaye, Inc. Program is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. "Higher Places" is published via e-mail to Higher Ground supporters and corporate community members. If you have and questions, comments or would like to be removed from our contact list, please contact, Janell Anderson, Community Relations Specialist, via e-mail at Janell@higherg.org or call (316) 262-2060.