

Breaking Free

YOUR LIBERTAS TREATMENT CENTER DONOR NEWSLETTER



AN AFFILIATE OF HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEM

Libertas Treatment Center

We invite you to take a look - then and now

When patients walk through the door of Libertas Treatment Center, they feel something special; the comfort of knowing they are in the right place. Many of these patients have ventured down a dark path, living couch to couch, at-risk for suicide, unemployed, drinking and taking drugs. Many have lost their homes, their jobs, control of their lives, and worst of all, hope.

But they are not alone. Libertas is their lifeline.



Reclaiming lives from the devastating disease of addiction and mental health issues requires more than medical professionals. It requires people like you and friends like, Paul Schneider.

Libertas was founded almost 30 years ago as the first inpatient facility in the region focused on youth treatment. However, in 2004 it almost closed its doors for good.

A look back with GRATITUDE!

At the time, an alarming 44,277 youth in the state of Wisconsin, ages 12-17, suffered from a substance use disorder; involving the consumption of alcohol, or other mood altering drugs such as marijuana, heroin, cocaine, and pain killers.¹

Libertas wasn't in the best of shape either.

The organization faced an annual debt of \$200,000. To close that gap, \$4 million dollars would be needed to not only erase the debt, but sustain the treatment program for future generations. Paul Schneider stepped in and developed a team of dedicated individuals who worked in three phases to establish an endowment fund that would sustain Libertas for decades to come – a center that treats all kids regardless of their ability to pay.

In a recent conversation, Paul shared with us a story about Al McGuire, legendary basketball coach for Marquette University. Al had a theory: find the best basketball players, and offer them a chance to play ball at Marquette. Al would say, "Throw them the ball – and let them play. You'll get the best results." Paul set out to do just that. He sought the best people he possibly could and encourage them to serve on the Resource Development Committee, a spin-off from the Libertas Advisory Board. He knew success would breed success. And it did just that.

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¹ Source: Bureau of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, "Substance Abuse Treatment Needs, Capacity and Costs, 2004 Update" from <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p0/p00805.pdf>

The Dream Team

The Resource Development Committee consisted of like-minded individuals who shared belief in the mission of Libertas and understood the need to save area youth.

Paul and his band of benefactors combed the community, bringing incredible philanthropic support to this vital initiative!

Paul explained, "The Compassion for Kids...Support for Parents campaign was broken down into three phases. The goal for phase one was to raise \$1.5 million and we did that within six months. In phase 2, we spent a significant amount of time promoting Libertas. In phase 3, we set out to raise the additional funds needed to keep the doors open. It was amazing, I still can't believe it."

Thanks to Paul and donors like you, Libertas is here today giving youth and adults a safe space, away from the environment that triggered usage — school, work, friends or family.

"Substance use is a chronic brain disease," says Paula Manley, Executive Director of Libertas. "It's unrelenting and complex." Substance use impacts the brain's ability to make decisions. Undoing this damage can take years.

Paula also shared, "We have professionals at our center who provide patients with coping strategies. Together, they set goals and they celebrate successes."

A more welcoming and healing atmosphere for adolescents.

Bolstered by your support, Libertas Treatment Center recently underwent a major makeover. With new furniture, updated flooring, focused workspaces, and vibrantly painted walls, the updated treatment center reflects daily efforts to ensure patients receive the support they need to positively transition into their treatment program.

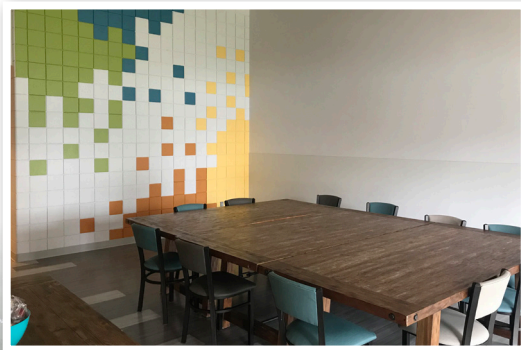
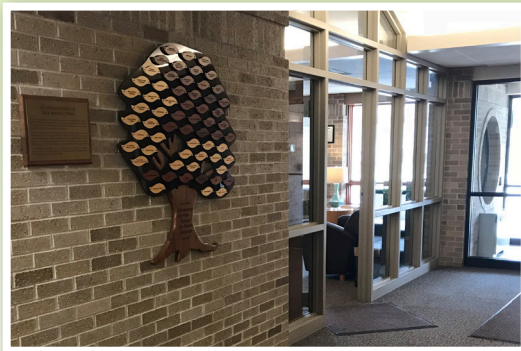
And the beautiful healing labyrinth is an uplifting space that creates a change in spirit — it truly brings hope and healing to patients on their path to a brighter future.

Paula concludes, "Recovery is a rough road. Relapse is expected. It's all about making patients feel welcome, cared for, and respected." None of this would be possible without friends like you and those who support the Center.

Thank you to Paul Schneider and his band of benefactors, who cared enough to step in and step up.

Open House

Join us from 4 – 6 p.m. on
Tuesday, September 18,
for a guided tour of Libertas
Treatment Center and an
opportunity to meet our staff
who commit themselves daily
to serve our patients.
Light refreshments will be served.
RSVP's are not required.



Jamie's Story

Though the details have been omitted from this story for privacy reasons— one thread remains the same: drug and alcohol usage are addictive. It's a gut-wrenching disease from which few escape. Thankfully, because of your belief in Libertas Treatment Center, there's hope for patients like Jamie.

As a pre-teen, when most kids are focused on sports or music, Jamie watched loved ones and friends use drugs. It became natural for Jamie to begin using drugs at an early age. Jamie smoked marijuana almost every day, drank, and abused LSD and inhalants.

Jamie's home life fell apart when mom disappeared and dad "couch surfed" from house to house — never staying in one place very long.

Jamie eventually ended up in the care of grandparents. But the damage had been done. Jamie once again began to act out and suffered some legal consequences.

Jamie's life was in a downward spiral. That's when a social worker referred Jamie to Libertas. It was here, where Jamie finally found some hope.


Unfortunately, insurance denied Jamie's claim for treatment. This is when the Freedom Fund kicked in and provided Jamie a scholarship.

Without the Freedom Fund Scholarship Program, Jamie would not have been able to complete a full inpatient stay at Libertas. During a therapy session, Jamie realized guidance from peers, counselors and most importantly, family would be needed to fight this relentless disease.

Libertas soon extended support to Jamie's father as well. Together they were able to reconnect and build a stronger relationship.

Jamie is not alone. The use of drugs and consumption of alcohol remain a problem in Wisconsin. But with your help, we can provide hope to one child at a time.

Libertas has been touching young lives for decades. Nearly 14 years ago, The Compassion for Kids...Support for Parents campaign kept the doors open. Today, your gifts continue to bring hope to young people like Jamie. **Thank you!**



*Addiction is a family disease.
One person may use, but the whole
family suffers. — Anonymous*

Freedom Fund Scholarship Program Makes Recovery Accessible for All

Too many people in our community battle addiction every day. Unfortunately, many of them struggle on their own because of the cost of treatment. Thanks to you, the services offered at Libertas are accessible to all. In March of 2016, your generosity helped establish the Freedom Fund Scholarship Program. Gifts received from generous people like you ensure that adolescents struggling with drug and alcohol abuse have access to the care they need when they need it, even if they lack the ability to pay.

Thank you for making recovery a little easier.

Libertas treatment program incorporates:

- Individual substance use and mental health assessment
- Medical oversight
- Experiential therapies
- Art therapy
- Peer group experiences focusing on relapse prevention and life skills
- Substance use education
- Yoga
- School time
- Components of a 12-step program focused on learning the skills needed to start the recovery process



DID YOU KNOW? Libertas, the Latin word for freedom signifies freedom from (in this case, freedom from addiction).

YES! I want to help more people find freedom from addiction.

Here is my gift to help those in need:

I wish to give:

- ☐ One Time ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Annually
- ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250

Donate online:

giving.hshs.org/LibertasEWD/Donate

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- ☐ I wish to remain anonymous.
- ☐ I am interested in estate planning. Please send me information.
- ☐ I have provided for Libertas Treatment Center in my will.

I would like to pay by:

- ☐ Check (one time gifts only), made payable to Libertas
- ☐ Credit/Debit Card

☐ Master Card ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ Discover

Name on Card _____

Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____ 3 Digit Code _____

Signature _____

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Thank you for your support! Gifts are taxable to the fullest extent of the law.

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