

# THE FLORIDA MESSENGER

Official newsletter of Phoenix House Florida



## *A Message from the CEO*

In this new year, I wish you and your families joy and prosperity. At Phoenix House Florida, the new year brings new opportunities and renewed spirits. Our staff and patients come together in celebration of the past and look forward to the future of building new relationships, learning new skills and broadening our reach.

In our mission of healing individuals, families and communities challenged by substance use disorders and related mental health conditions, we strive to provide the best quality treatment to all who walk through our doors.

We rely on our network of dedicated donors, partners, advocates, families and staff members to fuel our progress as an organization and ensure improved health and success in recovery for the people we serve. None of this would be possible without you, our community partners.

Thank you for your continued support of Phoenix House Florida. To you and yours, I wish all the best in 2020!

Maria Alvarez, President & CEO

### *In this month's issue:*

- REMEMBERING WHIT PALMER
- COMPANY SPOTLIGHT
- STAFF SPOTLIGHT
- GRATITUDE FOR GIVING

## In Memoriam: Mr. Whit Palmer

Whitfield McRory Palmer, Jr., 90, of Ocala passed away on Wednesday, January 1, 2020 at home. Whit was a long-time supporter of Phoenix House Florida. In the early 1990's, Whit, along with his friend Fred Fisher, wanted to help their sons who were struggling with the consequences of substance use related issues. Through a friend, they found help for their children in a Daytop rehabilitation program in New York. The experience with their children created a desire to assist Daytop in establishing a similar program in Florida. Whit's daughter, Susie, found a former hospital facility in Citra, Florida and the facility opened in 1994.



After a few years, and the realization that additional support was needed to expand Daytop Florida, Fred and Whit contacted Phoenix House Foundation. In 1998, the two organizations entered into an affiliation agreement resulting in the current day Phoenix Programs of Florida (Phoenix House Florida).

Whit began his career in the mining industry with Dixie Lime and Stone Co., and became president and CEO. He later purchased MFM Industries. As president of Paddock Park Development, Whit was a real estate developer in Marion County. He also served as president and chairman of HydroMentia, Inc., an aquatic plant-based water treatment company for large scale environmental restoration.

A longtime member of the Florida Council of 100, Palmer also served on the boards of Florida TaxWatch, the Florida Chamber of Commerce, UF Health Shands Hospital in Gainesville and Munroe Regional Healthcare System in Ocala. Whit Palmer was the consummate maker of connections and when actor Paul Newman decided to build a Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in Florida for children with serious and life-threatening diseases, he recruited Whit to lead the successful effort to build and establish what is now Camp Boggy Creek.

"He was born here and grew up here and had a strong affection for our town and Marion County," Margaret Palmer Parks, one of his daughters, said in a telephone interview. "And (he) was always trying to find ways to add to it, to enhance it, whether it was education or commercial opportunities" or other areas. He had "a huge affinity for the hospital and was very proud of the level of health care the community had," Parks said.



## Company Spotlight

### WE ARE IN NETWORK!!

Phoenix House Florida is in network with most insurance providers, including those listed below. Call or email our Welcome Center today to schedule your appointment at [FLAdmissions@PhoenixFL.org](mailto:FLAdmissions@PhoenixFL.org) or (813) 881-1000, option 1.

In addition, we accept Medicaid for our outpatient program:

- Medicaid (Outpatient Services Only)
- Medicaid MMA's (Outpatient Services Only)

 UnitedHealthcare

Florida Blue 

Humana®

 Cigna®

 Aetna®

 Oxford Health Plans®

AvMed Embrace better health.®

 BayCare

GHI

 healthfirst®  
Health Insurance for New Yorkers

 PSYCHCARE  
a Beacon Company

UNITED  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

 VALUEOPTIONS  
Innovative Solutions. Better Health.

Magellan  
HEALTH®

Anthem.   
BlueCross BlueShield

MHNet

America's PPO®

 UNICARE®

GEHA®

 Amerigroup  
RealSolutions®  
in healthcare

## *Staff Spotlight*

**KENNETH SCOTT, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

**Kenneth M. Scott, Director of Finance, is a certified public accountant with over 25 years of nonprofit accounting and finance experience. After receiving his undergraduate degree from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, he worked in a variety of accounting and auditing capacities before returning to law school to obtain his Juris Doctor. As a U.S. military veteran Kenn has served in both the United State Marine Corp Reserve and the United State Air Force. When he is not working, Kenn enjoys spending time with family, sports, photography, and mentoring youth.**



**"I came to work for PHFL because I could not pass up the opportunity to assist in the mission of such a dedicated and highly respected organization."**

## *HR Corner*

**BY ELIZABETH ROLON, HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR**

### ***We are hiring!***

#### **Business Development**

- Community Relations / Fundraising Representative (FT)
- Business Development Specialist/Mobile Assessor (FT/Contract)

#### **Brandon Out-Patient Services**

- Counselor (Per Diem)

#### **Citra Residential Treatment Services**

- Clinical Technician/Shift Lead (FT)
- Clinical Technician ((2) Full-Time)
- Counselor (FT)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (FT)
- Recreational Therapist (Per Diem)

**Please visit our website for more information on jobs: <https://bit.ly/2RrmHxx>**



## *Children's Toy Drive*

GRATITUDE IN THE HOLIDAYS



Thank you to all who so generously donated to our children's gift drive, "Gifts of Hope, Healing and Recovery" this past holiday season. Because of your donations, we were able to provide gifts to over 125 children whose parents were receiving care in our program. In addition, Meadowbrook church of Ocala sent each of those children a gift to the home on behalf of their parent through a donation from the church. So each of the kids received 2 gifts each!! Thank you Meadowbrook!

The Citra residential program celebrated the season with a holiday party during our family visitation day. The festive event included a live band, poems and recitals, and many more activities shared by our talented patients. Chef Justin and his team prepared a wonderful pasta dinner with all of the fixings. There were prize give-away's and so much more.

