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Symposiums



David Lee Morgan, Jr. spoke with Merita World Peace about his experience in 2022. (May 4, 2023)

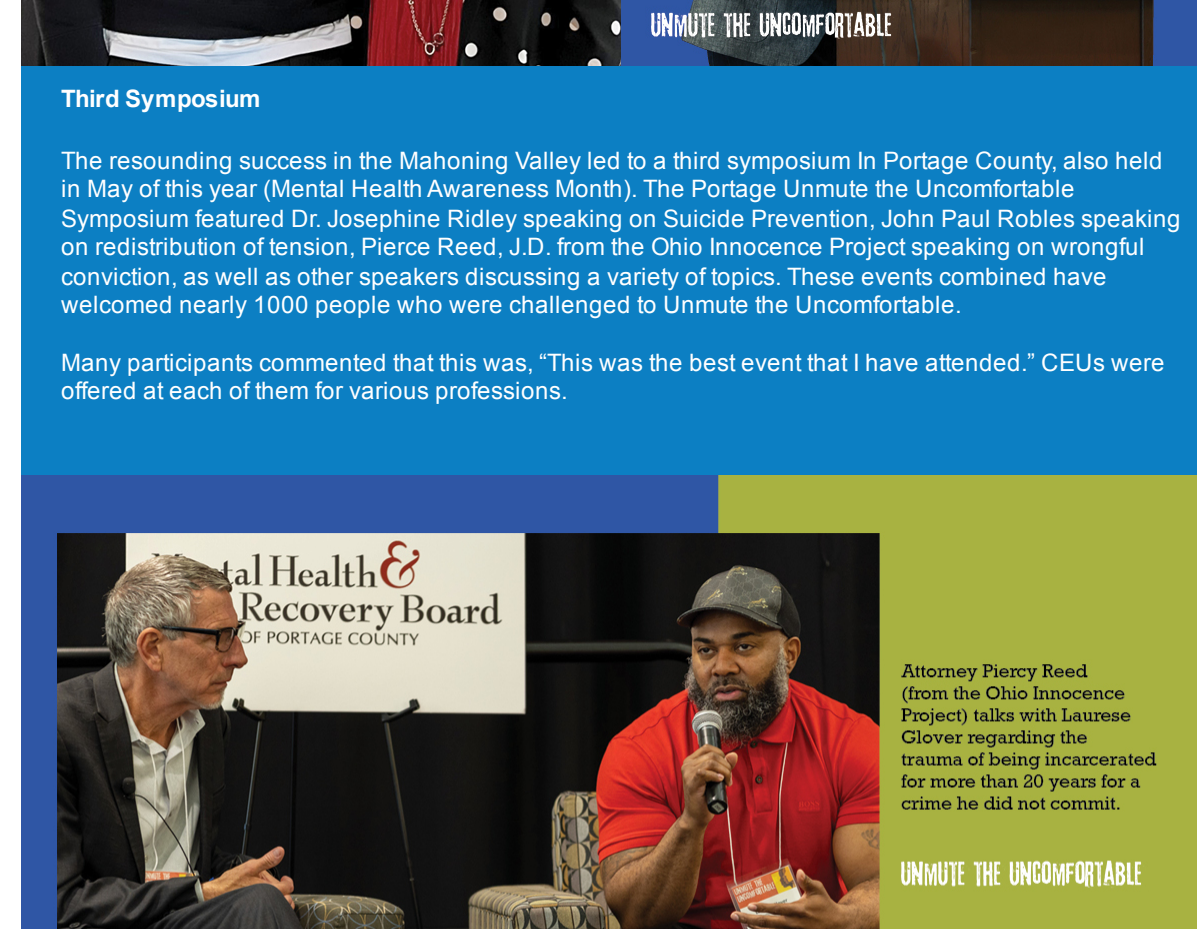
During the pandemic, Coleman's marketing team worked with senior students from Kent State University on their capstone projects. Coleman was the client and wanted the students to focus on breaking the stigma of mental health. One of the projects used the logo "Unmute the Uncomfortable" in the form of those little zoom calls. The term "you are so muted" was used more than we care to admit. These students nailed it. Let's talk about an uncomfortable subject.

Around the same time, Coleman staff was planning a community event to bring together people from across the area, including mental health providers, law enforcement and the judicial system, faith groups, and community leaders, to discuss racial injustice, mental health and suicide prevention. The event was postponed twice, but the inaugural Unmute the Uncomfortable Symposium finally took place in early February of 2023 (and a terrific success). At the event, Coleman's keynote speaker was Kevin Richardson, whose story was featured in the Netflix movie "When They See Us".

Because of the overwhelmingly positive response to the first symposium and to continue the conversation, a half-day Unmute the Uncomfortable Breakfast was held in September 2022. The next time this amazing event continues.

Second Symposium

Again in the Mahoning Valley, we held Unmute the Uncomfortable 2023 in May of this year. It focused on racial equity, shattering the stigma, and reshaping our community. Keynote speaker - NBA legend turned mental health advocate Metta World Peace (the former Metta Scott) led his story to help end the stigma associated with seeking help for your mental health, especially among men. His story is showcased on Showtime's Queer Storm: The Real World Story, as well as the Netflix documentary All the Places. Author and Warren native David Lee Morgan Jr. joined Coleman for the discussion. Also speaking was former Youngstown Mayor and Coana administrative member, Jay Williams, who is now President and CEO of The Hartford Foundation. The Foundation's priorities include reducing persistent disparities that have disproportionately affected communities based on Race/Ethnicity, Place, and Income.



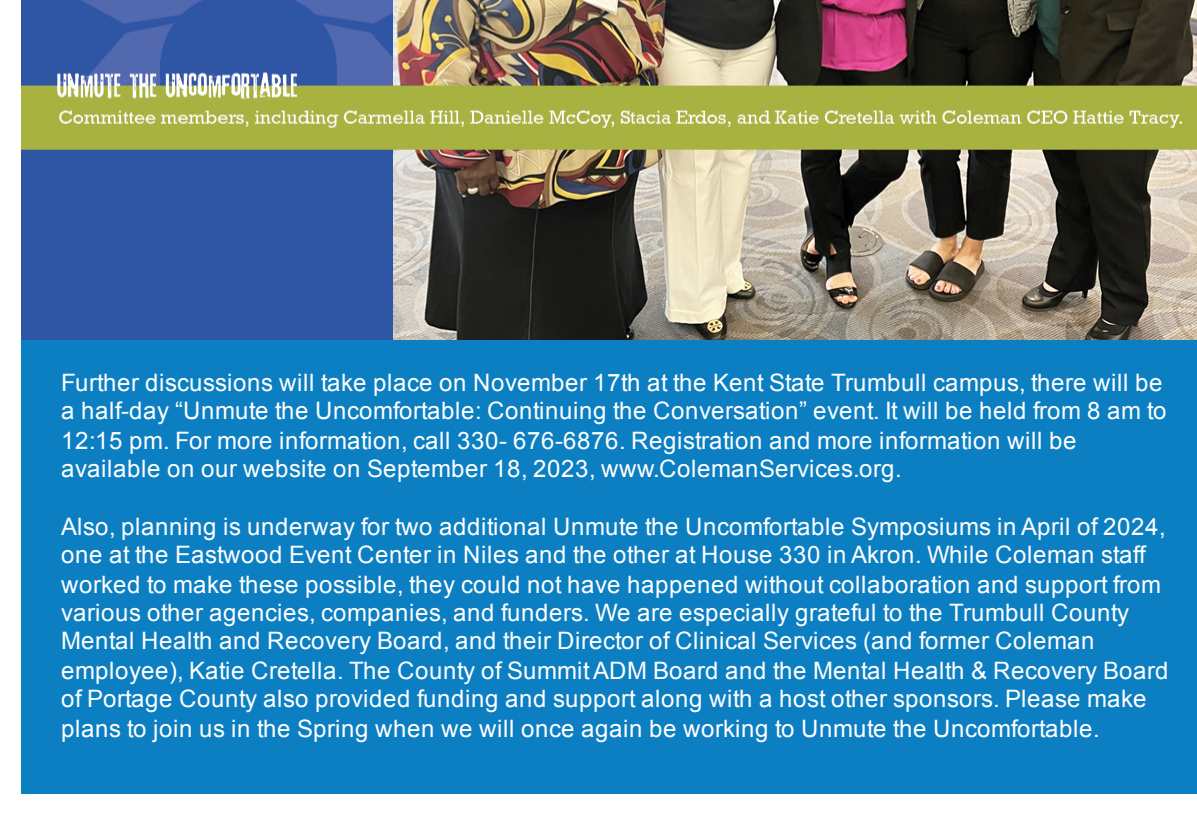
Merita World Peace spoke with Judge Cleveland, Administrative and Financial Director, Youngstown Municipal Court, as part of the May 4, 2023 symposium in the Mahoning Valley.

Dr. Neil Robbins, Director of The Coe Center, Youngstown Community Disruption Factors. May 10, 2023.

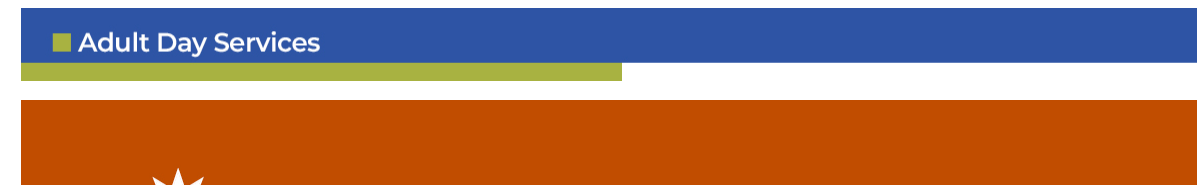
Third Symposium

Three outstanding successes in the Mahoning Valley led from the 2022 Unmute the Uncomfortable Symposium, also held in May of this year (Mental Health Awareness Month). The Portage County Unmute the Uncomfortable Symposium featured Dr. Josephine Ridley speaking on Suicide Prevention, John Paul Robles speaking on the distribution of Person, Prince Reed, J.D. from the Ohio Innocence Project speaking on wrongful conviction, as well as other speakers discussing a variety of topics. These events combined have welcomed nearly 1000 people who were challenged to Unmute the Uncomfortable.

Many participants commented that this was, "This was the best event that I have attended." CEUs were offered at each of the events for various professions.



Attorney Henry Bond, from the Ohio Innocence Project, speaking at Coleman regarding the lengths of being incarcerated for more than 20 years for a crime he did not commit.

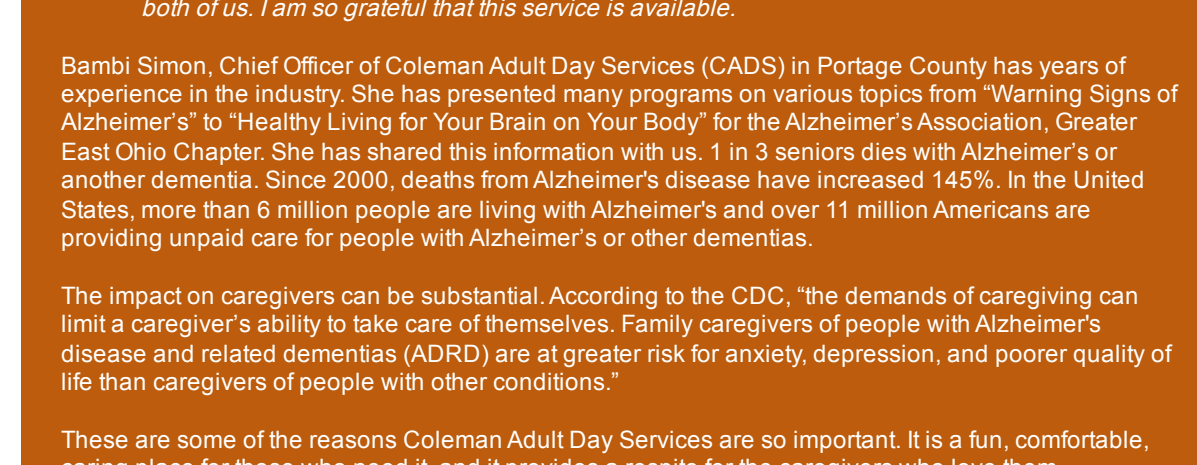


Coleman staff members, including Crystal Hill, Director, McColough House, and Kate Coughlin, Director, CEO Homecare.

Further discussions will take place on November 17th at the Kent State Trumbull campus, there will be a half-day "Unmute the Uncomfortable: Continuing the Conversation" event. It will be held from 6 am to 12:15 pm. For more information, call 330-673-1347. Registration and more information will be available on our website on September 18, 2023. www.ColemanServices.org.

Also, planning is underway for two additional Unmute the Uncomfortable Symposiums in April of 2024, one at the Eastwood Event Center in Niles and the other at House 330 in Akron. While Coleman staff worked to make these possible, they could not have happened without collaboration and support from various other agencies, companies and funders. We are especially grateful to the Trumbull County Mental Health and Recovery Board, and their Director of Clinical Services (and former Coleman employee) Kaita Crestella, The County Summit ADM Board and the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County also provided funding and support along with a host of other sponsors. Please make plans to join us in the Spring when we will once again be working to Unmute the Uncomfortable.

Adult Day Services

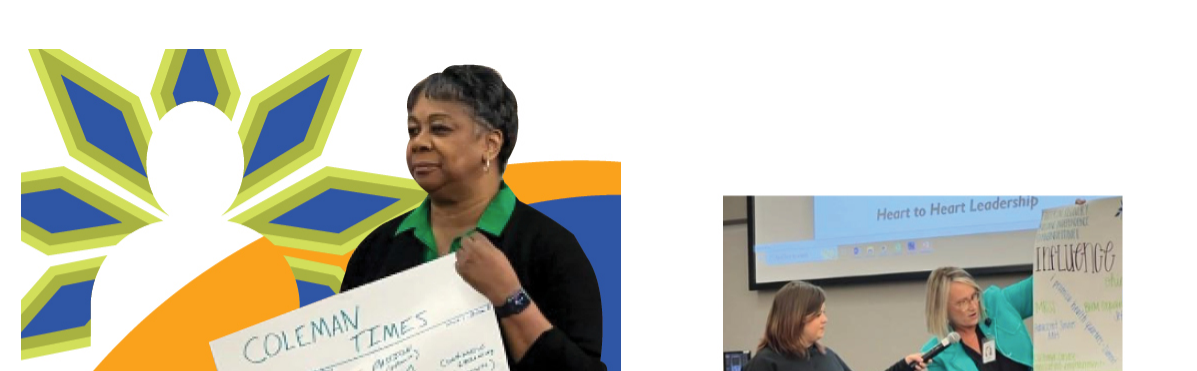


It is a fun, comfortable, caring place for those who need it, and it provides a respite for the caregivers who love them.

Maximizing Our Strengths



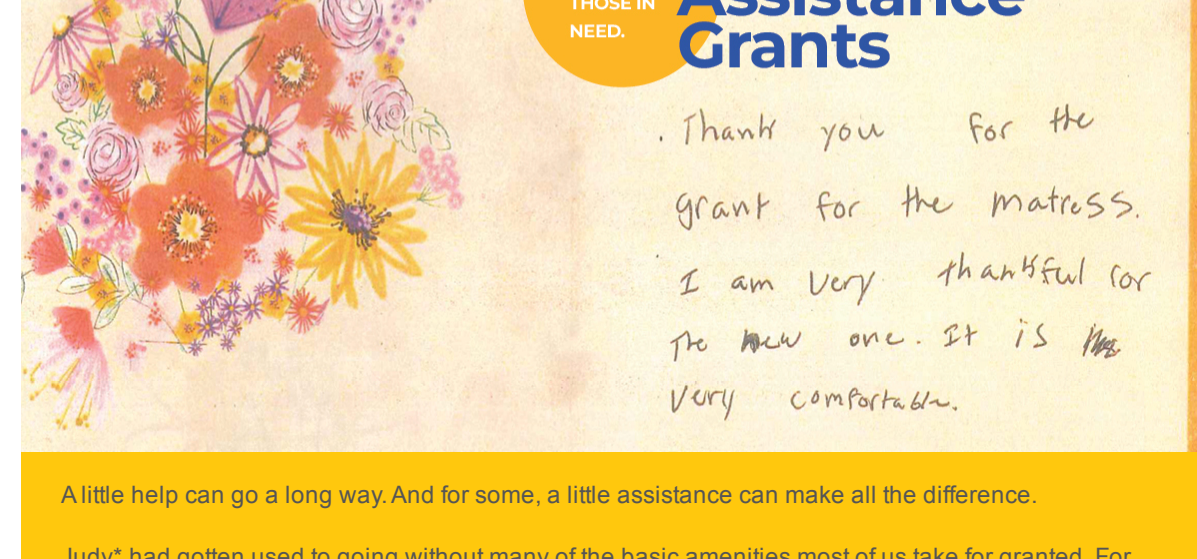
The Coleman Management Team, at its quarterly management forums, has been working to maximize its strengths, both collectively and individually, thereby lifting team heart to heart leadership in Akron, Ohio. Led an interactive workshop using the CliftonStrengths assessment which provides participants with their top five strengths and other helpful information. The workshop through input, small and large group conversation, and experiential learning focuses upon individuals getting more in touch with their unique strengths. They learn ways to use those strengths and further develop them, especially at work. It also helps teams discover ways of working better together by leveraging everyone's strengths to the benefit.



Getting more in touch with their unique strengths.

Our team has been able to determine how they can further recognize, encourage, and leverage the strengths of themselves and coworkers to work together more effectively.

Personal Assistance Grants



A little help can go a long way. And for some, a little assistance can make all the difference.

Judy* had gotten used to going without many of the basic amenities most of us take for granted. For Judy, taking care of those around her was always her priority, so sacrificing her comfort—by living in her car—was a choice she was willing to make. But deep down, Judy dreamed of a better life. Judy and her Coleman caseworker worked for months to find her a more stable living situation. Prior evictions from a past life made it difficult to find a housing solution. However, Judy and her caseworker never gave up hope and continued to search.

Then, disaster struck.

An electrical fire destroyed her car and everything Judy owned, including items she needed to find housing, like an ID and birth certificate. Judy was turning out of options, an what little assistance she was getting had to go towards replacing the things she had lost and helping her daughter—who she was staying with—pay the rent. Fortunately, Judy's caseworker was able to find her an apartment in her price range, but there was a problem: Judy had no money for a security deposit.

Thankfully, Coleman Health Services' Personal Assistance Grants program was there to help. Funded through the Blensinger-Goldberg Endowment and Richard and Tamara Ryan's generosity, one-time cash assistance grants of up to \$500 are provided to those Coleman clients in greatest need. Because of the grant, and a some funds from her Social Security check to make up the difference, Judy had enough for the required security deposit.

Since 2010, Coleman has provided 1,137 Personal Assistance Grants totaling over \$280,000. Coleman employees who work directly with clients can apply for a grant on behalf of the client, and grants are awarded regularly by a committee of current and former Coleman Board Members and Coleman Health Services staff. The grants can be requested for various purposes, including housing, transportation needs, items required for employment, and more. The payments are made directly to the vendors to ensure that clients get exactly what they need.

Recently, Dr. James Tinnin, a retired professor from Kent State University, donated to the Personal Assistance Grant fund through his Donor Advised Fund at the Portage Foundation.

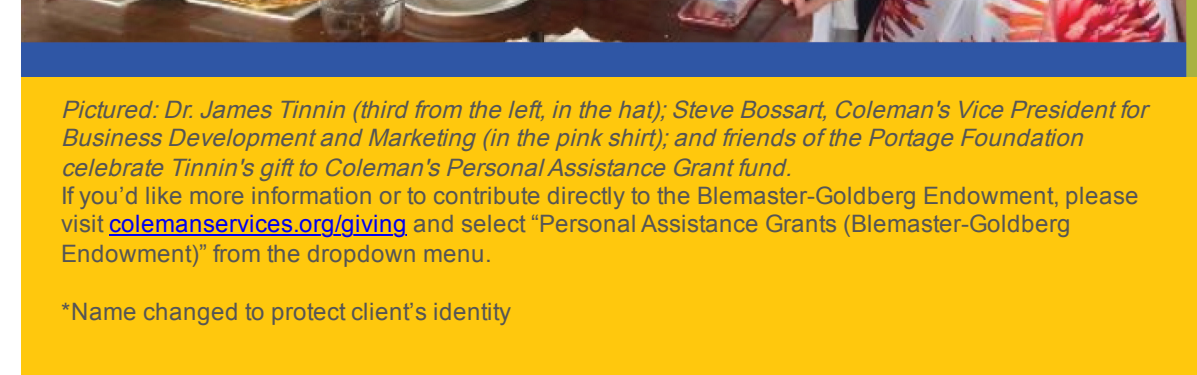
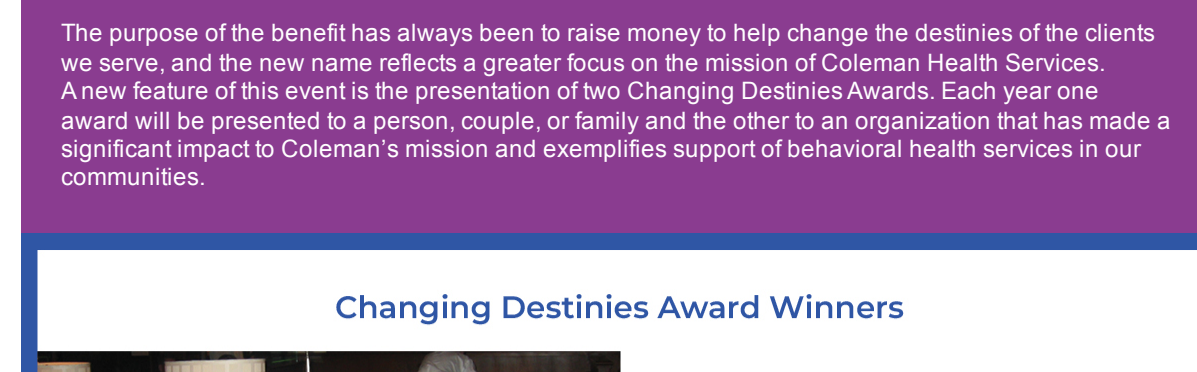


Photo: Dr. James Tinnin (third from the left, in the hat), Steve Rossart, Coleman's Vice President for Business Development and Marketing (in the pink shirt), and Pamela Ryan, Coleman's Vice President for Client Services, celebrating Tinnin's gift to Coleman's Personal Assistance Grant fund.

If you'd like more information on how to contribute directly to the Blensinger-Goldberg Endowment, please visit www.ColemanServices.org and select "Personal Assistance Grants (Blensinger-Goldberg Endowment)" from the dropdown menu.

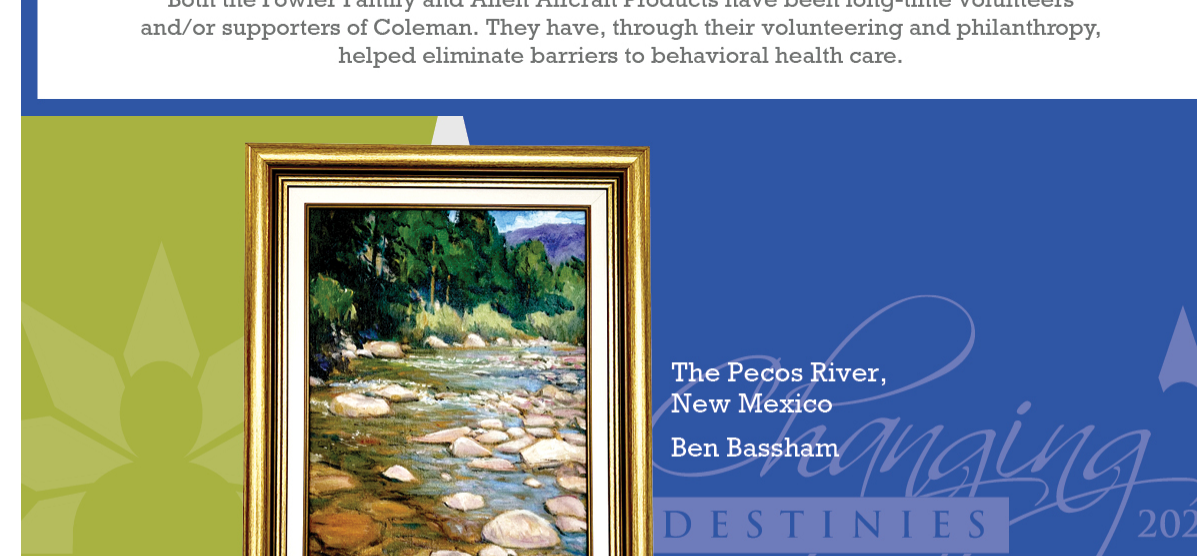
*Name changed to protect client's identity.

Fundraising



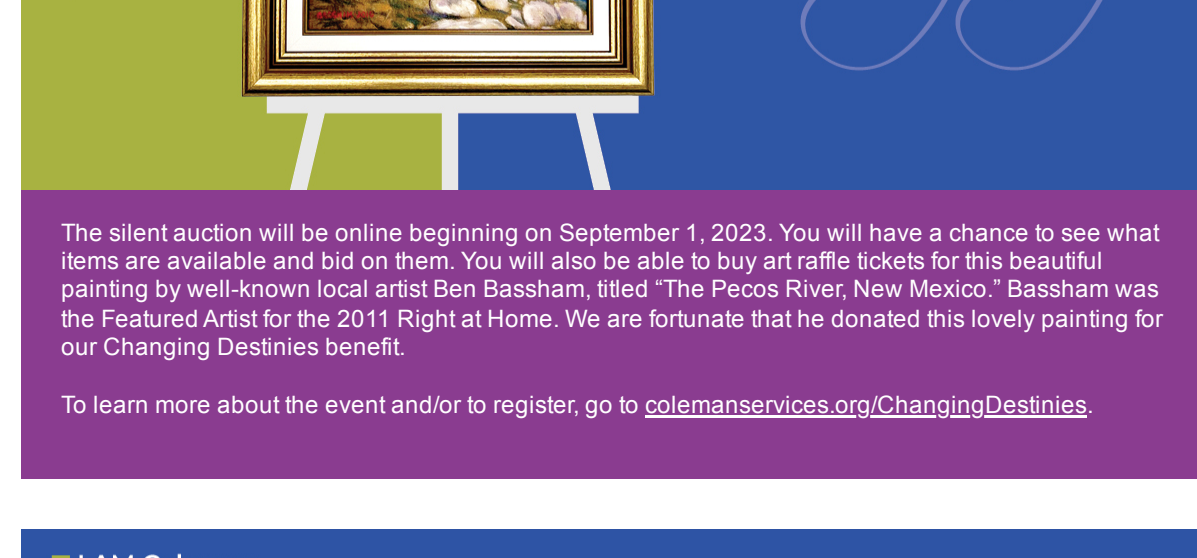
Coleman's 36th annual fundraiser has a new name, Changing Destinies. It will be held on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at Highlands Event Center in Hudson, Ohio. Please join us for the evening. The event will include favorite features from our previous celebrations—great food, wonderful auction items, an art raffle, a 50/50 raffle, and great people to meet and help.

The purpose of the benefit has always been to raise money to help change the destinies of the clients we serve, and the new name reflects a greater focus on the mission of Coleman Health Services. A new feature of this event is the presentation of two Changing Destinies Awards. Each year one award will be presented to a person, couple, or family and the other to an organization that has made a significant impact to Coleman's mission and exemplified support of behavioral health services in our communities.



Allen Aircraft Products, Inc. Ravenna, Ohio

Both the Fowler Family and Allen Aircraft Products have been long-time volunteers and/or supporters of Coleman. They have, through their volunteering and philanthropy, helped eliminate barriers to behavioral health care.

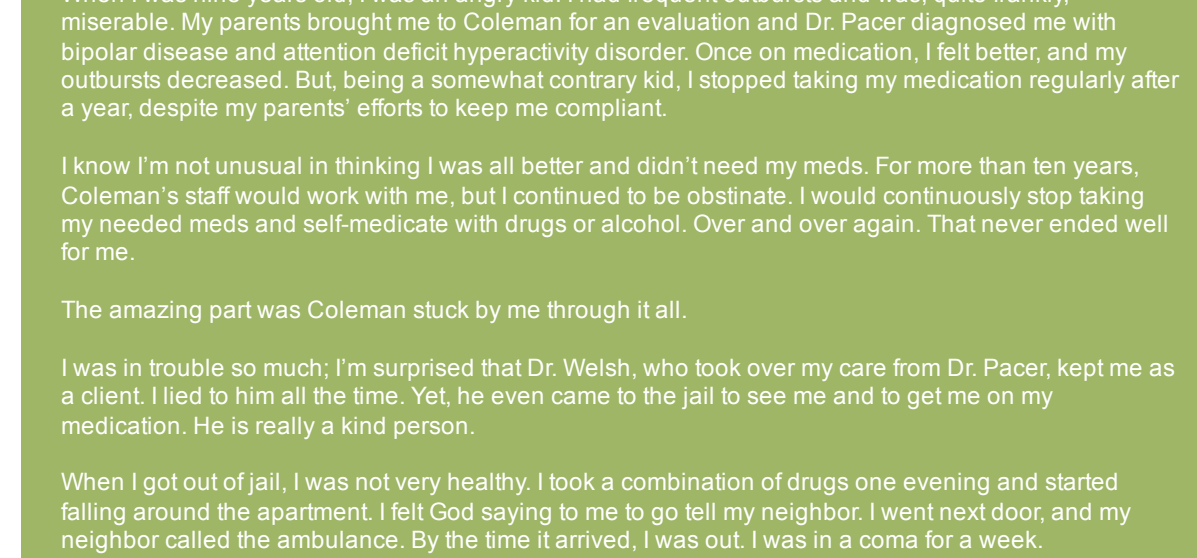


The Peccos River, New Mexico, Ben Basham

The winners, each nominated by a colleague, embody one or more of Coleman Health Services' core values: engagement, transparency, innovation, teamwork, passion, empowerment, and continuous learning. The award recipients also continuously seek ways to improve Coleman and its services to the community, eliminate barriers through communication and collaboration, and have had a significant and positive impact on the Coleman team.

A committee of Coleman Board members and Hattie Tracy Coleman's President and CEO, selected the winners.

I AM Coleman



Without Coleman, I'd never be here. I would not have been able to get my life and my ability to Coleman."

When I was nine years old, I was an angry kid. I had frequent outbursts and was, quite frankly, miserable. My parents brought me to Coleman for an evaluation and Dr. Pacer diagnosed me with bipolar disease and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Once on medication, I felt better, and my outbursts decreased. But being a somewhat solitary kid, I stopped taking my medication regularly after a year, despite my parents' efforts to keep me compliant.

I know I'm not unusual in thinking I was all better and didn't need my meds. For more than ten years, Coleman's staff worked with me, but I continued to be obstinate. I would continuously stop taking my needed meds and self-medicate with drugs or alcohol. Over and over again. That never ended well for me.

The amazing part was Coleman stuck by me through it all.

I was in trouble so much, I'm surprised that Dr. Weslin, who took over my care from Dr. Pacer, kept me as a client. I lied to him all the time. Yet he never came to my jail to see what I was doing on my medication. He is really a kind person.

When I got out of jail, I was not very healthy. I took a combination of drugs one evening and started falling around the apartment. I felt God saying to me to go tell my neighbor I want next door, and my neighbor called the ambulance. By the time it arrived, I was out. I was in a coma for a week.

When I was released, I felt I was being given a second chance. I didn't want to live like this any longer. I spent time in Coleman's Crisis Stabilization Unit before moving to the Coleman Group Home in Wadsworth. I got involved with the Windham United Methodist Church and that kept me strong. I even joined the choir and had a small role in the church's musicals. Several Coleman staff members from the Options program in Ravenna, My mom, who was dying of COPD said, "Son, I will die in peace knowing you are doing the right thing."

With the help of Coleman Employment Services, I found a job. Having a job and getting healthier, I felt better and was enjoying the goodness of life.

Coleman helped me get my own apartment in the Phoenix building in Ravenna. I started attending the Ravenna United Methodist Church and recently joined. I have a job with Hattiesville Janitors Services cleaning Coleman's Adult Day Services building. I feel wonderful. I enjoy cooking and would like to become a chef.

For the last 30 years, Coleman has always been there for me. I know I was a tough case because my mental health issues needed to be treated. But through staff, I have been helped with my illness, my housing, and even with my employment by the wonderful folks at Coleman Health Services.

Service Excellence Awards



An organization and its culture are ultimately a reflection of the people within it. For a company to thrive, it needs dynamic and value-driven employees leading the way. At Coleman Health Services, there is certainly no shortage of individuals across the state delivering a level of service excellence that communities have come to expect from the organization.

That excellence was on full display this summer as Coleman Health Services handed out its inaugural Service Excellence Awards. Seven employees—one from each of Coleman's service areas—were chosen from a pool of dozens of deserving nominees from across the state. The awards were presented at the winners' State-of-the-Agency meeting over the summer.

The winners, each nominated by a colleague, embody one or more of Coleman Health Services' core values: engagement, transparency, innovation, teamwork, passion, empowerment, and continuous learning. The award recipients also continuously seek ways to improve Coleman and its services to the community, eliminate barriers through communication and collaboration, and have had a significant and positive impact on the Coleman team.

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