



FOR IMMEDIATE  
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**CONNECTIONS PARTICIPATES IN  
DELAWARE FAITH IN ACTION WEEKEND OF SERVICE**

*Nonprofit provides free mental health and substance abuse screenings at 500 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street*

Wilmington, DE – Currently a United Way of Delaware partner agency, Connections Community Support Programs, Inc. (Connections) is providing free mental health and substance abuse screenings as part of the United Way of Delaware Faith in Action Weekend of Service.

The free screenings will be provided Friday, October 23, and Saturday, October 24, from 11am – 3pm through Connections' Homeless Outreach program. With funding from the Delaware Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health and the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, Connections offers walk-in clinics that provide outpatient behavioral services, comprehensive alcohol and other drug outpatient services, primary medical care, benefits assistance, and housing services.



Connections Wilmington PATH clinic moved to 500 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street earlier this month.

The free screenings will be available at the 500 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Wilmington, DE, PATH location. Connections moved the Wilmington PATH program from 500 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street to 500 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street earlier this month after purchasing the former West Presbyterian Church. The program has locations across the state including Wilmington, Newark, Middletown, Smyrna, Dover, and Georgetown.

“We are delighted to be participating in the United Way of Delaware Faith in Action Weekend of Service,” says Cathy McKay, President and CEO of Connections. “This is a wonderful event with an important end goal. Because it is true – we all need to work together to meet the community need and as resources become reduced and more and more scarce, the challenge to meet the needs of those living in our state will become even greater than it already is.” She adds, “We have chosen to provide free mental health and substance abuse screenings this weekend because all individuals from all walks of life are affected by mental illness and substance abuse – and screenings are important tools to assist in the prevention of future health problems.”

Mental illness and substance abuse are major public health problems, which one in four Americans experience every year – more than 100,000 Delawareans are affected annually. Mental health screenings provide a quick way to identify whether you may be experiencing symptoms commonly associated with a mental illness and to determine whether follow up with a professional is recommended.

Substance abuse screenings enable individuals to learn about their own risks for drug or alcohol abuse. For example, some individuals participating in social drinking may not be aware that they are, in actuality, abusing alcohol and putting their future health at risk. Alcohol abuse screenings can have a major impact on helping individuals identify if they have a drinking or other drug problem and can help them begin the road to recovery.



Outreach Worker, Theresa Wolhar, meets with a PATH client.

*Connections Community Support Programs, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has been providing community-based housing and support services to poor and homeless individuals and families in the state of Delaware since 1985. The mission of Connections is to improve the lives of vulnerable and disenfranchised Delaware residents by providing a comprehensive array of affordable and accessible primary medical, mental health and substance abuse treatment, employment, and housing opportunities to help them become accepted and productive members of their communities. In 2009, Connections will serve more than 7,500 unduplicated individuals in 35 locations throughout Delaware, including New Castle, Kent, and Sussex Counties, and will provide more than 180,000 nights of safe, affordable housing.*