

THE MORTON CENTER REPORT

From the front office...

GOOD-BYE

For some, good-bye feels too harsh, as if I won't see you again. Or that I won't think, be concerned or care about you. Not so fast, my friend! As someone who facilitated and counseled individuals and groups for many years in the art of saying good-bye I would be less than true if I didn't complete that process with you now. For saying good-bye allows us to fully remember all we had together as a result of this very particular relationship. We need to finish our business together before we move on to new and fulfilling next phases of our life. As we close the door on our experiences with each other, some very intimate, some strictly social, some because we believe in the same mission, we will find other doorways opening, leading to new experiences that will be enhanced by what we shared.

This may not be the hardest article I've ever written but it certainly is the one I've put the most thought into. In all honesty, I've thought about it for a few years now.

I've thought about retiring for years but knew that it was just that: thinking. But I've long wondered how I would end my time here at The Morton Center. I should have known that it would be like my beginning here and all the time in between. A glorious and fascinating ride, chock full of intensity and emotion. The daily highs and lows of

running a small business. The ~~continued my good private life of my~~ relationships with staff and Board. The countless number of donors through the years-both large and small- that believed in our mission. The grace that comes with service. The honor of being in the presence of people as they struggle in life, yet simultaneously progress in their journey of recovery. These are the constants. None of this has changed since the beginning. Only the numbers have grown. So all that is left is to leave with health, pleasant memories, dignity and energy. Mostly happy, a little sad and with the foresight to understand that it is best for all now. I will still carry the passion for the center that I have felt since its inception. And I hope that I will still be able to have a positive influence on what the center stands for but in a much different and low key way. Service when asked, continuing my financial commitment to the center's needs, being an unpaid and unsolicited public relations person for the center's capabilities, advocating for those who need help to get help, and praying for the continued success of all involved.

There are a few groups of people that I want to address.

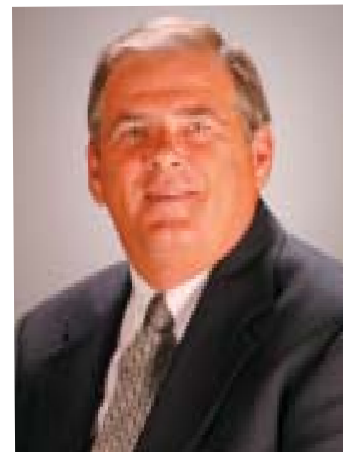
To our clients and their families: There are now over 17,000 of you and countless others you have touched. From the very day we opened, your lives have been an inspiration to me. Your struggles, victories, disappointments, joys, courage, character, failures, losses, tears,

laughter, expressions and love have created the reasons to continue steadfastly with our mission. I will miss you most of all. My time spent with you will leave me fulfilled forever.

To our donors: Whether your contributions have been large or small, of time, energy, money, accessories or good and kind words about what we do, I hope that I have never overlooked your generosity that has allowed us to faithfully serve our clients. You have always been there for us. Whether you could afford it easily or your gift was a hardship for you, it was all appreciated.

Jane Morton Norton, our co-founder and original donor, once said to me, as she was speaking about a group of potential donors, "They need to give to this cause. It will be good for their souls." I believe that what you have done for us has been good for your souls. Jane was right and I know she is happy about that.

To all the members who have served on our Board: A lot of you are already included in the first two categories; all of you certainly in the second. Your generosity, guidance, integrity, support, faith, commitment, willingness and trust are characteristics that describe my individual and collective relationship(s) with you. I have had other personal experiences with boards, have been a board member and hear about lots of boards from my not-for-profit colleagues but have never been concerned that anything but



John Walsh, Morton Center CEO

the mission was the focal point of our working together. Reality states that there have been difficult times, that we didn't always agree and we had to work overtime to solve certain problems. However, individual egos or wishes never stopped us from some kind of resolution. Some of you were friends of mine before your appointment to the Board, some became friends while serving but all of you have my deepest respect for what you've done for us and the way you have related to me.

To all staff members who have worked for the center: Regardless of your role -professional, administrative, clerical or volunteer- you had an important set of responsibilities to carry out and you did that. For the most part you were underpaid, worked hard, were committed, cared, worked well together, thought both creatively and practically, used honesty as a guideline and treated our clients with dignity and respect. Two things I will never forget: Some of you, during two critical junctures in The Morton Center history, gave up salary without guaran-

(continued on back page)

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sometimes life teaches those of us who choose to pay attention many lessons and one of the hardest for some of us to swallow is that things change.

John Walsh, The Morton Center's CEO and founder, has announced his retirement effective the end of February, 2007.

As I look at that sentence, it's still hard to believe even though John's retirement from The Morton Center has been a topic of conversation and considerable planning for some time. John had been positioning The Morton Center for his exit for years by training staff and delegating duties to others in the organization that he has done himself for years. However, in my eight years as a member of The Morton Center board, I can remember only one time when the subject of replacing John was a topic of conversation in a board meeting. Our reluctance to accept the inevitable truth is reminiscent to those of us in recovery of the days preceding our surrender to the disease and our first efforts to ask for help.

John's exit has been on my mind since taking over as Board President last year. My own personal pledge to myself at that time was to broaden the scope of the board's effort in the ongoing battle to raise enough money to keep helping the people we need to help and it was my intention, prior to the end of my tenure, to have in place a mechanism for replacing

him when the time came. Two things happened soon after my personal pledge to remind me of the unpredictability of life. First came an exciting new job opportunity in Lexington which I started on July 26th. The other was a phone call from John one evening in July when he said the time for his exit from The Morton Center was now.

I am sure that John will write extensively about his retirement in his column on the front of this news letter. This is something he has contemplated for several years and felt that now is the time of make a change.

Finding a replacement for John was, at first, an intimidating task. Given his experience, reputation and skills as a clinician and a manager, the Board of Directors Search Committee had to undertake the difficult task of identifying just the right person to lead The Morton Center.

A search committee was formed headed by past board presidents Steve Gault, Kenny Reutlinger and Mark Robinson, board treasurer Don Baxter, and board members Barbie Horton, John English and Jamie Cox.

John had three local candidates for his successor in mind and they were contacted and interviewed within a matter of 2 weeks. We know that John's

passion for the job and his experience in the field would be impossible to replace. It was up to John to help us find candidates who could replicate the skill set required to run The Morton Center and to continue our mission. Fortunately, we were able to find just that person right here in Louisville; an individual we believe is an ideal fit for the center, the staff and the community.

Jennifer C. Stern, RN is that person. A registered nurse and program director at Our Lady of Peace where



she directs adult and adolescent outpatient programs, Jennifer will join The Morton Center on December 1. She will work side-by-side with John during a transition period and officially take over as CEO on March 1.



*Charles H. Boden, President
Morton Center Board of Directors*

There are many reasons why Jennifer is such a tremendous fit for The Morton Center. She understands our business: providing recovery opportunities for families struggling with the complex problems of chemical addiction. She knows the outpatient business. Although not a clinician herself, she has great experience in working with and managing the people who do that work.

She has experience dealing with budgeting, program development and marketing. She has consistently received high praise for her leadership abilities and her skills in building community relations programs. As a member of the search and selection committee, I can tell you that we were impressed with her skills as well as her poise and presence. She and all of us at The Morton Center are excited about the possibilities the future may bring.

Celebration of Recovery

Sharing the strength and hope.

On a rainy, Election Day evening, a big crowd of families, friends, supporters and clients - past and present-filled the multi-purpose room for The Morton Center's annual Celebration of Recovery.

John Walsh, CEO of The Morton Center welcomed a large crowd to this special annual event.

Mark Robinson, former president of The Morton Center's Board of Directors and current board member, also offered a welcome to those in attendance as well as his gratitude for those who have shared their stories over the years. In his remarks, Mark noted that this would be John's final "Celebration"

as CEO. He then introduced the future CEO, Jennifer Stern, sharing his enthusiastic endorsement of her selection by the board.

This year's program featured an account of one couple's struggle with alcoholism and the effect the disease has had on their relationship. David Thomas and his wife Ty, both long-time supporters of The Morton Center, offered their observations and experiences as a couple in recovery.

A reception followed in the board room.

The Morton Center is



John P. Walsh, at left, CEO of The Morton Center, posed with Ty and David Thomas after this year's Celebration of Recovery. Ty and David, long-time friends of The Morton Center, were the evening's feature speakers.

most appreciative for David, successful. Ty and all those in attendance who made this year's event so

Fundraising

Bowl-a-thon at King Pin Lanes

The Morton Center held its first ever Bowl-a-thon this summer at King Pin Lanes in J-Town and by everyone's assessment the event was a big success...and a lot of fun for all involved.

Over 80 supporters – parents, grandparents, children and other friends – raised over \$1,800 to help The Morton Center. We had a great day at Louisville's premiere bowling and entertainment center.

Special thanks to Sara Paradis and Hollis Starks and the rest of the Board of Directors Development Committee: Sharon Receveur, Barbie Horton, Beverly Wagner and Charlie Boden, also the board's president. Extra thanks to Sara and Stephen Paradis for hosting us at their magnificent new facility. We hope this is the beginning of an annual tradition.



Left to right: Morton Center Board President Charlie Boden and his wife Alanson joined John English, Jr. at The Morton Center's first Bowl-a-thon at King Pin Lanes.



Franklin Starks and Steven Paradis enjoyed themselves at the Bowl-a-thon. Steven is co-owner of King Pin Lanes, site of the event and husband of Sara Paradis, a Morton Center Board Member. Franklin's wife Hollis is also a board member.



Mark Robinson, past president and current member of The Morton Center Board of Directors attended the event with his family, including his daughter, Lizzie.

A TRIBUTE: JOHN P. WALSH, CEO T

On February 28, 2007, John Walsh will retire as CEO of The Morton Center. While that item may not make the network evening news, it is an event of huge significance to the local and regional recovery community, not to mention those of us here at the Center. After nearly 23 years at the head of the organization he co-founded, John is moving on. In his column on the front of this newsletter, John will no doubt share his feelings about his decision. Charlie Boden, our Board of Director's President, shares his thoughts and introduces the new CEO in his "President's Report" on page two.

This space is about John: what he has done and what he has meant to so many individuals and families who have struggled with addiction, recovery and the pain in between.

Beginning with his early years as a therapist and counselor in various inpatient and outpatient settings, into his time as a therapist in private practice, John saw not only the effects that drugs and alcohol can have on the lives of an addict/alcoholic but also the devastation the disease had on families.

He also learned first-hand that when the family was treated and educated along with the recovering addict/alcoholic, the chances for relapse were lower because the primary support group was stronger. Resentments were alleviated. Understanding could grow. Patience was developed. Without that understanding, relapse was more likely and relationships that were damaged

stayed that way in many cases.

As he looked around the recovery community, he saw that no one was filling the need for treating not only the addict/alcoholic but the spouses and the children. With that void in mind, John, with the support of Mrs. Jane Morton Norton, founded The Morton Center in 1984 as an alternative treatment source for those who suffer from chemical dependency with an added emphasis on treating and educating the entire family. The Center was named after Mrs. Norton's brother, the late United States Senator, Thruston B. Morton.

Under John Walsh's leadership and vision, The Morton Center has now grown from a few rooms, some filing cabinets and six counselors to a clinical staff of 22 that treats over 1,500 cases a year not only in Louisville, but in Lexington, Northern Kentucky and Paducah.

A hallmark of John's leadership and recovery philosophy is his unswerving dedication to



those who suffer regardless of their financial situation or their ability to pay for services. From the outset, John made it clear to

staff, board members, donors, grantors and clients, that no one will be turned away from treatment at The Morton Center because he or she can't afford it.

With scant assistance from insurance companies or third party payers, the idea of raising money to subsidize treatment made the road a lot rougher and the hill a lot steeper. But, for John Walsh, to turn away someone who suffers emotionally and physically because they also suffer financially would not be consistent with his vision and the philosophy of family care.

Each year, The Morton Center meets a growing need for financial subsidy, a budget that has climbed to over \$330,000 for the current operating year. Assistance for payment through insurance has grown over the past few years but, in the early days, it would have been much easier to limit treatment to those with the ability to pay, as do many facilities. But that would not be in keeping with John's philosophy and leadership principles.

Aside from creating an environment where the family can be treated as a whole and not be turned away because of financial difficulty, John also saw the need for a strong alternative to inpatient treatment. Since its inception, John and The Morton Center have seen a dramatic decline in available inpatient treatment for alcoholism and substance abuse. For every five hospital beds available 15 years ago, only one remains today. Insurance companies have dramatically altered allowable stays for inpatient care, even for

detoxification.

With that in mind, John developed a viable intensive outpatient program. The program includes rigorous individual and group counseling both for the client and for family members.



It also includes an aftercare program, which significantly improves the success of a chemically dependent person's recovery.

That The Morton Center understands the force that a family can have on recovery should not come as a surprise to anyone who knows John.

He began his personal

THE MORTON CENTER , 1984-2007

recovery journey at the age of 28. John and his wife, Sandra, had been married for six years and had two small sons – Brian and Bradley. But as John has said, his life was in disarray and he was in danger of losing his family. As he tells his story, he had been drinking since age 13 and by 16, he was a full-blown alcoholic. By following a 12 step program and establishing a deep spiritual anchor, his recovery took hold.

Two years into his recovery, the family liquor store where John worked was sold (the stories of which would fill another few pages) and he looked for another career. That is when he took a job as an alcoholism counselor in

the residential treatment program at Central State Hospital in Louisville.

After two years at Central State, the Walsh family moved to Nashville where John became a clinical manager at the Samaritan Center, a large outpatient treatment facility.

In 1978, John returned to Louisville, this time as a unit manager and consultant at

the Jefferson Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center (JADAC). In 1980, he and Patrick Whelan formed Walsh-Whelan Counseling Services.

Several years later, John was introduced to Mrs. Jane Morton Norton who was interested in the work John was doing in family treatment. Mrs. Norton wanted to find a way to start an organization devoted to that philosophy of recovery. At that time, John told Mrs. Norton that he would find someone who could direct that kind of effort. Mrs. Norton told John she would finance the start up but that it was her strict intention that he would be the person who ran it. In April, 1984, The Morton Center was born.

Today, the Morton Center represents the hope of recovery for those who struggle with compulsion and addiction. John is personally recognized nationally as an authority in outpatient treatment and family intervention theory, having personally coordinated over 650 client interventions. The Center is nationally recognized. It is the only treatment facility of its kind in the region that offers financial subsidies to its clients. And it has been the leader in its field in recognizing and treating chemically dependency as a family illness.

The fact is that without John's leadership, vision, management skills and consistency in direction, The Morton Center would simply not exist and those patients and their families and the thousands



John and Sandra with (at left) LeAnne and Brad, and Karen and Brian at the 20th Anniversary Celebration.

whom The Center has helped in its 23 years would have had no place else to go when they needed help

will come in on March 1, 2007 to a building without John, life will surely seem strange. There is no doubt that our new boss is more than capable of moving things forward. But there will be a huge presence missing, a presence that has had an affect on our lives and the lives of thousands of families and individuals. That's quite a legacy. We hope you can fully understand and appreciate just how large it is.



the most.

In his retirement, John will not have trouble finding things to do. There's lots of golf to be played. Lots of time to devote to grandchildren Abigail, Grace and Noah. There are lots of UL football and basketball games to see, lots of St. Xavier games to attend and probably a book or two to read.

To those of us here at The Morton Center, who



John in a familiar pose



John and Brad at this year's Louisville Golf Outing.

The Twelfth Annual

Louisville Golf Outing

The Morton Center's Louisville Golf Outing seemed to have run out of its good luck with its string of good weather for its 12th Annual Event. Unlike the sunny skies that prevailed for the past several events, a steady rain fell overnight and continued into the Monday morning. But by early afternoon, the rain stopped just as the players made their way out to the course for the shot gun start and held off for the rest of the day. Talk about a small window of opportunity! Everyone stayed dry and enjoyed a great afternoon of golf in ideal conditions on a terrific course.

We cannot adequately express our appreciation to all who made this event such a success. Thanks to our sponsors and players, The Morton Center raised a little over \$37,000 - an event record. Special thanks to our

event sponsors: Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Stephen C. Gault Co., Jimmy Dan Connor, Perkey Printing, Horton Fruit Company, Neil Huffman Dealerships, Fifth Third Bank, Sotaria Imaging and Hyland, Block and Hyland Insurance which hosted the lunch.

The golf committee of board members John English, Jimmy Dan Connor and Tim Hyland did an outstanding job as did Harmony Landing Country Club, its Director of Golf, Mike

Thomas and his staff.

Mark Kennedy's team from Commonwealth Bank took home first place, low net honors, while board member Guy Huguelet (Adecco of Central Kentucky) and his boys from Lexington captured low gross.



The team from Commonwealth Bank were the low net winners. The foursome was made up of: (from left) Jon Ackerson, Richard Thompson, Mark Kennedy and Rodger McAllister.



Team Guy Huguelet-low gross winners: (from left) Guy Huguelet, Doug Logan, Finn Green and Jim Smith. It was a rainy morning at



Harmony Landing but the weather turned clear for our annual outing. Above, volunteers Sharon Tierney (at left) Carol Ochs and board member, Jamie Cox got everything and everyone organized.



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS AND FRIENDS!

Event sponsors

Stephen C. Gault Co.
Horton Fruit Company
Jimmy Dan Connor
Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield
Fifth Third Bank
Neil Huffman Dealerships
Perkey Printing
Sotaria Imaging

Luncheon Sponsor

Hyland, Block and Hyland Insurance

Team Sponsors

Acordia of Kentucky
Bradford Health Services
Commonwealth Bank
John Couch
Gerald Doss
Tom Drybrough
Ted Frith
Hanley, Valenti & Crooks
David Hartz
Guy Huguelet
Hyland, Block & Hyland
Kosair for Kids

Mark Robinson
Stites and Harbison

Individual Player Sponsors

Bill Crawford
John & Tom Walsh

Hole Sponsors

Acordia of Kentucky
Walter Badenhausen, MD
BB&T Insurance
Bradford Health Services
Commonwealth Bank

D&W Silks
Jerry Doss
Frederick Roofing
Ted Frith
Hilliard Lyons
William Hoge
Ernest Marshall, MD
Clay Morton
Nicklies Development
Radio Sound
Henry Reed
Mark Robinson
Stites and Harbison
Wakefield and Reutlinger

The Fourth Annual

Lexington Golf Outing

Unlike the Louisville outing, the 4th Annual Lexington Golf Outing was held under sunny skies and hot, hot conditions at Champion Trace Golf Club in Nicholasville. Thanks to all who endured the heat, we had a great day and raised over \$20,000 for The Morton Center – an event record.

Our very special thanks go out to board members Guy Huguelet and Billy Simpson. Without their support, both financial and organizational, this event simply would not happen.

We also owe a special “Thank You” to Tim Yesin and Fifth Third Bank for their generous sponsorship, and to Bradford Health Services for hosting the

luncheon. Our appreciation also goes out to Steve Smitha, Director of Golf and his staff for a job well done.

The winner of pro shop gift certificates for low net was the team from K.V. Oil and Gas. The winner for low gross was the team from Buggies Unlimited.



John Walsh, CEO of The Morton Center, visits with board members and golf committee chairs Guy Huguelet, (center) and Billy Simpson.



Buggies Unlimited-low gross winners: (left to right) Doug Logan, Josh McCracken, Billy Robbins and Chase Logan.



KV Oil & Gas-low net winners: (left to right) Leo Simpson, Sherry Bradshaw, Billy Ruch, team swing coach, Alex Edwards and Alex's mom, Liz Edwards.



Champion Trace provided a great backdrop for our fundraiser. At right, Liz Edwards relaxes after a tough day on the links. Temperatures were in the mid-90s.



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS AND FRIENDS!

Event Sponsors

Adecco of Central KY
Fifth Third Bank
KV Oil & Gas

Luncheon Sponsor

Bradford Health Services

Team Sponsors

Baird and Baird, PSC
Buggies Unlimited

Doug Ezzell
Guy-Ezzell Insurance
Guy Huguelet
Kentucky American Water
KV Oil & Gas
Mid Atlantic Capital
James Smith
Wilson Equipment Co.
Doug Ezzell/James Smith

Individual Player

Sponsors
Bruce Crant
John English

Hole Sponsors

Baird and Baird, PSC
Buggies Unlimited
Chase Bank
Clay Ingles Company
Dupree Financial

Guy-Ezzell Insurance
Kentucky American Water
K.V. Oil and Gas
Ernest Marshall, MD
Nicholson Insurance
Pine Mountain Lumber
Mark Robinson
Rouse Companies
Stone Farms
Wilson Equipment Co.

Specialists helping families cope with the complex problems of chemical dependency.

1028 Barret Ave.
Louisville, KY 40204
502.451.1221

2647 Regency Rd., Suite 107
Lexington, KY 40503
859.373.0077

115 Noah Cove, Suite C
Paducah, KY 42001
270.554.3600

226 Thomas Moore Pkwy.
Crestview Hill, KY 41017
859.331.2892



Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Louisville, KY
Permit No. 372

Good Bye , (continued from page one)

tees or promises that you would get any of it back. You didn't gripe, become a victim, or make our situation worse, even though I know what a hardship it was for some of you. I want the world to know how much courage and conviction it took to make your decisions during that time. And some of you did it both times.

The second is anytime I've had personal loss, sickness, injury or significant work stress some of you have shown your caring for me personally not just as your boss. I hope at the time you knew how much I appreciated that but if not I tell you now. Those acts of kindness touched me deeply and I will never forget you.

To my family, not part of the good-bye but part of the gratitude acknowledgement. I will name names because I want you to hear the names as you read this. My loving wife, Sandra, who has been with me through the entire

Morton Center experience, even worked as a staff member in the early days, part-time and minimum wage. She did it because I needed her to. That tells the whole story. She responded when necessary, was unbelievably supportive in time of great tension, sacrificed money, did without emotional comfort, gave up social opportunities, did a lot of both parent tasks, all because she believed as strongly as I did in the vision and mission of The Morton Center. Her encouragement and support made me realize that the decision I was making about retirement was not just about whether I would stop working here but a furtherance of how we have been led to lead our lives. My sons, Brian and Brad, men now, who spoke to me out of that duality fathers and sons arrive at. My boys, but now more worldly with maturity and wisdom. Brian's letter to me regarding my decision, though too personal and intimate to share, sealed the deal regarding whether I will ever look

back with regret. I won't. Their wives, Karen and LeAnne, who have always cared about and supported my work and who have referred to us (the acid test). Their children Abigail and Grace (Brian and Karen) and Noah Patrick (Brad and LeAnne), who actually played a role in my decision. It's simple: I want to spend more time and be more involved as they grow up. My brother, Tom and sisters, Beth, Linda and Pat, their spouses, partners and children have contributed money, time and referred to us. Pat worked here at one time. Losing our mother, Ethel, and our brother, Paulie, in the past few years contributed mightily to my needing to move on with my life. They have all been supportive of my journey here even if they didn't always understand it.

My recovery taught me a long time ago to keep putting one foot in front of the other, trust God and things will work out the way they are supposed to. It hasn't failed me yet.

My last day is scheduled to be

February 28, 2007. If I don't see you before then, I bid good-bye to you, humble but proud to have served as the Chief Executive Officer of The Morton Center.

The new doorway opens. Jennifer Stern, a name that you will or have already seen in this publication. If not, you will hear that she is the new Chief Executive Officer of The Morton Center. The "new" will eventually wear off.

I've known Jennifer for a few years now. She is bright, energetic, passionate about recovery, skilled and hard working. She lives the profile for what is needed. I am excited for the Center's Board, staff and clients because I think she is the perfect choice. I am excited for her because I think it is a marvelous opportunity. What a match!! I look forward to spending the next three months with her before I move on. My only regret is that I didn't hire her years ago to be a part of our system while I was going to be more integrally involved.