

NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT: **Connections CSP Inc.** BY CLAIRE ARMANN

» With an original purpose of helping older adults with life-long histories of psychiatric hospitalization move into the community and receive services outside of institutions, Connections CSP Inc. now impacts the community in a much more powerful way. Connections serves more than 42,000 people each year in over 100 locations, with matters ranging from homelessness, to the opioid epidemic.

Connections was founded in 1985, stemming off a company called Church Home Foundation. A core mission of Connections eventually became helping Delawareans who were the most vulnerable in a variety of ways. People going through all types of life transitions - homelessness, veterans, those with intellectual disabilities, incarcerated individuals, and individuals struggling with substance abuse, could benefit from assistance and Connections aims to help them.

This company is the largest substance use disorder treatment provider in Delaware. They provide medication assisted treatment (MAT) to more than 3,000 people a day at their clinics in Newark, Smyrna, Dover, Seaford and Milford. In addition to this, they operate several recovery residences throughout Delaware, including some for women with children, along with an inpatient treatment facility for women in Wilmington. They also run all the drug and alcohol treatment programs in Delaware's Correctional System.

Most importantly, Connections does more for the people they serve than just provide treatment and a safe place to receive help. Their staff, which includes peer specialists who are in recovery, pro-



vide excellent care that considers the needs of the specific individual. Case managers work with them to find housing, employment and other services to truly give them what they need.

By going above and beyond to help Delawareans be successful, Connections is improving Delaware on an individual basis and at the community level. Connections also saves Delawareans tax money by preventing negative expensive outcomes, such as incarcerations.

Recently, they opened four recovery residences for women and children. Called "Mommy & Me" houses, they allow women to receive outpatient substance use disorder treatment, while staying with their children. Living in these homes produces better outcomes, allowing mothers to be counseled by people in recovery, and aiding in the transition to find work and permanent housing.

"Our recovery residences for women



and children, and all of our other recovery residences throughout Delaware, provide stable housing for people in early recovery, which is a critical factor in their long-term success,"

said Connections CEO Cathy McKay. The "Mommy & Me" recovery residences establish a solid foundation for the families as they embark on this key chapter in their lives. These residences mark the latest addition to our comprehensive array of substance use disorder services that are part of our progressive and innovative response to the opioid crisis."

Other businesses in Delaware can help Connections by partnering with them and providing financial assistance when available. Connections already partners with many Delaware businesses with similar missions, such as Delaware Department of Correction, Attack Addictions, Christiana Hospital, the Foodbank of Delaware and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Delaware.