Gov. Chris Christie today announced the state will expand a program aimed at saving the lives of New Jerseyans fighting heroin addiction.

The governor, declaring the national war on drugs an “abject failure,” says a statewide expansion of the Narcan program will equip thousands of first responders with the ability to administer life-saving medication that can reverse the effects of a heroin overdose.

Today’s announcement means a pilot program established in March for Ocean and Monmouth counties will be expanded statewide.

“It means this initiative will now be in all 21 counties in the state of New Jersey,” said Christie, who added that the Narcan antidote has a proven track record of saving lives.

“Back in March, we empowered 28,000 EMTs throughout the state by allowing them to administer Narcan,” said Christie. “As a result, police officers and EMTs are now trained to be equipped to administer the antidote to overdose victims. Just since April, more than 40 opiate overdoses in the two counties have been reversed and 40 lives have been saved because of it. It means 40 individuals now have a second chance at life.”

The governor came to Vince’s Place at the Rescue Mission of Trenton to announce the expansion. The facility is a licensed addiction services program that provides recovery treatment to homeless and indigent clients.

“This initiative, quite frankly, will save lives,” said Mary Gay Abbott-Young, the CEO of the Rescue Mission of Trenton.

The same month Christie announced the pilot Narcan program, the governor’s task force on heroin and opiate abuse called for a wide array of reforms to combat the state’s addiction epidemic, saying in a report it’s “time to confront our demons.”

The two-year study proposed major changes to, among other things, the state’s
Meet our Senior Executive Council: Phyllis Marchand

Phyllis Marchand grew up in New York City; after she moved to Princeton, it was her affinity for city life that drew her to Trenton for the first time.

“I love a good city,” she said. Marchand made a point of bringing her three children to Trenton so they could experience urban life.

Marchand’s visits to the city eventually brought her to the Rescue Mission, where for years she donated clothing and other usable goods to the Mission Store. She was impressed: “I encourage everyone to go to the store and see this amazing thing.”

Marchand was struck by what the Mission was doing for its residents, she said. After meeting Chief Executive Officer Mary Gay Abbott-Young, she was given a tour of the facility. “I was impressed by the residents’ manners and the organization and commitment they had to their work.”

Abbott-Young is a “phenomenal organizer, a tough, caring woman who knows how to inspire people,” she said. “Mary Gay is a marvelous manager and humanitarian.”

Marchand also is no stranger to public service. From 1986 to 2009 she served as Princeton Township mayor and on the township council. She also has been involved with the D&R Greenway’s work to preserve open space, has volunteered at McCarter Theatre, worked with HomeFront and served on the State Site Improvement Advisory Board. Now retired from elected office and her job, she has been a member of the Mission’s Senior Executive Council since its inception two years ago. In addition to her extensive public service credentials, she brings to the post her professional experience as a book indexer at Princeton University. During her years there she worked on the Woodrow Wilson papers and the Samuel Johnson letters.

Marchand is enjoying her work with the Council. “It’s refreshing for me,” she said, “to work with people with different skills and backgrounds.”

Members of the Senior Executive Council provide the Mission with input, insight, advice and counsel regarding future programs and strategic initiatives; identify and attract individuals, corporations, groups/organizations and foundations that might be willing to provide assistance; and encourage others to take an interest in the Mission.

When not volunteering, she spends time with her family: her husband Simon, children and eight grandchildren. An avid runner, she has participated in 18 marathons.

WE CAN’T AFFORD TO LOSE YOUR SUPPORT

If you did not respond to our annual appeal, please do so at this time. We really need your support to continue to serve the truly needy among us.

☐ $35 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ $500 ☐ $1,000 ☐ Other $ _______

Name: _____________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________

City: _____________________________________________________________

State:________ Zip:________________________ Email: __________________________ Telephone: __________________________

Please send check and coupon to: Rescue Mission of Trenton, P.O. Box 790, Trenton, NJ 08605-0790
10th Annual Adam Shanks Mission Miniature Golf Tournament: Best Ever!

This year’s golf tournament was our best ever! The event boasted a record number of golfers, an unmatched number of silent auction prizes, and two remarkable 9 hole courses (designed and constructed by Mission staff, residents, and volunteers!) Thanks to our fantastic sponsors and generous contributors, this year’s event raised nearly $50,000 to support our continuum of housing, addiction services, and job training programs. Each year we are reminded of Adam Shank’s motto, “What’s Right is Right,” as we honor his memory and celebrate all those we serve. Thank you to our gracious Tournament Co-Hosts the Shanks Family, Borden Perlman Salisbury & Kelly, Hopewell Valley Community Bank, Hutchinson Industries, Peapack Gladstone Bank, and Wilmington Trust. We’ll see you in 2015 for a very special golf event to mark our 100th anniversary!

Governor Announces Expansion of Narcan Program at Mission

(cont’d from page 1)

On June 10, 2014, the Rescue Mission was invited to speak on addiction and prevention at Educational Testing Service (ETS) in Princeton as part of their Brown Bag Lunch series of speakers. In the photo above, Mission resident Daniel W. shares his experiences with a standing-room only crowd of ETS employees.

prescription pill monitoring laws. It concluded young pill addicts who can no longer afford or gain access to painkillers turn to heroin.

In Ocean County, a record-breaking 112 people died of drug overdoses in 2013, more than double the year before. The overwhelming majority of those deaths were linked to opiates.

According to the report, of the 8,300 New Jersey residents admitted to drug treatment programs for opiate addiction in 2012, more than 40 percent were younger than 25.

Christie’s announcement today was on the 43rd anniversary of the launch of the country’s war on drugs “This was a well-intentioned program that had great hope at the time of getting results, but the fact is that as a sole approach to this issue it has been an abject failure,” Christie said. “We’ve seen that failure manifest itself all across our state and all across this country.”

ETS Hosts Presentation on Fighting Addiction
Opinion: Trenton Rescue Mission needs community support to continue providing for homeless

By Mary Gay Abbott-Young

As the largest agency in our community that serves those who have no place else to turn for shelter, food and clothing, the Rescue Mission of Trenton is thankful that winter appears to be coming to an end. Over these past three months of bitter cold and record snowfall, we have provided more than 18,000 bed nights in our emergency shelter – up 9 percent from the same period last year.

For the past 99 years, the Rescue Mission has provided a safe, clean and warm refuge for the truly needy. We endeavor to create an environment where one can live with dignity, build self-esteem, experience love, responsibility and hope. We remain dedicated to this mission, the fulfillment of which would not be possible without the support of our contributors and funders.

Over the past century, the primary population we serve has shifted from those most affected by the Great Depression, to a population of skid row alcoholics, and most recently to those left behind as poverty and economic disparity grows. Today, our clients include the newly homeless, the chronically homeless and those experiencing temporary economic crisis due to the Great Recession. Included among these three groups are sub-populations — the mentally ill, substance abusers, those with co-occurring disorders, the elderly and veterans.

As one can imagine, this winter’s harsh weather has tested our commitment to providing emergency shelter services. Over the past three months, we have seen an average of up to 10 percent more clients each night who arrive at our doors seeking services. In December 2013 alone, we provided 5,841 bed nights of service – up 15 percent from the prior year.

Nowadays, about 73 percent of those who come to the emergency shelter stay for just 30 days or less each year. Clearly, there is a demand in our community for respite from the elements, a bed to sleep in and a meal to eat.

While the need for our services has increased, the resources to fund these services are shrinking. For years, the Mission was able to help close this gap through the salvage and resale of household items, furniture and clothing in our Trenton retail store. Since the onset of the Great Recession, revenue from these entrepreneurial activities has fallen off dramatically as donors are keeping things longer and our low-income customers have much less to spend.

Our private foundation support has simultaneously decreased, as funders have shifted their priorities and geographic reach.

The only category in which there has been an uptick in contributions is in individual giving – for which we are immensely grateful.

On Feb. 15, The Times shared the hopeful and redemptive story of Donna Wile and her struggle to overcome her addiction. In addition to being a former client of our emergency shelter, Ms. Wile is also a regular contributor to the Mission, like so many of her fellow citizens of Mercer County.

After working for the Mission for 37 years, I am still struck by Ms. Wile’s story, and the myriad incredible and resilient individuals who have, at one time or another, stayed in our emergency shelter (the only emergency shelter in Mercer County for single adults).

Today, one-fifth of our staff are alumni of our continuum of programs designed to help clients reclaim and rebuild their lives – including Will Craft, who was profiled in a Jan. 21 Times article.

For the Mission staff, there is always a friendly face to be found on any Trenton street, as so many have been touched by the Mission in one way or another. This is in addition to the countless calls and cards we receive throughout the year – individuals checking in to say thank you and update us on their journeys.

Our greatest accomplishment is being the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel, a place where one feels welcome, a place where one can begin to rebuild one’s life.

The Rescue Mission remains committed to this service and to meeting the needs of the individual struggling with homelessness. Yet, we are challenged, as 21 percent of the shelter’s budget ($239,000) was unfunded last year. Last year, government provided 42 percent of the cost of running the shelter, 21 percent came from individual donations and 16 percent from private grants. Each night, approximately 21 percent of the cost of operating the shelter is unfunded. This is an unsustainable fiscal situation that will become even worse if the need continues to grow.

We support increased funding for permanent housing for those in need. At the same time, we know that the need in the community for emergency shelter has not diminished.

The Mission’s emergency shelter is an essential component of our community’s social services safety net that is supported robustly by donors like Ms. Wile and the community at large. Unfortunately, the current funding is insufficient to meet the shelter’s bare-bones budget. The current $239,000 annual deficit is unsustainable in the long term. It is imperative that those concerned about providing for the needs of the homeless, the hungry and the transient find an additional permanent funding stream for this essential service.
New Episcopal Bishop Visits the Mission

Rev. William “Chip” Stokes is the Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey, which embraces two-thirds of the state and stretches from Elizabeth to Cape May. Bishop Stokes visited the Mission on April 30 to learn more about our programs and services and to talk one-on-one with our clients in order to obtain a clearer understanding of issues and problems that have brought them to this point in their lives. Bishop Stokes indicated that one of his key responsibilities is to ascertain what people, from all walks of life in New Jersey “need from me as bishop.”

Rev. Stokes was elected as New Jersey’s 12th bishop in May 2013 and consecrated in November of 2013. The New Jersey Diocese ranks sixth out of 100 domestic dioceses in the Episcopal Church in the USA. Trinity Cathedral, located on West State Street in Trenton, is the home parish of the New Jersey Diocese and houses bishop offices.

In a June 10, 2013, story in The Times, Bishop Stokes said, “I think I was chosen in part [to serve as bishop] because of my commitment to urban ministries. I grew up in New York City. I’ve been blessed to do a lot of work with diversified communities. The diversity of this diocese is one of its great strengths and beauties. It’s also clear the city of Trenton is struggling, and part of the calling of Gospel is to live amid the struggle.” Bishop Stokes and his wife Susan reside in the Hiltonia section of Trenton.

Bishop Stokes was given an overview of the Rescue Mission’s history, mission and continuum of services by the senior staff. Following the introduction, he spent time talking to Mission clients over lunch and in one-on-one sessions. Among the topics of their discussion were gun violence, substance abuse, ending gang violence, and challenges clients face rebuilding their lives.

The Bishop emphasized the Episcopal Diocese was committed to utilizing its assets to assist with “economic stress” that are plaguing urban communities.

One Bead at a Time: Young Girl Makes Jewelry to Help the Homeless

Raisa is a 12-year-old girl attending John Witherspoon Middle School in Princeton. Like many girls her age, Raisa likes to read, write, sing, practice the violin, and play soccer and basketball. One of Raisa’s hobbies, however, makes her very special, indeed.

For about a year and a half, Raisa has been making jewelry and donating the proceeds to local nonprofits that help the homeless. Raisa recently learned about the Rescue Mission when family friend Dvorit Samid invited her to sell jewelry at the Mission’s Music by the Lake fundraiser on May 18th. The event, which featured a program of “Passionate Russian Music”, was a great success, and Raisa generously donated all of her sales from the day to the Rescue Mission’s emergency shelter.

Raisa has been involved with helping the homeless for several years now. Before her jewelry making project, Raisa asked relatives to forego giving her birthday presents in favor of making donations to HomeFront, an organization working to end homelessness for Mercer County families. When asked why she feels so strongly about this cause, Raisa replied, “I have so many things that others don’t: food to eat, a home, a wonderful family. Everyone should have that. People shouldn’t have to live without these necessities.”

Raisa is also beginning to investigate career paths that will let her combine her desire to help others with some of her other interests, such as investigative journalism or grant writing.

Jewelry making is a relatively new skill for Raisa, who decided to try it specifically as a fundraising project. Though she began with very basic designs, Raisa now makes fairly complicated patterns and enjoys blending colors. To see Raisa’s jewelry designs and make an online order, visit her Facebook page called Help the Homeless NJ: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Help-the-Homeless-NJ/530428030321980.

Raisa also has a message for everyone reading this article who wants to help those in need: “Take action. It doesn’t matter WHAT you do, but do something. It doesn’t matter how old or young you are, if everyone helps out, we can make a big difference.”
Did You Know...

The Rescue Mission of Trenton is not affiliated with any other organization in the U.S. listed as Rescue Mission. It is a private non-profit organization.

Did You Know...

This summer the Mission’s billboard at the corner of Carroll and Perry Streets honors the memory of Charles “Chuck” Inman for his dedication and contributions for the least among us.

Charles “Chuck” Inman
1946-2014
Founder, Battle Against Hunger
Raised over $650,000