

# THE COMPASSION CHRONICKLES

THE TURN-A-FROWN AROUND (TAF) FOUNDATION, INC.

VOLUME 2: ISSUE 2

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Quarter Auction at the Almond Tree Manor, Alpha, NJ

## *Quarter Auction*

By Joseph Meany

Director of the Mental Health Initiative

March 5, 2014, Alpha, NJ – On March 5th Angel Ed Johns organized and carried out a fun and successful Quarter Auction Fundraiser for TAF at the Almond Tree Manor in Alpha, New Jersey.

The Quarter Auction was TAF's first fundraiser of the year, and a successful one at that!

Smiles, laughs, and the ringing of quarters hitting jars filled the room and a good time was had by all. Angel Ed had organized over 100 prizes and several dozen vendors for the occasion.

What this writer enjoyed the most about

the Quarter Auction was seeing so many people believing in TAF and having so much fun!

As it turns out, the Almond Tree Manor informed us that the TAF Quarter Auction had the highest attendance, the highest 50/50 raffle, and the brought in the most proceeds in the history of the Almond Tree Manor sponsoring Quarter Auctions.

The success of this fundraiser is all thanks to Angel Ed. His hard work and dedication allows us to further the mission to end loneliness! •

*To submit a future fundraising idea, please  
email [tafafoundation@gmail.com](mailto:tafafoundation@gmail.com)*

## Care Plus Foundation + TAFE = A Recipe for Success!

By Caitlyn Yerves  
Director of Public Relations

April 8, 2014, Paramus, NJ – On Tuesday April 8th, our Development Committee met with the Care Plus Foundation of Care Plus, NJ. The objective of the meeting was to approve the funding we applied for earlier this year. Through our efforts and results, we were granted \$20,000 for the next two years.

It is not only amazing that we now have these funds, but it is also miraculous that we have a solid structure and budget to utilize them efficiently. TAFE has grown tremendously in the past few years, and we are taking all the right steps to nationalize and globalize our mission to end loneliness.

During the meeting, we presented our action plan to a room full of TAFE supporters. Many of the people in attendance have known Drew since the inception of TAFE, and few were brought to tears at the reality of his dream coming true. It was an honor to be surrounded by people who were working together to make the world a better place.

Colleen Meyer lead the introduction of our team with humor and a refulgence of Drew-iness, although, perhaps with more grace. It was fun to see the room light up as everyone was asked to use their arms as built in Smile Catchers. After a few moments of sincere gratitude, we began to share our vision for the future of TAFE.

First, I presented as a representative of the Campus Initiative, a continuing developing plan. Our goal is to develop Smile Stations on campuses that will adopt local institutions of isolation. This can be nursing homes adopted by a Smile Station club or a psychiatric hospital adopted by an academic department. There is a lot of promise for the future of the Campus Initiative, and the ultimate goal is to develop young leaders in compassion.



Members of the Development Committee  
Ed Johns, Michael Fay, Afshan Ladha, Joe Meany,  
Caitlyn Yerves, Colleen Meyer, & Allen Teplitzky

There is no better example of what is possible than the story of Angel Ed. He was next to present on the Nursing Home Initiative, and he grasped every heart in the room when he shared his experience of service. We are so fortunate to have his warrior spirit on our side, and it is unbelievable to see the power of his intention. The vast majority of the data that TAFE has collected is connected to his efforts, not to mention the publicity and fundraising. This has already been a huge year of Angel Ed, but he has much more in store – his goal is to have a Forever Friend in every state this year!

To close out the presentation Joe Meany explained what is going on with the Mental Health Initiative. By working with Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey, Mr. Meany has been taking a lot of behind the scenes action and making major contributions to TAFE. This whole mission began in the field of Mental Health, and it's awesome to know that it is in hands capable of a touchdown. Joe's goal is to have a Smile Station in every county and psychiatric hospital in NJ this year.

It's been a long journey already, and TAFE is undergoing a major metamorphosis. We are now secure in knowing that our wings are surely growing and that we are certainly going to fly! We are building a strong structure that will support us as we lift the weight of loneliness from the world – but we can always use more man power. Join us today! And thank you Care Plus Foundation! •

*To submit an article or idea to the newsletter,  
email [tafafoundation@gmail.com](mailto:tafafoundation@gmail.com)*

## *Official Introductions*

Have you heard!? TAFE is well on its way to establishing a strong administrative foundation that can only bring success in the mission to end loneliness!

Armed with a solid Governing Board and Development Committee, TAFE can focus on its goal to end loneliness, one Forever Friendship at a time.

### *The Governing Board*

Colleen Meyer  
*President*

Mark Duffy  
*Secretary*

Joseph Masciandaro  
*Treasurer*

Drew Horn  
*Founder*

### *The Development Committee*

Joseph Meany  
*Chair & Director of Mental Health Initiative*

Angel Ed Johns  
*Director of Nursing Home Initiative*

Caitlyn Yerves  
*Director of Public Relations*

Allen Teplitsky  
*Director of Campus Outreach & Team Management*

Afshan Ladha  
*Director of Operations*

Diane Van Blarcom  
*Bookkeeper*

Michael Fay, Lois Oppenheim,  
& Penny Grande  
*Advisers*

## *Upcoming Projects*

TAFE is constantly working toward improvement and stays busy in bringing you the information you need to stay in the loop.

One of the most exciting upcoming projects is the launch of an entirely new website. The website will include the most recent news and initiatives that TAFE is involved in, as well as a fully-functioning volunteer management section and downloadable resources.

The organization is also enthusiastic to capture the Smile Station's blueprint and use it to expand to other colleges and communities this summer. With a promotional video about to be released, it will be easier than ever to start a Smile Station and get it running!

Stay tuned for announcements and contact us to get involved! •

## *Smile Station Central*

The Montclair State University Smile Station, located in Montclair, NJ, was launched in April 2011. As the Smile Station starts its fourth year and continues the mission to end loneliness, preparations are under way in forming a new Executive Board.

This past years has been on of remarkable accomplishment as the Smile Station made efforts to end loneliness both for nursing home residents and college students. With the Wednesday night Coffeehouses, students are able to gather for nights of fun and share memorable stories of their Forever Friends at the Gates Manor Nursing Home.

The MSU Smile Station can only succeed. To hear more about their success or to start your own Smile Station, please contact us! •

## *Loneliness in the News*

By Afshan Ladha  
Director of Operations

Although TAFE was launched thirteen years ago with the conviction that loneliness is problematic, loneliness is very much a current and global issue.

The United Kingdom estimates that six out of ten young people are often or sometimes lonely and those over the age of 75 are more likely to exist in social isolation. The impact loneliness can have is detrimental: depression, high blood pressure, heart attacks, and strokes. The effects loneliness can have are even worse than smoking and obesity, according to some research studies.

Loneliness is no stranger to Russia, either. While people are living longer, not enough is being done to tackle loneliness for the 85+ generation. They might say it best: "Loneliness needs to be tackled by a change in society's attitude. Everyone one of us can help to combat loneliness." The article urges for creative ways to help the lonely feel part of society.

The problem is too major, and the solution too simple, to ignore. •

For more information on these issues, feel free to visit the articles directly:

[Loneliness is a Modern Epidemic \(Mirror\)](#)  
[Loneliness is Preventable \(Voice of Russia UK\)](#)

### ***Do you need a friend right now?***

Loneliness does not discriminate. TAFE wants to end your loneliness by offering compassion through the love of a Forever Friend. To get in touch with a Forever Friend today, contact us and we'll connect you with someone as soon as possible. There is no charge to end your loneliness.

Contact us at [tafafoundation@gmail.com](mailto:tafafoundation@gmail.com)  
or call (862)682-9830.

Visit our website: [turnafrownaround.org](http://turnafrownaround.org)  
Find us on Facebook: [TAFE Foundation](#)  
Follow us on Twitter: [TAFE Foundation](#)

## *Get Involved*

Volunteer for any of the positions below:

- Forever Friend/E-mail Friend/Phone Friend
- Ambassador to the President (Create a Smile Station)
  - The Compassion Theater Company
  - Publicity and Marketing Efforts
  - Join the Administration

We can never have too many volunteers.  
Make TAFE your cause. Own the mission.

## *The Smile Station Express*

The Smile Station Express travels from town to town, setting up Smile Stations to turn your frown around.

Who will love the loveless?  
Who will be a friend?

Who will seek and find the lost?  
Who will bring loneliness to an end?

Will it be the worship house?  
Love is what they teach.  
Or the local bar and grill?  
With beers within your reach.

Elk clubs, moose, and lions,  
any animal will do.

Kids from grammar school to college,  
it could even be your friends and you.

So climb on the Smile Station Express  
as we gather each Forever Friend.  
Start a Smile Station right now,  
is the message that we send.

Just think about the lonely  
and how they will come alive.  
Just think about the forgotten  
whose soul you will revive.

So will you become a Forever Friend?  
Don't make us wait or guess.  
Please bring your unconditional love  
and join the Smile Station Express.