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Annual IMAGINE Benefit Raises Funds For Mental Health and Substance Use Services

Putnam Family & Community Services Honored Master Paul Melella Jr. of UMAC for His Service to Area Youth; Funds Raised in Support of PFCS' Substance Use & Mental Health Treatment Programs

Carmel, NY (October, 16, 2015) – Dinner, dancing and good company were the order of the night as supporters of Putnam Family & Community Services (PFCS), the only private, not-for-profit agency providing licensed counseling and treatment for mental health and substance use in Putnam County, gathered on Friday, October 16th for the organization's annual dinner dance benefit. Guests, sponsors and journal advertisers from all across the area joined under this year's theme to *'Imagine...Life Lived to its Fullest'*, raising funds in support of PFCS' accessible and affordable mental health and substance use treatment and prevention services which, in 2014, reached 1 in 13 residents in Putnam and surrounding areas.

Attendance at the event was highlighted by local and state notables including amongst others: Thomas Scaglione, Mid-Hudson Regional Representative for Governor Andrew Cuomo; Senator Sandra Galef; Daniel Pagano, Representative for Senator Terrence Murphy; Peter Convery, Putnam County Under Sheriff; as well as Michael J. Piazza and Joseph A. DeMarzo, Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Putnam County Department of Social Services and Mental Health.

Event Honors Master Melella of UMAC, Carmel with the Annual Sid Gibson IMAGINE Award

Master Paul Melella, Jr. of the United Martial Arts Center, Carmel, was honored with the second Annual Sid Gibson IMAGINE award in recognition of his dedication and service to the youth of our area, inspiring the self-confidence and leadership skills to make good choices and providing scholarship opportunities to young people in need. "It is through people in the community like Master Melella that we accomplish our mission to partner with individuals, families and the community to foster hope, wellness and recovery," said Chris Dillon, Board Chairman of PFCS.

Guests were also given very personal and moving insight into the reality of one woman's recovery journey and her on-going efforts to give guidance and assistance to others in her role as a Peer Specialist at PFCS. "The Peer Specialists here at PFCS provide a comforting, compassionate and understanding perspective to our clients based on their own recovery journeys. Having walked the path, they can draw on their own experience and courage to help others find their way," stated Diane Russo, Chief Executive Director of PFCS. "We are so lucky to have them."

Dinner and dancing at the Salem Golf Club in North Salem was accompanied by a lively silent auction which featured Caribbean trips, sports and entertainment packages, dining experiences, handmade quilts and a wide array of interesting jewelry and other merchandise.

The event was very generously sponsored by: Stacey Gibson, a Garrison Family, Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, Stephen Santoro, Esq., O'Connell & Aronowitz, Law Offices of Kathleen Valletta, M&T Bank, Clifton Budd & DeMaria, LLP, Meridian Benefits Consulting, Akzo Nobel, Rose & Kiernan, Putnam Tourism Corp., Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, NYAPRS, and the Law Offices of Joseph J. Fonseca.

About Putnam Family & Community Services

Putnam Family and Community Services, Inc. (PFCS) is the only private non-profit agency providing recovery-based mental health and substance use treatment and prevention services in Putnam County, NY. PFCS offers hope and healing to people of all ages through a comprehensive range of services including individual and group treatment, care management, family advocacy, parenting education, community outreach, psychiatric rehabilitation, and medication management. For more information, visit www.PFCSinc.org or www.Facebook.com/PFCSinc.

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