



For Immediate Release

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More than 200 Attendees Dined, Danced and Raised More than \$75K at Putnam Family & Community Services “Imagine” Dinner Benefit

***Event Honoring DRUG CRISIS IN OUR BACKYARD Yields Largest Total Donations in Agency’s History
– All Funds Raised will Support PFCS’ Chemical Dependency & Mental Health Treatment Programs***

PUTNAM COUNTY, NY (October, 22, 2014) – Putnam Family & Community Services (PFCS), the only private, not-for-profit agency providing licensed counseling and treatment for mental health and substance abuse in Putnam County, drew more than 200 guests on Friday, October 17th for the organization’s annual dinner-dance benefit, which took place at the Salem Golf Club in North Salem. A record breaking \$75,000+ was raised in support of the mental health and chemical dependency treatment programs of PFCS, which reaches 1 in 12 residents in the community.

“The overwhelming success of this year’s event speaks volumes,” said Diane Russo, Executive Director, Putnam Family & Community Services. “Amidst the heroin epidemic that is hitting our region, community advocates and supporters came out en masse to support Drug Crisis in Our Backyard and PFCS’ part in the fight against drug addiction and associated mental health issues. Thankfully, the money they have helped us raise will enable us to continue our work assisting Putnam residents.”

Event Honors Drug Crisis In Our Backyard Co-Founders with First Sid Gibson IMAGINE Award

In memory of the agency’s longtime patron and advocate, the late Sid Gibson of Garrison, PFCS established the annual IMAGINE Award to celebrate those who have dared to imagine a world where everyone has hope for wellness and recovery.

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PFCS' first honorees, Steve and Susan Salomone and Lou and Carol Christiansen, were recognized at the event for their tireless work to drive awareness for intervention and prevention in the face of our current drug crisis.

"It is the intention of our organization to keep spreading the word that addiction is a disease and recovery is possible," said Susan Salomone, co-founder, Drug Crisis in Our Backyard.

"We were honored by the support of so many, and very proud to receive the first Sid Gibson Imagine Award. The event was a testament to the commitment of PFCS and Drug Crisis in Our Backyard to bring awareness of the epidemic of addiction in our community and our fight to prevent future tragedies in other families," said Carol Christiansen, co-founder, Drug Crisis in Our Backyard.

Valuable Auction Prizes Boost Fundraising Efforts

A myriad of high value auction items helped drive additional funds during the event. The featured items drawing out the highest bidders were:

- Salem Golf Club Trial Membership
- Peaceful Moments V Tarkay Serigraph
- Mackenzie Childs Ornate bench
- Handmade quilt and shams
- Several trips/getaways
- Coach bag

About Putnam Family & Community Services

Putnam Family and Community Services, Inc. (PFCS) is the only private non-profit agency providing recovery-based mental health, chemical dependency 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.