

ARIZONA TOGETHER[®]

Arizona's Good News "Newspaper" Est. 1991 Vol. 19—No. 1
JANUARY 2009

Real People...Real Recovery *A Celebration of Success!*

by Larry Solomon

Arizona has long been considered the prime location for addiction treatment centers. Few have been doing it longer than Calvary Addiction Recovery Center. Calvary has undergone many changes during its 45 year history, especially this past year. During the past year Calvary has focused on keeping its original purpose while adapting to the changing needs of the recovery population today. Owned by Psychiatric Solutions Inc., the largest behavioral health corporation in the country, Calvary now offers:

- Christian and traditional tracks of recovery
- Problem gambling program
- Young adults program
- Family weekend and family counseling
- Intensive outpatient services
- Partial hospitalization
- Aftercare group
- Works with all insurances

In 2009 Calvary will offer acute care service as well. Calvary has traditionally been known as the facility for self-pay, thirty days of Christian residential treatment. Now they offer the full continuum of care and work with all managed care companies.

Since its beginning, Calvary has brought the Christian message to the tough world of addiction recovery. Their program balances traditional 12-steps with a non-denominational Christian message. Once a halfway house for street alcoholics located at 3rd Avenue and Van Buren, Calvary is growing into the leading resource for Christian addiction recovery services. The beautiful campus is now located at 720 E. Montebello in Phoenix.

Calvary's history is rich and diverse. The stories could fill a library. Some would make you laugh. Some would make you cry. Dottie Delugt-Collins, who has been with Calvary since 1972, tells some interesting stories about the founder of Calvary, Barney Swierenga.

The Founder

Barney Swierenga came from a truck driving family in Chicago. He owned some jewelry stores and appreciated the finer things in life. Barney liked his status and his money. For a little extra income he even did some running for Al Capone. Besides status and money, Barney liked his booze. Dottie tells the story of Barney's personal bottom.

"At the end of a business day, Barney was boating on Lake Michigan with some of his friends; having a few drinks and a few laughs. They made a sudden turn that caused Barney's beer container to slide off the boat and into the lake. Barney dove in after his beer fully dressed."

"At the end of a business day, Barney was boating on Lake Michigan with some of his friends; having a few drinks and a few laughs. They made a sudden turn that caused Barney's beer container to slide off the boat and into the lake. Barney dove in after his beer fully dressed. Since it was a work day at the jewelry store he was wearing a three-piece suit. He managed to surface with his beer and crawl back into the boat.

When he got home (after consuming his rescued beer) he proceeded to warm up by filling his tub with hot water. Still dressed from his business day he hopped into the tub

and then passed out. Upon arriving home, his wife Catharine found him and was so angry she wanted to push his head under water and hold it there.

"It was then Barney realized he was going to lose everything to alcohol," Dottie explains. "That was the day he got sober."

After moving to Phoenix, Barney opened Calvary Rehabilitation Center in 1964. That was Calvary's beginning; a halfway house for street alcoholics located at the original location of 3rd Avenue and Van Buren. Most residents worked day labor and gave Barney half of their daily earnings to stay. Barney got to be well known at the courts. The judge would sometimes see him in the audience and then offer a man charged with public intoxication the option of going to jail, or going with Barney to Rehab. Many went with Barney.

Needless to say, Barney dealt with some tough characters. "He had a great sense of humor and he was really strong," Dottie states. "One of the funniest characters we ever dealt with was Dickey from Michigan." She described the following story.

Dickey was constantly in and out of the center. He suffered relapse after relapse. One day, following a relapse, he came in and asked Barney if he could be admitted.

Barney told him, "Dickey you know I can't let you in here drunk, you'll have to leave and come back when you are sober... then I'll let you in."

So Dickey went out the front glass doors, picked up a brick and turned around. It seemed like an eternity as he looked at the left door, then the right; leaning from one side to the other; lifting his left eyebrow, then his right. Finally he hurled the brick through one of the doors.

Barney came out and said, "You know Dickey, I'm going to have to call the police now."

"Oh thank you, now I have a place to stay."

A couple of days later, Dickey showed up, "I'm better now Barney, can I come in?"

"Not until you pay for the glass door."

Dickey quickly paid for the door and was admitted to Calvary.

A few weeks later, Dickey left. He showed up a few days later quite intoxicated and walked into Barney's office.

"Barney, I need to come back in."

"Dickey, you know I can't let you in when you are intoxicated, come back in the morning and we'll talk."

"Okay," Dickey said as he left.

A moment later Barney had a strange feeling. He jumped from his desk and dashed to the front door. And there he found Dickey, holding a brick. Dickey had that familiar look as he teetered first one way, then the other.

Barney said, "Dickey, not the front door."

Pointing to a side window he told Dickey, "Throw it through that window."

Dickey threw the brick through the smaller window.

Barney said, "I'll go call the police now."

Dickey responded, "Hey thanks Barney, you are the greatest."

"There are so many stories I could tell," Dottie says. "Barney was just a wonderful man who loved helping people."

Barney Swierenga passed away in 1979 at 78 years of age.

A Survival Mentality

Although Barney spent only 15 years with Calvary, he placed his determination and strength into the facility and the program. Calvary has survived through some tough times. It was originally funded through the wages of its clients. Calvary then received benefits through the benevolent funds of the Christian Reformed Church.

In 1996 Calvary Rehabilitation Center moved to its current location at 720 E. Montebello in Phoenix. In 1999 the center was approached by NewLife Ministries and was eventually purchased by NewLife. A couple of years later NewLife sold Calvary to its current owner, Psychiatric Solutions Inc.

Psychiatric Solutions has committed to maintaining Calvary's program integrity while working to offer services to individuals who might not have been able to receive services in the past by working with all insurance companies. Calvary can offer creative solutions to clients who might have barriers to entering treatment. Calvary has arranged for and paid for flights for out of town clients. They have also made COBRA payments for individuals who otherwise would not be able to receive treatment.



Located in north central Phoenix on a quiet two-acre campus sits one of the best-kept secrets in Arizona's rich recovery history, Calvary Addiction Recovery Center. From left, Sean Walsh, Larry Solomon, Tami Solheim, Brough Stewart and John Merrill.

Calvary has expanded the ministries it works with. Not only do they work with NewLife, they have relationships with Focus on the Family as well as many of the local and national churches. However, Calvary's traditional track allows those who prefer a non-Christian approach to treatment to receive the quality care they have to offer.

Over time Calvary has operated as:

- Calvary Rehabilitation Center
- NewLife Calvary Center
- Calvary Center
- Calvary Addiction Recovery Center

A Year of Growth and Changes

Early in 2008, Chris Diamond joined Calvary as the new CEO. Chris came with experience and visions that would reshape the way Calvary does business, yet maintain the traditions that Calvary has had for over four decades. He has brought many changes to the facility and staff that have improved the level of care clients receive. The following is a small list of those changes.

Calvary Addiction Recovery Center: The name has changed to reflect the expanded services that Calvary offers. There have also been major facility improvements such as new interior and exterior paint, new flooring, furniture, new phone system and computers to name a few. In addition, Calvary now works with all insurances, offers financial counseling, free assessments and has become more active in the community for the purpose of educating the community regarding addiction and recovery issues.

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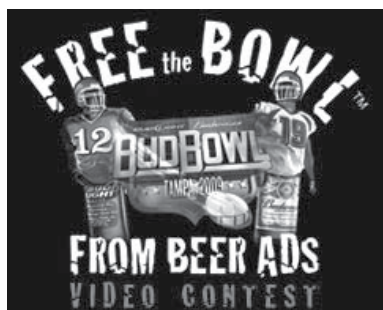
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Contest Seeks to Counter Super Bowl Beer Ads



Teens and young adults ages 13-20 can compete to create the most effective response to the annual barrage of Super Bowl beer ads in a new contest created by the industry watchdog Marin Institute. (www.marininstitute.org)

Billed as "the country's first anti-beer ad contest," the **Free the Bowl** competition will award prizes like an Apple MacBook and iPods to the creators of 30- to 60-second anti-beer ads.

"Year after year, Anheuser-Busch and the National Football League hide behind weak, ineffectual Beer Institute self-regulatory guidelines to justify exposing youth to exploitive alcohol ads," said Michael Scippa, advocacy director at the Marin Institute. "Big Alcohol turns a deaf ear to our protests, so we want them to listen to compelling messages from young people who resent being targeted as new customers." Anheuser-Busch is expected to spend up to \$19 million on ads during the 2009 Super Bowl.

Deadline for contest entries is Jan. 25. The winner will be announced on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 1. Ads created for the contest will be posted to YouTube. For more details, see www.freethebowl.com. Get your teen involved!

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Calvary Center has been a leader in addiction recovery. Our treatment programs are for men and women, 18 years and older, who are struggling with addiction to alcohol, drugs or gambling.

Calvary's beautiful campus and caring, compassionate staff present an ideal environment for breaking the bondage of dependency.

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Bobbe McGinley: Although Bobbe has been working alongside of Calvary for quite some time she has a renewed commitment to oversee the program for compulsive gambling. Bobbe is recognized as one of the leading authorities on problem gambling on both the state and national levels. In addition to bringing the gambling program to Calvary, Bobbe works very closely with the Gamblers Anonymous (GA) program. Thanks to Bobbe, Calvary now hosts an open GA meeting Fridays from 7:00 to 8:30.

Intake Team: Calvary's intake department consists of the team of Tami Solheim, Richard Galindo and Scott Page. Prior to working with Calvary they were the intake team at New Vision Medical Stabilization (detox service) at Paradise Valley Hospital. Not only do they all have experience with intake, but Tami, Richard and Scott all have experience working with mobile crisis teams, which is an even greater asset when working with intake. They have worked together as a team for quite some time and bring 20 years of experience to Calvary.

Brough Stewart: Brough is Calvary's new Clinical Director. He joins the Calvary team with 22 years of experience in the chemical dependency field. For the last eight years Brough managed the chemical dependency program at Banner Behavioral Health in Scottsdale. Prior to Banner Brough worked with Charter Hospitals. He states, "Calvary is a hidden gem and the best kept secret for treatment not only in Arizona, but the country." "We want to let the secret out."

Sean Walsh: Sean is Calvary's Director of Outpatient Services. Sean has 12

years experience in the field. He developed Calvary's Young Adults Program which targets the needs of clients between the ages of 18-25. He is a member of the adjunct faculty at Rio Salado College. Sean has been highly involved in statewide programs such as Crystal Darkness and Decent into Meth. Sean is also Calvary's representative of the Jason Foundation.

The Jason Foundation: In 1997 the Jason Foundation was founded as a response to a family and friends loss of Jason Flatt, age 16, to the tragedy of youth suicide. The mission of the Jason Foundation is to provide information, tools and resources to confront the "silent epidemic" and prevent the tragedy of youth suicide. Calvary Addiction Recovery Center became the Arizona Affiliate Office of the Jason Foundation in 2008. For more information on education and prevention call the Community Access Referral Line (C.A.R.L.) at (877) 778-CARL (2275).

Divine Perseverance

Calvary has survived dozens of opportunities to fade off into the recovery sunset.

Barney had many struggles. His passing was a blow to the survival of Calvary. The changing course of state-funding threatened Calvary a decade ago. Even as recently as a year ago Calvary was struggling to survive.

Larry Solomon, who has been with Calvary for 10 years states, "How else could you explain Calvary's survival other than divine intervention. As long as God has His hand on Calvary we will be treating the suffering addict. We will also grow to be the best resource out there regarding addiction recovery services."

For a center that began with a desperate dive into Lake Michigan to retrieve some lost beer, Calvary has done very well.

Barney would be proud.

*Larry Solomon is the author of **Love Never Fails... But A Marriage Can** and **Program Outreach Manager of Calvary Addiction Recovery Center in Phoenix.** Calvary is a faith-based, nationally recognized recovery facility that was founded in 1964. To contact Calvary Center call 1-866-76 SOBER (866-767-6237), or visit www.calvarycenter.com.*

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