

*"The Dedinsky Family Fund supports The Edna House for Women because it is an incredible organization that is saving and transforming women's lives.*

*In these challenging times, organizations like this are needed now more than ever. They are doing God's work!"*

*We all need to support them anyway we can. It is unbelievable what they are able to accomplish with the limited amount of funding they receive."*

– John Dedinsky



**CHRISTMAS IN JULY**  
**AT THE EDNA HOUSE CAMPUS**  
Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 4-7 p.m.

We are excited to invite you to our first annual Christmas in July Open House! This event is a great opportunity to get a tour of our campus and to restock our shelves with basic need items for the women in our care. Please join us on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, from 4 - 7 pm for a festive evening of fun, fellowship, and light refreshments. In addition to financial donations, we have a list of current needs if you are interested in supporting us in that way: Coffee and coffee supplies, bath towels, razors, liquid body soap, 13-gallon garbage bags and 30 gallon garbage bags, freezer bags, bus passes and AA Big Books!

## THE EDNA HOUSE NEWSLETTER



*The Terminal Tower was lit up to honor The Edna House on March 11, 2023.*

### The Edna House Direct Service Team



**Sarah Murphy**  
Advancement  
Coordinator



**Ashleigh Visalli**  
Program Manager



**Christine Cervenka**  
Job Development  
Manager



**Karla Seese**  
Trauma Counselor



**Steve Silva**  
Trauma Consultant

## A Letter From the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Spring is finally here, and our campus has once again come alive! With the warm weather, groups are now able to be held in our beautiful courtyard. This is in addition to groups being held in The Edna House dining room and chapel and The Edna House Residence and Education Center. Your support of the capital campaign has allowed us to spread out and it has brought a feeling of comfort and growth for our organization.

Although alcohol and other drug addictions increased during COVID, we saw our resident population decrease. Advancement Coordinator, Sarah Murphy says, "God gave us that time to build, learn, and to navigate through the obstacles. He also gave Jenn the time to build a team, so we could be ready for the increased need that was to come." Her words ring true, and with any bit of extra time, counseling, business, and leadership courses were taken by staff, to support the growing needs of our residents. With generous financial support from The Mawaka Family Foundation, a trauma consultant and trauma counselor were hired. The residents are now

receiving counseling and additional services that financially were never possible before.

Over the years, many families have expressed their gratitude to Edna for giving them their daughter, wife, or mother back. Cofounder, Erin Becker makes it clear that "Edna just made it possible for these brave women to save themselves." Edna values the role that families play in the recovery process and works to involve them in the healing process. As we tried to keep the women and families safe during the pandemic, it was the one service we put on hold. A new curriculum has been created, and I am happy to report that Family Group was relaunched in April 2023!

Recovery doesn't make all problems and consequences go away, but it begins a process of healing and hope, to get past the challenges of addiction. At Edna, we celebrate this win, and with a supportive staff and strong, sober support and foundation built, no problem will ever be bigger than the community created over the past 19 years.

I want to express my gratitude to each of you, because together, we have ensured access to safe, supportive, recovery programming, and longer-term, residential housing. I am confident in saying that our standard of care is trauma informed, inclusive, and culturally responsive. We only did this, with your belief and investment in the leadership and mission of The Edna House for Women.

Forever Grateful,

*Jenn Lasky*

# SAVE THE DATE!

**The Edna House 5K • Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023**  
**Edgewater Park 9 a.m.**

THE EDNA HOUSE  
for Women  
2007 West 65<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cleveland, OH 44102

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Check us out at [Ednahouse.org](https://ednahouse.org). Like us on Facebook & follow on Instagram for event notices!



## The Edna House Board of Directors 2023

### OFFICERS

**Erin Becker – President**

**Michael Naughton – Vice President**

**Kate Hubben – Secretary**

**Beau Bonner – Treasurer**

### MEMBERS

**Judi Amicone**

**Peter Anagnostos**

**Treg Balding**

**Jane Bennett**

**Carrie Clark**

**Bill Dillingham**

**Mary Ganske**

**Scott Hamilton**

**Robert Morris**

**Liz Wilson**

*The power of  
philanthropy is  
determined by the  
compassion of the  
community.*

**Fleet  
response**

## I Am an Edna Alumna

I grew up on a farm in North Bloomfield, Ohio, near the Pennsylvania border. A product of hometown life, blessed with loving parents and two younger siblings. My mom and dad were always there, always present, and always cheering us on – in sports, school, and especially in life. We celebrated birthdays and holidays in grand fashion, had a beautiful home and land, and I even showed pigs at our local fair. Our lives were simple, but so rich and full. Like any great storybook family, I had a home-cooked meal on the table every night, and my family provided me with unconditional love and support in every way. It was totally sublime, and I had no logical reason to seek danger and distraction... I had no excuse for how the years ahead would unfold... Drugs and alcohol do not discriminate.

After graduating high school in 2008, most of my friends left for college and moved on, but I chose a different, much more self-deprecating path. Weekend drinking quickly turned into everyday drinking, and everyday drinking turned into a completely dependent relationship with alcohol. I could not exist without it. The next few years were nothing short of a nightmare. I had no ability to be sober, and there was no line I wouldn't cross to get what I needed. I moved between incarceration, three-quarter houses, and fancy treatment centers. Nothing worked, and I ultimately lost the will to keep trying. I was completely hopeless and continued to burn every bridge, pushing away my family and friends who worked so hard to keep loving me. None of it helped. No human power could get me sober and keep me clean.

I was picked up from the Trumbull County jail on January 29, 2014, and taken to The Edna House for Women. Honestly, besides remaining locked up, it was my only option. My mom was in tears as she left me once again, this time in Cleveland, probably wondering if I would try to stay and fight, or if I would disappear with no word as I had in years past. Maybe she even worried it was the last time she'd see me alive?

I just felt numb. At this point, I was exhausted, and so desperate to feel something real again. I was sick and tired of being endlessly sick and tired. Somehow though, through all my sadness and fear and pain, there was a tiny spark of hope here. Somehow, The Edna House felt different.

Upon arrival, I was shocked to be greeted by a familiar face – someone I actually used to drink with. I was completely amazed to find out she was three days sober, and happy! I was immediately overwhelmed by the amount of love and support from everyone I met, and I embraced the help and guidance from those who'd lived as I had. I followed their recommendations and asked God to keep me sober in my morning prayers and thanked Him for keeping me sober before I laid down to sleep at night. I cried and asked to have just a little bit of willingness this time.

I sat through group sessions without a cell phone for three months – I had to be still, I had



to listen. I was amazed that women gave their own time to lead groups. I had to rely on other sober women for advice, rides to AA meetings, emotional support, financial needs, and much, much more. For the first time in my dark journey, I got honest with myself. I got a sponsor, I worked the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, and most importantly I found God.

After I completed Phase 1, I was prepared with real world job and life skills. I learned how to interview, and how to make a resume, all by women who found success in sobriety – they taught me how to live again. I was taught that as long as I do “the next right thing” I was going to be okay. I had learned to live one day at a time, and how to keep moving forward. I was able to find a job and successfully work while still attending AA meetings. I found peace, and I was able to save for my first apartment and moved in with a close friend I met at The Edna House.

Today I have a life I absolutely love. I stay closely connected with The Edna House. I try to give back what was so freely given to me. My relationship with my family is better than ever, I have so many amazing sober friends, and a sponsor who I absolutely adore. I'm in a healthy relationship with someone who loves and respects me. I can take care of myself, and more importantly, I can take care of my two Persian kitties! I have hobbies and interests and try new things – and the list goes on and on. I have this life today because of God, who had greater purpose for me, and because of The Edna House for Women, who showed me how to seek that purpose and succeed.

While I've remained in Cleveland, a piece of my heart belongs to the women of Trumbull County who come to The Edna House for help. I love providing education and sharing my experience, points of strength, and hope, working closely with the jail and probation departments. The court system has taken note of this home and its high success rate, and I will always be an advocate for it.

Our annual Edna House summer outing is now held at my parent's farm. Residents, along with alumnae and their loved ones, are invited for fishing, food, and fellowship. To see families reunited and the joy and laughter this event brings is priceless. This outing is something very special for me and my family... My parents love all my sober friends, and they love to provide everyone with a good time, but they especially love that The Edna House gave them their daughter back.

I am forever grateful.

**Meagan Wagner**

## 2023 St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser Highlights

We are overjoyed to share the incredible highlights from our St. Patrick's fundraiser. Because of your support and the collective efforts of our Board of Directors, donors, staff, residents, and our amazing community, we were able to raise a record breaking \$75,000! As many of you know, we count on two fundraisers a year to help support our daily operations, so it is imperative that they are well attended and profitable.

Special thanks to our many sponsors, who ensured the night was a financial, record breaking success. Donated raffle prizes from RPM, John Dedinsky, along with Mark and Jennifer Busch, gave everyone the chance to win fantastic Cleveland prizes.

Our special thanks to Gerry Grim and Travis Gunter, for preparing the delicious meal. Our gratitude to Karla Seese and Edna residents for working tirelessly throughout the day to ensure a wonderful meal was served to our dedicated patrons.

In the past year, we have increased our outreach efforts to bring awareness of our mission to those actively seeking recovery services and having The Terminal Tower lit up in Edna's colors that evening made us believe our efforts are working! We made this the theme of our fundraiser and many Edna supporters drove all over Cleveland that night, taking photos from different angles and shedding tears of joy, as Edna was celebrated and recognized for her 19 years of service to women.



## Volunteer Spotlight: Janet Duchoslav

Meet Janet Duchoslav, not only is she an Edna Volunteer, her husband Paul is too! Janet retired from Guardian Life, where she worked with Edna Board Member, Treg Balding. He introduced her to the Edna organization, knowing her professionalism and experience would benefit the residents, specifically in the Job Development program. You will see Janet performing mock interviews, reviewing resumes, or assembling professional clothing attire for interviews. Her volunteer efforts then led her to the lower level of The Edna House where she discovered a task she couldn't wait to jump into. Janet is organizing a much needed facelift of the lower level which will include painting and building



shelving to manage and organize supplies. We are currently looking for some volunteers to help with this undertaking and you can call Christie Cervenka at 216-281-7751 to volunteer or donate financially to ensure this task gets completed!

## The Power of Giving Locally

The Edna House has been home to over 1500 women, and it has significantly impacted their lives and the families and communities they return to. We have intensified our outreach efforts in the Cleveland community and surrounding areas, to bring awareness of our organization, so we can serve more women in need of our services.

That said, we are asking and encouraging you to think local as you consider your charitable donations and volunteerism in the second half of 2023. We know you have dozens, if not hundreds, of choices when it comes to where you give and volunteer, but here are five reasons to give local.

1. Local donations are invested in the interests, values, and needs of our community.
2. Local giving allows donors the joy of seeing the results of their generosity directly.
3. Giving locally makes a positive economic impact by creating jobs and building a sense of community.
4. Local giving and volunteering encourage face-to-face interactions, relationships, and networking.
5. Giving and volunteering boosts your overall quality of life.

The Edna House depends on the generosity of individual donors, community groups, corporations and faith based institutions. It's amazing to see the generosity and the amount of work that gets done when everyone works together and humbled by their devotion to our mission.



Scan to invest in our mission.