

# BAA: Straight & Narrow helps those with addictions

## FROM 1

a great deal of government funds, we could not make ends meet without the support of the Appeal, without your support. The gifts that you will pledge to the Appeal are very important to us."

The one-of-a-kind agency is known statewide and around the country for its specialized services for those battling drug and alcohol addiction. Through its residential facilities, men, women — including those who are pregnant or with infants — and teen boys receive around-the-clock help for six to 12 months. Programs such as the 12-step program, and individual and group counseling help clients to overcome addiction by seeking the source of their behavior.

Judy Kurtzer, director of men's treatment services, said, "Our clients really connect with the 12 steps. They learn a lot about who they are and the relationships in their lives. You can see as they go through the program that for the first time in their lives, they feel good about themselves."

Another helpful part for the residents are the self-help books, they have received upon entering S&N, which were funded by the Bishop's Annual Appeal. "These books sort of become a bible for them," said Kurtzer. "The books are theirs to keep and often



BEACON PHOTO | CECILIA SAN AGUSTIN

**BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL** At Straight and Narrow's La Vida Childcare Center, Vanessa Alvarado and Myree Gamble teach a lesson to the 3-year-old pre-k students. While S&N is known for its assistance to help those with addictions, the childcare center is one of S&N's community outreaches, which serves neighboring families.

times, as they pass through the program they are able to earn more books on other subjects about becoming a stronger person."

Beyond the mental health aspect, S&N has provided a home-like environment for the clients. With so much time at the facilities for a significant period of time, the residential facilities have various recreational activities for the clients.

"The clients are here 24 hours a day. When they aren't going through the different treatment programs, it's important in order for them to stay well that we have something

else for them to do to break up the monotony besides have them sit in front of a television all day. Also we need to show them there are so many ways to have fun and enjoy life without the use of drugs and alcohol," said Duffy.

During their time in treatment, the clients receive recovery coins or key chains to mark the amount of days they have stayed sober. Karen Roccisano, director of women's services at S&N, said, "They wear them like a badge of honor. They feel proud as they reach each different milestone."

In the past, funds from the bishop's ap-


peal have also paid for the registration and test costs for the GED for many of the clients, which costs \$90. Duffy said, "It is not much but multiply that by the indigent clients in our substance abuse programs taking the GED course with us and it becomes big dollars."

In addition to the treatment facilities, S&N provides outpatient counseling, medical detox, intoxicated driver resource center, methadone maintenance, housing for persons with HIV/AIDS, a family success center and two day care centers for children living in Paterson. S&N welcomes visits to its facilities for those who want to see firsthand the work of the agency.

Rick Moses, 28-day program coordinator, who is one of the first staff members a new client meets at S&N, said, "Emotions are very raw when they get here. For some it is their first time facing some very real emotions. Eventually though, they find an excited and inspired hope to change their lives. Ultimately, we give our clients the choice, it's about planting the seed."


To support the appeal, the In-Pew Commitment Weekend will take place during the weekend Masses on Oct. 11-12 to invite parishioners to make a pledge or donation. Parishioners can provide financial support to the 2014 BAA through one-time gifts or pledges paid over several months with reminders, credit card contributions or on-line contributions. Legacy gifts to the BAA can also be considered in a will or estate plan.

[Information: [www.2014appeal.org](http://www.2014appeal.org) or call 973-777-8818, ext. 215.]



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**FAMILY PICNIC**  
To kick off the new school year at the Auxilium School in Newton, formerly Camp Auxilium Learning Center, held a family picnic. Salesian Sister Isabel Garza, the school's new director, holds the cake all at the picnic enjoyed. With her (from left) are: Salesian Sister Arlene Rubino, the Pagano family and the LaMudge family.



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