

# *Across the Spectrum*

## Spectrum to Build Serenity Garden at Westborough Treatment Campus



Currently in the early design and planning stages, Spectrum Health Systems plans to construct a serenity garden at its Westborough Treatment Campus to complement the recently completed Faris Recovery Center. Complete with a water feature, lighted pathways and friendly seating areas for clients and their families to enjoy, the garden will be designed as a welcoming, serene green space to pause, assess, reflect and move forward along the path of recovery. This project is perhaps the best example of Spectrum's commitment to strengthening mind, body and spirit throughout the recovery process.

In an effort to offset the cost of the project, Spectrum dedicated its Annual Appeal to raising money for the initial design phase.

Donations in support of the project can be directed to Spectrum's Home Office at **10 Mechanic Street Suite 302 Worcester, Massachusetts 01608** or made online at **[www.spectrumhealthsystems.org](http://www.spectrumhealthsystems.org)**.

Whatever the amount, your generosity will be greatly appreciated by Spectrum and the many clients we serve.

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Building better lives...  
*one step at a time.*

## President's Message



As we reflect on the many successes from 2015 and begin living up to our high expectations for 2016, I wanted to share my thoughts on both with Spectrum's friends, alumni and supporters.

The past year proved to be, by any measure, a historic period of growth for Spectrum. In June, we launched the New England Recovery Center (NERC) which offers onsite detoxification and inpatient addiction treatment for privately insured clients on our Westborough Treatment Campus. The NERC has exceeded even our best expectations for admissions, due to the incredible efforts of Spectrum's Business Development team in building relationships with new referral sources. This means more people now have access to Spectrum's industry leading continuum of care.

In our Outpatient Division, we met our stated goal of opening three new Outpatient Treatment Centers in Massachusetts, located in Saugus, North Adams and Leominster. These facilities in conjunction with our third peer recovery center in Lawrence, Massachusetts ensure Spectrum's evidence-based outpatient programming is available to more Commonwealth residents than I had ever dreamed possible when I began my career. We still have more work to do in providing services to everyone in need and I look forward to sharing our plans with you in the year ahead.

2015 was also successful from a public policy perspective. Back in May when we first began our relationship with Chief Campanello of the Gloucester Police Department and the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (PAARI), many questioned the viability of using public safety as a pathway to recovery. Almost a year later, we're happy to have been an early partner in proving the naysayers wrong. Chief Campanello and his team have traveled internationally spreading their message and experience. And the results speak for themselves; hundreds of people have entered treatment for their addictions, many finding recovery with Spectrum Health Systems. A testament to this success can be found in a December poll conducted by Suffolk University which indicated

well over 60% of Massachusetts residents were interested in seeing our public safety and correctional institutions, vital components of our society, play a larger role in treating addiction.

Massachusetts has always been on the forefront of meaningful social change, and this most recent shift in the way addiction is perceived, is due in no small part to the leadership shown by Governor Baker's administration. From the Executive Office of Health and Human Safety to the Executive Office of Public Safety, we've already seen a significant shift in the way addiction is viewed by the general population and addressed through state funded treatment programs. No longer are we only discussing addiction in terms of available prison cells, instead we're looking for effective ways in which all individuals suffering with the disease can find treatment while ensuring the Commonwealth remains a safe and culturally rich state in which to live, work and do business.

I take great pride in the role Spectrum has played in all of these efforts and remain confident that the only success greater than the year behind us, will be the one to come.

Charles J. Faris  
President and CEO  
Spectrum Health Systems

## Annual Meeting



On October 15th, Spectrum held its Annual Meeting at the Beechwood Hotel in Worcester, Massachusetts. Spectrum's board opened the meeting by electing David Felner, a partner with the Bowditch and Dewey law firm of Worcester, as its new chair.

Spectrum's COO Kurt Isaacson presented the annual report, focusing on the organization's significant growth in 2015 and outlook on the year to come. Spectrum's annual revenue for 2015 totaled \$62 million, representing a 21% increase over the previous year. Spectrum also served more than 80,000 clients this year, a 38% increase that can be attributed to the 1,600 individuals currently employed by Spectrum Health Systems.

"We're expanding not because we can, but because we should," said Mr. Isaacson in summary.



## Peter Paolantonio Receives Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Behavioral Healthcare

Peter Paolantonio, Chief Clinical Officer was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH) at the ABH Salute to Excellence ceremony in October.

The Association for Behavioral Healthcare has three decades of experience in the advancement, preservation and promotion of community-based mental health and addiction services and is



STATE SENATOR JENNIFER FLANAGAN

recognized as the leading statewide association in the field. The ABH recognized Peter in part for his contributions over the course of his 40-year career in pioneering Spectrum's cognitive behavioral treatment approach for treating substance abusing criminal offenders.

Peter's hard work and longstanding commitment to the utilization of evidence-based practices is best exemplified by the countless individuals and families who have rebuilt their lives thanks to the quality services, care and support they received at Spectrum.

"I'm humbled and honored by the recognition my colleagues and peers have given me today," said Mr. Paolantonio after receiving his award.



"People often ask me why I've spent my entire career with Spectrum. I believe with my heart and soul in the Spectrum way and try to live it every day. I'm so proud to be a part of the Spectrum family," he continued.

## 14th Annual Charity Golf Classic

Framingham Country Club in Framingham, Massachusetts, played host to Spectrum's 14th Annual Charity Golf Classic on Monday, October 5th. Over \$60,000 was raised by more than 120 golfers through donations, raffles and auctions in an effort to assist Spectrum in providing essential addiction treatment services.

Spectrum would like to thank all who attended and, in particular, recognize our primary

sponsors, including, **TD Bank, Brendon Properties, Cutler Associates, Bowditch & Dewey, 15-40 Connection, East Coast Benefits, the B.C. Group, John Burke Law, NexDine and Quality Air Systems.**

Thank you again for supporting the Spectrum mission. We look forward to seeing all of you at next year's event.



## HR Update

As Spectrum continues to expand due to increasing demand for services amidst the ongoing opioid epidemic, our overall employee base is growing rapidly as well. We have current openings across nearly all of our divisions, and new positions are continually being posted. Whether you're currently employed in the field or you're just beginning to think about a career in addiction treatment, Spectrum would love to hear from you to discuss how we can help you attain your career goals. As a leader in the field of addiction treatment, recognized by the Worcester Business Journal as one of the area's Top Workplaces, we give employees room to explore opportunities throughout the organization in an effort to enhance their professional career.

Spectrum takes great pride in employing a diverse population in a variety of positions and



offers a comprehensive benefit package to meet their needs.

Visit our website for the most current employment opportunities with Spectrum Health Systems.

## Spectrum Hires Chief Information Officer



Spectrum recently hired Mr. Robert "Bob" Brandner of West Hartford, Connecticut, as its first Chief Information Officer (CIO). In this newly created role, Bob will be responsible for providing vision, leadership and direction in the development and implementation of information technology programs in support of Spectrum's business operations.

Bob's new role is pivotal to the growth and development of the Spectrum organization. As Kurt Isaacson, Spectrum's Chief Operating Officer, recently put it,

*"We are approaching a crossroads in our use of cutting-edge medical records technology. There are a lot of good technology tools out there and Bob will help us decide how best to use them."*

As the organization's HIPAA Security Officer, Mr. Brandner will also ensure Spectrum's compliance with health care industry regulations for securing protected health information and maintaining the integrity and security of all Spectrum's IT systems and data. In addition, he is responsible for leading Spectrum's IT department and promoting a customer service team that supports end users to maximize the potential of technology investments.

## Spectrum Wins Award For Best Expansion Project



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR KARYN POLITO AND SPECTRUM PRESIDENT AND CEO CHUCK FARIS

Spectrum Health Systems was awarded the 2015 Best Expansion Project by the Westborough Economic Development Committee (WEDC) at the WEDC Second Annual Year-In-Review ceremony in November. The award was presented by members of the committee who were joined by keynote speaker Lt. Governor Karyn Polito.

2015 marked the completion of Spectrum's most ambitious growth to date on its Westborough Treatment Campus. Both the 36-bed New England Recovery Center and the newly constructed 104-bed Charles J. Faris Center opened earlier this year.

Spectrum has always strived to be a good neighbor to the residents of Westborough, Massachusetts since opening its doors in 1979. This award symbolizes not only the hard work performed everyday by Spectrum staff as they work to treat the disease of addiction, but the organization's commitment to being a partner in the region's economic development, from much needed construction jobs, to site improvements and expansion of the area's workforce. Spectrum continues to nurture the strong working relationship it has fostered with the town of Westborough, ensuring its presence has a positive impact on area economic development while remaining the region's leader in substance abuse and addiction treatment.



### Jose's Story

Jose is a 47 year old resident of Lawrence, Massachusetts and relatively new addition to the Spectrum team in his role at New Beginnings Peer Recovery Center, which opened in Lawrence last year. Jose's story starts in Puerto Rico where he was raised. Early in his life he found himself on the wrong side of the law in an effort to make ends meet. Jose became involved with the criminal justice system at a young age as a result of various property crimes and drug offenses, but according to him, his own drug use was "just something he dabbled in on the weekends."

It wasn't until 1992 when he moved to Lawrence with the hopes of starting fresh that his addiction truly caught up with him. Finding it difficult to find work and get on his feet, he became involved in the sale and trafficking of narcotics. In all, he reports having done a total of 18 years in prison for various drug related offenses. His addiction to opiates may have been the most consistent aspect of his life during this time. Whether he was sleeping in a prison cell or in an abandoned car, his addiction was the one part of life that never seemed to change.

After realizing there wasn't a future in the cycles of crime and addiction he experienced, Jose found his way to Miami where he was able to find treatment for his disease and begin his recovery. Two years in recovery, Jose is now a proud Spectrum employee taking advantage of every opportunity to tell his story and share his experiences with the people coming into New Beginnings each day.

"This new life is the best!" he exclaimed while telling his story. "I'm never going back to sleeping under bridges, but now I can talk to the people who are still there and try to help them find recovery for themselves." Jose says with New Beginnings being relatively new in Lawrence, the challenge "is making sure people know about the program. My previous experience in gangs and in prison helps me know how to build trust with people who need help, but are often suspicious of anyone offering it."

Jose's addiction took him to some dark places, but his recovery has brought him to a job he loves in the community he calls home, working to better the lives of people also seeking a life of recovery.

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Return Service Requested

Building better lives...

*one  
step at a  
time*

## Contact Us

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**Central Outpatient Admissions**  
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**Visit Our Website**  
[www.spectrumhealthsystems.org](http://www.spectrumhealthsystems.org)

## Connect with Us



Founded in 1969, Spectrum Health Systems, Inc. is a private, non-profit substance abuse and mental health treatment provider serving more than 80,000 clients per year. Spectrum's award winning continuum of addiction treatment includes inpatient detoxification, residential rehabilitation, outpatient services, medication-assisted treatment and peer recovery support.

