

Our Common Ground, Inc.

# OCG Works

## Car Wash Season Begins.....

### Special points of interest:

- The evolution of the TC
- 10 years after Graduation
- The Struggle for Sobriety



## The Community Helps OCG Raise Funds....

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## Executive Director's Message

New Treatment Philosophy Emerges



Orville L. Roache'  
Executive Director

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*“reinforces positive attitudes and behaviors, emphasizing and recognizes improvement”*

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The Therapeutic Community, or the TC as it is more commonly known, has throughout its history relied on a specific, fixed approach that has not been modified to meet the ever changing needs in substance abuse treatment. By utilizing a Strength-Based model **OCG** is moving beyond the older TC models, in hopes of being at the forefront of ushering in a new type of TC. The residential TC has traditionally been a highly structured and family focused milieu, which relies heavily on positive peer support, and clear program rules, regulations and consequences to keep tight control of negative attitudes and behaviors. It was realized over the years that the traditional TC requires that the majority of staff and client time is spent identifying, responding and correcting negative attitudes and behaviors. So much emphasis was placed on negative behavior that when a client is asked ‘what did you learn about yourself while in treatment?’ a common response was something like “I

learned that I was lazy, irresponsible, and had a non-caring attitude”. We recognized that our goal was not to have clients see themselves and their treatment at **OCG** in this manner. In response to our concern an agency wide Treatment Enhancement Committee (TEC) was created. The TEC met to identify the organization’s core values (see pg. 4) and made specific recommendations that utilized those core values and enhanced treatment for our clients. The most significant recommendation and change was the adoption of a Strength-Based model. This

was a significant shift away from the traditional TC’s model of focus on negative attitudes and behaviors, to an approach that reinforces positive attitudes and behaviors, emphasizes and recognizes improvement, while focusing on the client’s skills, needs, abilities, and preferences. The old TC terms and approaches were changed to positive interventions. Some traditional principles of the TC remain, such as accountability and use of peer support. Clients are still held accountable for negative attitudes and behaviors, however the methods focus on support and improvement, not in shame and humiliation. In addition, the use of peer support is utilized as much as possible. It is our goal at **OCG** for clients to proclaim when they leave treatment that they felt cared for, loved, and recognized their strengths and struggles, which helps them to make positive choices in their journey of creating a good life for themselves.



Ray Rosenthal  
Board President

## Board Spotlight

I have been a part of **OCG** since they were Daytop as far back as 1990. Back then, the Foster City Lions Club of which I am a member was looking to take on a community project. We selected Daytop/**OCG** for a number of projects at their main facility in Redwood City, as well as renovating a small cottage

behind their facility in Belmont, for kids who had no where to go after they left treatment. The Lions Club has been a supporter of the program both financially and in-kind, ever since. I served on the advisory board for a number of years during the 1990’s. In 2007 I spearheaded a successful effort for

the local Daytop program to cut ties and separate from the national and NY Daytop entities. I was proud to be named Board President of the new organization, Our Common Ground, or **OCG**.

## Alumni Spotlight

In the nine years since I left **OCG**, I've finished high school, received my Associates Degree on a bridge scholarship through Canada College, completed my BA at Sacramento State University, and am a year into my MA, studying rhetoric and composition and teaching at Sac State. I am an AmeriCorps Student in Service, working to enhance volunteerism on the Sac State campus. I tutor adult learners at a Sacramento Community College, and am active in Alternative Break -- a campus club that uses school breaks to volunteer in the Sacramento community. My life is hectic as I am a typical overachieving graduate student, but my life is very good.

Nine years ago I couldn't have anticipated how good my life would be. Leaving **OCG** I was terrified. I knew I would need to create a whole life for myself -- choose my direction, create a support group, and figure out how the unwritten philosophies would work outside **OCG** gates. And as I have taken it one day and/or goal at a time, it's in reflection that I realize what a good life I have created. The truth is I am happy, confident, and successful. I have a wonderful support group that is a hodgepodge of my **OCG** peer and the people I have met in school, on community projects, and at the various jobs I have had in the last nine years.

I am a grateful **OCG** graduate. The unwritten philosophies work daily in my life as I've learned to perfect my act as if to become as if, taking risks and trying new things. I continue to keep it by giving it away by volunteering in the greater community. I am happy to work for everything I have as **OCG** taught me there is no free lunch, and I call often on the interpersonal skills I gained at **OCG** when interacting with coworkers, students, and friends. I just celebrated 10 years clean and am excited to celebrate 20.

Sonya,  
Graduate



Football: Adults vs Adolescents

## Resident Spotlight

### OCG – A POEM

I hate **OCG** even though it supposedly helps me. I feel that in a lot of ways it breaks me. **OCG** makes me confront my fears, even if that brings me to tears. It brings up things I've been running from for years, and it shows me that I'm strong enough to face those fears. It doesn't make me weak because I cried those tears, and it helps me slowly, but surely, learn it isn't my fault that I suffered for all those years. I'm glad that **OCG** answered

my prayers. So now I have a chance to become more aware so I don't end up just another dead body in the middle of somewhere or just another soul walking the path astray to nowhere. **OCG** is one of my higher powers. Thank God they saved me before I let the devil play me. Now I'm aware of what I think, say, and do, and I've even discovered my belly too. Which is my conscience that tells me right from wrong, and now I'm strong enough to face my fears and learn to deal with things the

right way. **OCG** has shown me responsible love and concern and I know I can't keep it unless I give it away.

Joshawn,  
Adolescent Resident

*“Responsible Love  
and Concern”*



In Memory of  
Chewy  
March 1997–May 2008

## OUR COMMON GROUND

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### CORE VALUES

Effective individualized treatment in a safe environment

Positive and supportive work environment

Positive impact on society

**We're on the WEB**  
[www.ocgworks.org](http://www.ocgworks.org)

### Staff Spotlight

My name is Diana Valverde. I started working at **OCG** June 18, 2007 as a Program Assistant at the Adolescent Facility. Since my start at **OCG** I have learned a lot about the organization and how we help many individuals at difficult times in their lives and their family's lives. I enjoy working with all staff and Clients and do the best I can to help wherever needed. Recently I was presented with the Employee of The Quarter award voted by not only staff, but also residents here at **OCG**. This is a very special award for me that made me feel welcomed and part of the **OCG** family.



Diana Valverde,  
Program Assistant

### JANINA HARDOY MEMORIAL FUND

Janina Hardoy, at 24 years of age, was murdered February, 2005. She was a poet, artist, musician, friend, lover and a sister. To her friends and family, she was always giving and looking to help others, even if it put her at risk or made her own needs secondary.

Al Hardoy, Janina's father, established the Janina Hardoy Memorial Fund to assist other suffering women gain access and begin participating in the healing process through **OCG's** women's trauma services. All proceeds will be utilized to support and enhance these special services.

Donations to the fund are encouraged. To make a donation and to get additional information, please contact:

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