



# ViaQuest Behavioral Health GAZETTE

Issue 3, Vol 2 | Summer 2009

## QFI is a member of ViaQuest Family

Have you heard of Quest for Independence? Quest for Independence (QFI) is a member of the ViaQuest Family of companies just like VBH.

QFI provides day habilitation and vocational services in six locations in Ohio; Painesville (serving Geauga, Lake and other surrounding Counties), Brooklyn (serving Cuyahoga County), Cincinnati (serving Hamilton, Butler and Warren Counties), Dayton (serving Montgomery and Miami Counties), and Columbus (serving Franklin, Fairfield, Delaware and Licking Counties).

Our environments are designed for small group activities in a classroom type setting. These small groups are ideal for providing individual attention in a setting without the noise and distracting activity that can cause some people to become over stimulated.

QFI has experience working with individuals with a wide variety of needs. Since our opening over two years ago, we have served individuals with severe and profound mental and physical disabilities, as well as individuals who have no physical disabilities, but do experience mental impairments including intellectual delays and mental illness. We focus on developing skill areas and providing activities that are identified by the person and their team. We provide a wide range of leisure activities and community outings.

QFI has provided services to individuals who have a history of demonstrating behavioral problems in other settings. We have found providing services in small groups, with higher than typical staffing ratio, benefits individuals who failed in other environments. They are very happy and successful in the QFI day habilitation program. QFI also has a vocational component. Our Learn to

Earn program helps people learn the skills they need to work in the community in supported employment, enclave or complete vocational tasks at the different QFI locations. This is a new addition to our program and the vocational opportunities continue to expand.

Do you need a new day program or job? Not sure if QFI can meet your needs? Know someone who needs a change? We would love to show you our program.

Please contact us at one of our locations:

### Northern Ohio:

QFI Lake County- 440-354-3172

QFI Cuyahoga County- 216-661-5401

### Central Ohio Columbus:

QFI East - 614 328-0344

QFI Lakeview - 614 854-0207

### Southern Ohio:

Cincinnati: 513- 682-1156

Vandalia: 937-280-2000

Or Visit our Website at [QFORI.COM](http://QFORI.COM)

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## VBH Outpatient Mental Health Program

VBH-MH, the outpatient mental health program affiliated with ViaQuest Behavioral Health, has been established to offer VBH consumers exceptional, timely, and seamless mental health treatment. Services are not limited to VBH consumers, and are available to community members as well. Anyone in need of therapy, including those with developmental disabilities, will find a caring, personalized, client-centered approach.

We are proud to introduce our new therapist, Anna Toet.

Anna hails from the Netherlands, and brings to VBH extensive expertise in treating adolescents with trauma, sexual offending, and drug and alcohol issues. She uses cognitive behavioral treatment techniques, as well as EMDR (which she holds Level 2 certification in) to assist her consumers toward personal growth.

Anna has been frequently visiting the various group homes so that her consumers begin to recognize her friendly face. Her office has become quite the hang out spot, as folks are lining up to see her assortment of gadgets, toys, and pictures of Europe.

Anna has worked for the Fairfield County Juvenile Court, Southeast, Inc., and Oesterlen. She will go to any length to establish rapport, even visiting our consumers in the evening or on weekends. Anna often brings alternative treatments into her sessions, including using her dog, (Louie) pet rat (Bonnie) and her acoustic guitar skills.

In her spare time, Anna loves to travel, sing, and also has been known to play a little softball, most recently for the Netherlands national team.

Anna is a fantastic addition to this quickly growing program.



## Staff Spotlight: Anthony J Pajk Program Director VBH South

I am excited to continue evolving with my new position at ViaQuest Behavioral Health. I come to VBH from an extremely challenging and rewarding environment in Katonah, NY known as 4 Winds Hospital. There I began working in an adult direct care, inpatient unit that provided services to the mentally ill in a dual diagnosed milieu. In a short period of time I advanced into a Milieu Manager, Staff Developer, & Crisis Intervention Trainer as well as continuing to provide direct care. I came to the southern Ohio area initially to pursue my Master's Degree in Mental Health Counseling at Northern Kentucky University (Highland Heights, KY) which I am presently striving for. I received my B.S. In Justice & Law Administration – Law Enforcement in 2001 from Western Connecticut State University (Danbury, CT). While there, I also continued to develop my competitive side by becoming a cornerstone for the school's Rugby Club; (from: 1996-2001). I recently became a new father and enjoy spending my free time with my son and learning how to be an active parent with my loving wife, Allison. I also enjoy all kinds of music, outdoor activities, and spending time with family & friends.



## Graduation Celebration

On Friday May 1<sup>st</sup> ViaQuest Behavioral Health celebrated the recent 2009 Graduates at the Annual Graduation Celebration. This year the theme was the “Great Outdoors”. The celebration was held at Highbanks Metro Park, which tied in well to our theme. We had 9 graduates who were being honored at this year’s celebration. Many of our graduates have shown significant improvement while staying with VBH, both academically and behaviorally. This improvement has enabled them to successfully complete high school and look forward to post high school education and vocational training. Some of our graduates are planning to attend college and 1 graduate has been accepted into culinary school which begins in July.

Although the weather was wet and we were unable to get the grill started, the partygoers still enjoyed themselves and the pizza that was ordered made everyone happy! The DJ, Derek Kinzer, kept the hits rolling and we all enjoyed the dance competition. When the weather cleared a game of touch football began. Everyone had a great time and we can not wait until next year’s graduation party!



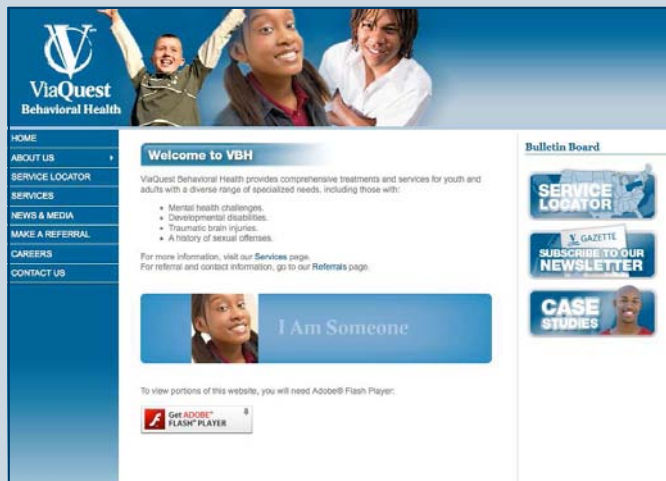
## Staff Spotlight: Elizabeth Starcher Program Director VBH South

Elizabeth A. Starcher started with VBH in February 2007 as one of the first staff in the South Region of Ohio. She started as a direct care staff, was promoted to SSC in October 2007 and has worked her way up to her current position of Program Director over Warren and Hamilton Counties. Elizabeth has spent most of her life surrounded by persons with both mental and physical disabilities within her family and views her work as a natural calling. In her spare time she thoroughly enjoys cooking and baking and sharing her creations with people close to her.





Visit us online at  
**ViaQuestBH.com**  
Service Descriptions  
E-Newsletter Sign Up  
Latest News  
Testimonials  
Employment Opportunities  
**AND MORE...**



## LOCATIONS AND REFERRALS

**Northern Ohio** | 2069 Midway Drive | Twinsburg, OH 44087 | Phone: 330.963.2733

**Central Ohio** | 525 Metro Place North, Suite 100 | Dublin, OH 43017 | Phone: 614.889.5837

**Southern Ohio** | 300 W. National Road | Vandalia, OH 45377 | Phone: 937.280.2000