



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

Janus DUI counselor Joey Bryning talks to a client.

Janus celebrates 25 clean, sober years

Agency eyes expansion plan

By JENNIFER PITTMAN
SENTINEL CORRESPONDENT

SANTA CRUZ — In a place where miracles for hopeless people happen all the time, one of the biggest may be that Janus of Santa Cruz survived a quarter of a century.

Kind of like the surprised relief a recovering alcoholic might feel when he's counting days without a drink, Janus administrators say it's been "one day at a time."

"I thought I came here to shut down the place," said Jan Tice, the executive director who arrived in 1995 at one of the low points for the nonprofit agency that helps alcoholics and drug addicts recover. "We looked like a 747 in a steep dive. I really thought that there was no way it was going to last."

Instead, Tice, with the help of a dedicated staff and an active community board, set the agency back on its feet. He introduced modern recovery techniques and increased the level of service based on the program philosophy that chemical dependency is a disease influenced by multiple factors of biological, psychological, social and spiritual origin.

"The indigent population deserved that level of treatment," Tice said. "The people who had the means to pay for that kind of treatment were going somewhere else. A quality and affordable treatment program, that's what I wanted."

But as Tice walks among the 19-bed residential treatment center, he said a lot more could be done.

The environment is not upscale. The walls need paint. The floors are worn. The sagging couches could be upgraded at a nice garage sale. There are cigarette ashtrays outside the doors and inspirational signs on the walls along with the program rules. The two-floor, leased facility on Seventh Avenue in Santa Cruz is undergoing renovation, but it would be nice to have a real home, a place of their own with double the beds, he said.

On the wish list is a facility in Watsonville as well and better room

Please see **JANUS** on **Page A5**

Janus

Continued from Page A1

dividers for the mothers and children at the 10-bed residential facility on Ocean Street.

As the program moves into its 26th year, administrators and agency board members are taking a long-term view. They are trying to shed the agency's image as a county facility for the poor and downtrodden and sell beds increasingly to private-paying clients. They are seeking corporate donations to fund program expansion and grow a building fund.

Through its five programs, the Janus staff of 57 provides treatment and education to 1,100 people each year. More than 550 people passed through the six-to-eight-day detox program. About 65 percent complete it. About 10-12 percent of those go to a residential program, another 5 percent go to outpatient treatment. About a quarter of the detox population has been there before, Tice said. Santa Cruz County residents with driving offenses related to alcohol or drugs attend classes at Janus.

There are always people waiting to get into beds at Janus and there often are empty beds. The problem is the people on the waiting list can't afford even the stripped down price of the 28-day residential program. People wait to qualify for one of the county and other government funded slots, which account for 40

percent of the beds. It might be Cal-Works funding or county rehab funding or state Proposition 36 funding.

The wait for residential treatment can be days or months. In some ways, it is a testing period of clients' dedication to recover.

Tice said he'd like to expand the agency's tiny outpatient program in Watsonville to 12-15 beds.

IN DEPTH

One of the major proponents of expansion is board president Joe Manzone who is pushing for a corporate-like makeover for the struggling nonprofit. The board is reviewing agency finances, program implementation, facilities and an expansive long-term wish list. The board wants to be "a profitable nonprofit," to show prospective contributors that Janus is a worthy business venture.

The 9-year-old Mondanaro-Baskin Perinatal Center for Women and Children, a 10-bed residential facility and day treatment program, is a model in the state for perinatal treatment services, but needs improvements as well.

"We're creating a new business model," Manzone said.

The board's goal is to raise \$1.2 million for a new building in four years. Members want to gain the support of lending institutions and the backing of private investment groups and foundations.

Contact Jennifer Pittman at
jpitt4@aol.com.