



Suncoast Center for Community Mental Health, Inc.

4024 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, FL 33711
Mail to: P.O. Box 10970, St. Petersburg, FL 33733-0970
(727) 327-7656 phone; (727) 323-8978 fax
TTY: (727) 321-6849
www.sccmh.org

"Solutions for Change"

April 16, 2004

To Whom It May Concern,

In October 2003, Suncoast Center for Community Mental Health, Inc. (Suncoast Center) served as the lead agency for Family Diversity Project's touring photo-text exhibit. *Nothing to Hide: Mental Illness in the Family*, at the Florida Holocaust Museum, St. Petersburg, FL.

The collaboration between Suncoast Center, the Holocaust Museum and two other area mental health organizations, Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services (PEMHS), and Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services (Gulf Coast), proved to be a success in many aspects. Aligned with each of the collaborative organization's mission statements, the exhibit was aimed at stopping prejudice and discrimination based on mental disability.

Some outcomes of the exhibit were: educating the St. Petersburg community about how 'no family is untouched by mental illness' ... how it affects the family dynamic; a full-page article was written in the *St. Petersburg Times* about the exhibit showing; a presentation to the Pinellas County School Board was conducted at their board meeting which encouraged school officials to conduct field trips to the museum so that young children could learn the truth about mental illness ... that it is a treatable and manageable disease.

Our October 1st opening reception of the exhibit brought approximately 100+ people who listened to local families speak about how mental illness has affected them and their families, and also those who suffer from mental illness spoke about how treatment and management of their symptoms through medication has improved their lives and preserved their family units.

I encourage other mental health organizations, educational institutions and public entities to support the important work of Family Diversity Projects.

Should you have any questions, please call me at (727) 327-7656 ext. 244.

Sincerely,

Barbara E. Daire, L.C.S.W.
President and CEO



Suncoast Center is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) Corporation.