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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2011

Renz counseling center to hold open house

Community residents and business professionals are invited to attend Renz Addiction Counseling Center's 50th Anniversary Open House from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9, at Two American Way in Elgin.

Attendees will have the opportunity to tour the agency, view a commemorative pictorial, and see firsthand how the center has grown over the last 50 years.

"To meet the needs of the community, Renz Center has learned to adapt over the last 50 years," said Executive Director Jerry Skogmo. "We have grown from a small, one counselor alcohol treatment office to offering a full range of substance abuse treatment and prevention education programs in four

different locations."

Established in 1961, Renz Center was first named Community Concern for Alcoholism. In 1970, the agency added treatment and information on addictive drugs and changed its name to Community Concern for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

The Center's Passage Program for Women started in 1977 and is now the oldest outpatient women's treatment program in Illinois. The agency added prevention services in the early 1980s, and in 1986 was renamed Renz Addiction Counseling Center to honor the founding executive director, Jim Renz.

The center then went on to offer compulsive gambling services a decade later and added HIV/AIDS prevention

programs in 1998.

Renz Center's latest key achievement is the initiation of the Community Homeless Integration Project. CHIP provides intensive case management to individuals who are homeless or at-risk of being homeless, and who also need substance abuse treatment or mental health services.

The federally funded program is in collaboration with three local shelters — Public Action to Deliver Shelter and Community Crisis Center of Elgin, and Lazarus House of St. Charles, in addition to the Ecker Center for Mental Health and Greater Elgin Family Care Center.

Renz Addiction Counseling Center provides a variety of prevention, early

intervention and treatment programs for alcohol, drug and gambling addictions and related disorders. Renz Center serves residents of central/northern Kane and western Cook counties with offices in St. Charles, Streamwood and Elgin.

A nonprofit, charitable organization, Renz Center is funded by the federal government, Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, United Way and the local 708 boards of Geneva, Hanover Township, St. Charles and Schaumburg.

For details on the open house or other 50th anniversary special events, contact Deb Howe at (847) 742-3545, ext. 236, or visit renzcenter.org.