

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WOLK FOUNDATION AWARDS \$50,000 TO EAST HOUSE
LEARNING CENTER IN MEMORY OF FOUNDER PAUL WOLK**

The Louis S. and Molly B. Wolk Foundation has awarded East House a \$50,000 grant to expand and update the Learning Center, a component of the agency's Career Services program.

"Years ago, Paul Wolk planted a seed in creating East House," said Marvin Wolk, nephew of Paul Wolk and Finance Chair of the Wolk Foundation. "We wish to keep that tree growing. We feel the services provided by East House are very important to the Rochester community."

Each year, more than 400 clients in East House's Career Services Program receive vocational assessment and counseling, employment training, referrals to schools and skills training programs, job development, job placement and follow-up services. In the program's Learning Center, clients receive literacy training, GED preparation, and computer skills training. The funds will allow East House to expand the Learning Center to new space, a 900 square-foot office adjacent to the current office, and to purchase state-of-the-art computers, software and office equipment.

"This gift will allow an upgrade of computer systems in the Program, and the addition of more space to provide enhanced job training, literacy and GED study, computer skills training and more, to a greater number of clients...these resources are critical to assisting our clients' recovery as well as preparing them for work," said Gregory Soehner, President and CEO of East House. "We are very grateful to the Wolk Foundation for supporting this important program with such a generous gift."

(more)

Wolk Gift to East House

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A grand opening and dedication ceremony of the new Learning Center is planned for the Spring. At that time, the Center, located at 53 Canterbury Street, will be renamed the Paul Wolk Learning Center. In 1966, Paul Wolk, along with Hettie Shumway, Justice David Boehm, Ralph Collins, MD, James Sterner, MD and Hilton Hedrick, came together to form East House. They contributed their time, expertise, and personal resources to establish an agency that would help people with histories of mental illness and drug dependency to lead healthier, more productive and more satisfying lives.

Today, East House is a private, non-profit rehabilitation agency, that provides residential, rehabilitation and support services to individuals recovering from mental illness and/or chemical dependency. East House serves more than 1,000 clients and their families each year and is funded by New York State, Monroe County, United Way, client fees and private donations. For more information, call (585) 256-3800, ext. 213.

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