



Published on *GazetteNET* (<http://www.gazettenet.com>)

Northampton mental health center gets Forbes.com lift

By *Daily Hampshire Gazette*
Created 09/20/2008 - 09:26

[local news northampton](#)

NORTHAMPTON - The Freedom Center has good reason to celebrate. A Northampton mental health organization that stresses choice in treatment, the center's seventh anniversary approaches just as Forbes.com has featured it for the Philanthropic Pitch of September.

"The feedback from the Forbes exposure has been overwhelmingly positive," said Oryx Cohen, a co-founder. "People are excited to see that a new way of looking at mental health is now starting to permeate into the mainstream."

Run by and for people with mental illness, the Freedom Center offers free acupuncture, yoga classes, support and writing groups. "It's still a bit early to tell the entire impact of the Forbes exposure, as our activities are usually very well attended," Cohen said.

The Freedom Center is having a party for its anniversary tonight, at the World War II Club on Conz Street at 6 p.m., with a suggested donation at the door of \$10. There will be a hula hooping performance, a cash bar, a dance party, and food catered by the Alternative Food Co.

Northampton Mayor Clare Higgins calls the Freedom Center "a valuable option for many of our residents. It is a welcome addition to services available to citizens of our city."

Forbes magazine talked with co-founder Will Hall for an article on alternatives to medication four years ago. The editor was "so moved by the story of the Freedom Center that the group was chosen for this special fundraising opportunity via the Forbes Web site," Will Hall said in a press release.

The story, "Healing Voices" and an accompanying video, "Freedom to Heal," created by local filmmaker PJ Moynihan, have been featured on the Web site since Aug. 29.

The Freedom Center is funded by donations and small local grants. So far, the exposure from Forbes has helped raise \$2,000. The current total budget of the Freedom Center is \$20,000.

With a fundraising goal of \$20,000, the center seeks to expand current programming, build in some sustainability and possibly expand the model to other locations. Donations are mainly gathered through the Web site, www.freedom-center.org [1].

Daily Hampshire Gazette © 2008 All rights reserved

Source URL: <http://www.gazettenet.com/2008/09/20/northampton-mental-health-center-gets-forbescom-lift>

Links:

[1] <http://www.freedom-center.org>