



The Digest

Latest News

- In Memory of James R. Sarver p1 & p3
- Byron Office is Open! p1
- Gathering for Good Recap p2
- Mt. Carroll Office Expansion p3
- Gloria Martin Honored p3

Out In The Community

- National Night Out events in Oregon and Sterling August 5, 2025

Events

- 33rd Annual Sinnissippi Golf Open August 14, 2025, Deer Valley Golf Club
- Annual Wellness & Recovery Celebration September 13, 2025, Sinnissippi Dixon office

In Memory of James R. Sarver

Sinnissippi Centers former President and CEO

Sinnissippi Centers lost a dear friend recently. Jim Sarver, former President and CEO passed away on May 6, 2025, in Dixon. He was the agency's President and CEO from 1989 to 2013, having served Sinnissippi for nearly 25 years. Sarver was a recent recipient of the Community Behavioral Healthcare Association of Illinois' Lifetime Achievement Award. Sarver led the renovations, construction, and expansion of Sinnissippi Centers' offices and establishment of four supervised residential facilities. He was a passionate advocate for clients and dedicated to providing the best services possible.

Sinnissippi Centers' Board of Directors Chairperson Larry Prindaville who worked closely at the agency with Sarver for many years said, "Jim Sarver was a business office employee of the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Region 1, in July 1988, when then Sinnissippi President and CEO Lloyd Sidwell and I met with him to solicit his interest in the position of Business Manager and Financial Officer with Sinnissippi. Jim expressed appreciation that we would consider him for the position, but assured us that he was completely satisfied with his State of Illinois employment and had no intention of leaving. Lloyd and I were disappointed. We deemed him eminently qualified for the Sinnissippi position and thought he would fit in well with the agency and with our clients and communities. The following Monday Jim phoned to say that he had reconsidered and would like to hear more about the job. The rest is history."

Sarver was an agency leader that drove Sinnissippi to be on the cutting edge of behavioral healthcare service provision to best serve our communities - a tradition the agency continues today. During Sarver's tenure the agency received awards and accolades such as the American Psychiatric Association's Bronze Achievement Award, the Ernest A. Codman Award for excellence from the Joint Commission, and an award from NAMI Illinois for the most innovative mental health program.

During Sarver's leadership the agency went from serving more than 3,000 clients to over 6,000. Sarver's legacy with Sinnissippi will be remembered as a leader of innovation, a builder, a passionate advocate for those with mental illnesses and substance use disorders, and a visionary who saw a future where behavioral healthcare disorders would be accepted and treated on the same level as all other chronic diseases.

Former Sinnissippi Centers' Executive Secretary, Phyllis Berge, worked closely with Sarver over many years. She said, "Jim was a builder, whether it was building



Sarver cooking for clients and staff at the Recovery Celebration in 2006



Sarver at the Sterling Apartments ground breaking ceremony in November 2004



Sarver receiving the Ernest A. Codman Award for Sinnissippi Centers in 2002

In Memory - continued on page 3

Sinnissippi's Byron Office is Open

Sinnissippi Centers' newest office is now open and accepting new clients. The Byron office began providing services on May 12, 2025. The office is located at 212 West Blackhawk Drive in Byron, next to Athletico and across from County Market. Sinnissippi's Byron location offers a full array of behavioral healthcare services. Currently, six employees work out of the Byron office, with more to be hired in the future. The Byron Area Chamber of Commerce joined with Sinnissippi on July 24th for a ribbon-cutting and open house at the office.



A view of the Byron office lobby

What's New?

33rd Annual Golf Open

Planning is nearly complete for the 33rd annual Sinnissippi Centers golf open. The event will be on Thursday August 14th at Deer Valley Golf Club with a noon tee-off. The event is being dedicated in memory of former Sinnissippi President and CEO Jim Sarver. We thank our corporate sponsors Ken Nelson Auto Group and Sauk Valley Bank. Proceeds will support, in part, Sinnissippi's Mt. Carroll office expansion project.

Scholarship Winners

Sinnissippi Centers awarded four \$1,000 scholarships this spring to high school seniors under Sinnissippi's Human Services Career College Scholarship program. The winning students were: Cassie Boyer - Dakota Jr/Sr High School; Samara Dorner - Rock Falls Township High School; Paige Hancock - Lena-Winslow High School; and Emily Wythe - Stillman Valley High School. Information on the scholarship program is on our website under the Careers tab, click on Scholarships.

Staff Achievements

Several Sinnissippi staff have achieved new milestones recently. Staff who have now received their Licensed Social Worker (LSW) credentials are: Behavioral Health Clinician Tanja Babel and CST Clinician Emma Griffith. School-Based Clinician Nicki Butler received her Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) credentials. Recovery Support Specialist Stevie Carney received her Certified Recovery Support Specialist (CRSS) credentials. Behavioral Health Clinician Kelly Gerber received her Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC) credentials. Jessica McCarver received her Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) credentials. School-Based Services Supervisor April Ramirez received her Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC) credentials.

Gathering For Good Recap

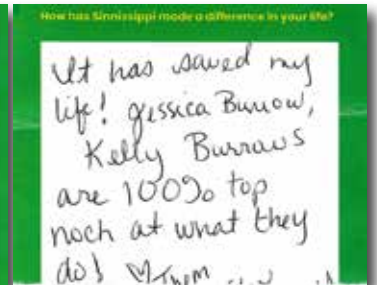
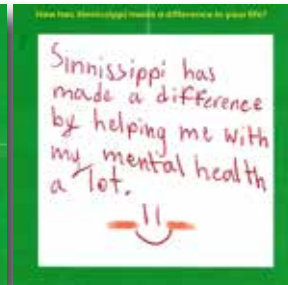
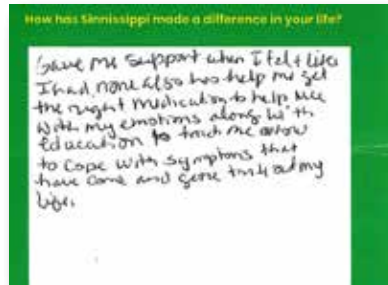
Sinnissippi Centers' first annual Gathering for Good fundraiser was held May 15, 2025, at the Dixon Elks Lodge. The event featured dueling pianos, a dessert auction, a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, and a lot of fun.

Another feature of the event was messages of recovery submitted by clients, some of which are pictured below. Photos at right show some guests enjoying the event.

The event was an enormous success thanks to all our sponsors, silent auction donors, dessert auction donors, and everyone who came to enjoy the event. Everyone embraced the theme of the event, "Party like your mental health depends on it".

"All the credit for planning and putting on this event goes to our Events and Fundraising Committee at Sinnissippi," said Marketing Manager, Andrew Jackson. "They did a fantastic job and I heard so many positive comments from those who attended," added Jackson. "One comment I heard more than once was, 'We have to do this again next year!' That is the plan," said Jackson.

The second annual event is being planned for Saturday, May 16, 2026.



Dr. Daly Retires From Sinnissippi

Sinnissippi Centers' Medical Director Dr. James Daly retired Tuesday, July 22, 2025. We are grateful for his years of dedicated service and the tremendous impact he has had on the lives of our clients and their families.

Dr. Daly said, "I started working at Sinnissippi in 1998. My position went from Staff Psychiatrist to Medical Director. I always enjoyed working with our most vulnerable populations; children, adolescents, and developmentally delayed adults. I would feel a great deal of satisfaction helping a child that was failing at school to achieve the honor roll. Another role I fully enjoyed was teaching and mentoring staff. Being able to share my experience and knowledge with others has been very gratifying. Earlier in my career I would give in-services to staff and presentations in the community. During my time at Sinnissippi I have seen an explosion in the number of children with autism spectrum disorder. I have proudly been screening children for autism for many years and helping families understand and address this disability. I enjoyed my time at Sinnissippi very much. Being able to work with a great team-both clinical and administrative-has been an incredible experience that I will always cherish. I am very thankful to have been part of the incredible growth of Sinnissippi over these past 28 years."



Dr. James Daly

Gloria Martin Honored

Sinnissippi Centers' Director of Child and Adolescent Services Gloria Martin recently received the Jane Reid Keefer Award for professions and education at the YWCA of the Sauk Valley's Women of Achievement Luncheon. Nominees were recognized for their work ethic, community service, and accomplishments.

Martin said, "I was truly surprised just to be nominated for the award. I am grateful to have been selected for the award and want to recognize that each of my fellow nominees were equally or more deserving than I was."

YWCA of the Sauk Valley Director and Sinnissippi Centers Board Member Rebecca Munoz-Ripley said, "Jane Reid and her husband, Fran, also a physician, donated their home and hospital to help found the YWCA of the Sauk Valley in 1924. The current Sterling location of the YWCA is where her home was located. She was a trailblazer. Starting a women's center was controversial at that time. Her efforts launched our YWCA, which has empowered tens of thousands of people, literally changing lives for the better. That is impact." Impact is the spirit of this award.



*Sinnissippi Director of Child & Adolescent Services
Gloria Martin*

Mt. Carroll Office Expansion

Sinnissippi Centers is currently in the process of finalizing a major construction project at our Mt. Carroll office, which will add significant space to our current location so we can provide a wider variety of services, increase staffing, and improve access for those who need behavioral healthcare services in Carroll County.

This project has been in discussion since 2021 due to the need for more staffing in order to meet client and community needs for behavioral health services in Carroll County.

The project will more than double the existing space, adding 3,500 square feet, eight clinician offices, a second group room, a new clerical workspace, a new dedicated entrance, a larger waiting room, a break room for staff, additional restrooms, room for community-based staff, and more parking. The expanded Mt. Carroll office will be able to hold more than one group at a time with a second group room and will have space to support local interns in our internship program.

Sinnissippi is planning for groundbreaking to occur in the spring of 2026. The project should be completed by late 2026 or early 2027.

In year one of this office expansion, Sinnissippi projects an increase of 15 percent for unduplicated clients along with a 25 percent increase in client service hours with those numbers increasing each subsequent year as we add additional staff to meet the community need.



Sinnissippi Centers' Mt. Carroll office

In Memory

Continued from page 1

relationships with clients, or the construction of the various apartment sites and office buildings. Jim was well respected throughout the State as well as locally. Jim was a true leader. He treated everyone with respect. He will truly be missed." Tammy Stewart, Sinnissippi Centers' Chief Clinical Officer said, "Jim was a kind and compassionate man who went out of his way to check in with you and make sure you were doing okay, even after he retired. He will be missed."

More News

Culver's Share Night

The Rock Falls Culver's hosted Sinnissippi Centers during a Share Night May 13th.

A portion of all dine-in, takeout, and drive through sales were donated to Sinnissippi Centers to support our clients.



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Recent Donations continued on back page

The Digest Newsletter Summer 2025

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SINNISSIPPI CENTERS
Together we inspire wellness

Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.

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www.sinnissippi.org

Office Locations

- Dixon
 - Illinois Route 2
 - Town Square Centre
- Byron
- Freeport
- Mt. Carroll
- Oregon
- Rochelle
- Sterling

Apartment Sites

- Dixon
- Mt. Carroll
- Rochelle
- Sterling

Recovery Homes

- Dixon
- Amboy



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Sinnissippi Centers is accredited by The Joint Commission and recipient of the Gold Seal of Approval.

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Donations

Donations can be mailed to Sinnissippi Centers, 325 Illinois Route 2, Dixon, IL 61021.

You can also donate online, visit:

www.sinnissippi.org/donate

You can specify if you would like to give your donation in honor or in memory of a family member or loved one.

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In Memory of

...Thomas Arthur Cooper
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Gathering for Good Sponsors

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