



Staff Photo by Karen Servis

GATHERING FOR HONORS — Hunterdon Drug Awareness Program marks its 10th anniversary with a dinner dance and honors for its leaders. The group includes, from left, John Brooks, Frank Masterson, Joseph Salema, James Loper, Adrienne Peck, Richard Sternberg, Susan Vandermark, James Conover, Rev. Robert Crawford, Lewis Ware and Rev. David Errickson.

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Drug Program Celebrates Its Founding

By Terry Wright

Hunterdon Drug Awareness Program celebrated the 10th anniversary of its founding with a dinner dance Friday night.

More than 250 people attended the affair, held in the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse, Union Township.

Honored were the 17 people who were either founders or original incorporators of the program, which is a private, nonprofit agency providing outpatient treatment to individuals and families, drug abuse education and prevention services through schools, community organizations and companies.

Richard J. Russo, deputy commissioner of the state Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, spoke briefly at the banquet.

He noted that some 25,000 people a year are treated in New Jersey for substance abuse, and almost 20,000 are in alcohol or drug treatment at any time in one of the more than 200 different facilities or programs.

Noting that there is "tremendous recidivism" by the persons in treatment, he allowed that "it becomes very disheartening" for people who provide the treatment.

"Often people ask, 'what I did

bertville area in the 1970s, a group of residents formed an organization to try to help prevent drug abuse and counsel its victims.

The Lambertville Outreach Center of NARCO opened on Church Street in 1977, with Rev. David Errickson serving as part-time site director. He was succeeded in 1979 by Adrienne A. Peck, who became executive director. Rev. Errickson is now a full-time counselor for the program.

Hunterdon Drug Awareness outgrew its Lambertville offices and in 1984 moved to Flemington, first to 168 Main Street. Since 1987 the program has been in an eight-room suite at 8 Main Street.

Honored as founders were: John Brooks and Lewis Ware, who were with NARCO (now called the Institute for Human Development); James Conover, a Lambertville resident who was State Police narcotics investigator for many years; retired Lambertville Police Chief Frank Masterson; James Loper, former superintendent of South Hunterdon Regional High School; Rev. Robert Crawford, pastor of Mount Airy Presbyterian Church; Dr. J. Clyde Henry, for-

of Raritan Township, a retired state trooper who in recent years held several other law enforcement positions in the county; Dennis McAuliffe, Terry Macko, Fred Pierro, Joseph Salema, Richard Sternberg and Susan Vandermark, who hold or held positions in county schools; Lambertville attorney Ronald Pittore; Masterson, Crawford and Loper.

Drawings for a raffle to benefit the program were held at the banquet. Thomas DeFrancesco of Bound Brook won the first prize, a black glama ranch mink coat donated by Flemington Fur Co.

Diane Spitzer of Cedarhurst, N.Y., won the second prize, a trip for two to Hollywood, including plane fare, hotel accommodations and a tour of Universal Studios.

Fred Ferrari of Raritan Township won the third prize, a gold blue topaz and diamond ring given by The Gem Vault, Flemington. Fred Curvy of Stockton won an overnight trip for two to Trop-World casino in Atlantic City and Steven Kalafer of Raritan Township won an overnight trip for two at The Inn at Lambertville Station.

Cathy Zahn of Clinton Township had the key opening the trea-

today — does it really make a difference?" Russo noted.

To every person helped, even in a small way, it makes a difference, he continued.

HDAP is an outgrowth of NARCO, a drug rehabilitation program with facilities in Trenton and Atlantic City. After a dozen "drug-related" deaths in the Lam-

bertville, N.J., area, a former pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Lambertville; Doris Tomlinson, who was a nurse at Phillips-Barber Family Health Center in Lambertville, and Rev. Erickson.

The following were honored because they served as incorporators of the program: Mario Badini

and the money spent on the insurer chest of 500 silver dollars, allowing her to take home the gift, donated by Somerset Trust Company.

