Board Member Profile
IAN FRINK, VICE PRESIDENT

Ian Frink is President of Crawford Company/Monoxivent and Co-Owner of Crawford Brew Works. He has served on the Vera French Foundation Board for a number of years and is presently Vice President. He also serves on the board for the QC Marathon. Ian has previously served on the Davenport City Council and has been involved in the QC Chamber. He has an MBA from Frostburg State University and a BA from UW-Eau Claire. He currently resides in Bettendorf and enjoys spending time with his wife, Monique, and son, Connor. He also enjoys coaching youth sports and cycling.

More Than Just a Fresh Coat of Paint
Vera French Lobby Remodel

As clients and visitors walk into the Vera French Central Park location, they see a whole new front desk area. Vera French clients have expressed how much easier the area is to navigate and how much they appreciate the ambience of the space.

In an effort to provide ‘Center of Excellence’ services to our clients and visitors, Vera French began renovation on the front desk entrance last fall. Major work included: new carpet, paint, lighting, glass panels, and the re-design of the existing counter tops.

But, we didn’t stop there! Since last fall, Vera French has been actively engaged with Genoa Pharmacy to provide an on-site pharmacy at our Center location. The pharmacy is fully operational and will serve Vera French clients and staff with needed medication. An in-house grand opening of the pharmacy took place in March.

We want to extend a special thank you to our staff, clients, and visitors for their patience throughout the re-design process, and we are thankful for the efforts by Russell to facilitate these important projects.
Since the announcement of the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) program last August, our ACT team has been busy providing treatment and aiding members to have a life that is not dominated by their mental illness. The team consists of specialists in the areas of community support, peer support, and substance abuse as well as a RN, LISW, and Team Lead. ACT staff utilize a team approach to treatment and work with individuals on a daily basis. ACT is currently serving 17 members.

The ACT program works with individuals who have severe and persistent mental illness. ACT has a member who was first seen at the Vera French Community Mental Health Center in 1984 when he was a child. He was referred because he was having difficulties with medication compliance, mental health symptoms, and problems with daily living activities, such as showering and changing clothing. He often isolated himself and suffered significant depressive symptoms.

After joining the ACT team, he was taught to set up his voice mail and how to text to improve communication. With more assistance, he became employed. When he lost his job, he immediately called the ACT team for support. He became involved in a recreational sports program and shared that he wanted to improve his cardio. He began showering more frequently and interacting with the community in a more relaxed manner.

When asked how ACT had helped him, he replied “teaching me to use my phone was great, and learning that I need to take my medications at the same time every day to improve how they work has helped me.”

There are plenty of ACT success stories like this one, and at Vera French, we strive to assist all who are in need.

Vera French Foundation will be hosting its annual mental health awareness event, Through My Eyes, on Friday, May 18th at 6:00 p.m. at Hotel Blackhawk in Davenport, IA. The dinner program will concentrate on sports and mental health. A networking hour will begin at 5:00 p.m. followed by the dinner and program at 6:00 p.m.

Our featured speaker will be athlete and coach, Pete Bush. Bush pioneered a strong wrestling tradition at Assumption High School as both a student athlete and head coach. He continued his wrestling success as a student athlete at the University of Iowa before returning to Assumption as a coach for 12 seasons. Bush will speak to the mental toll athletics takes on youth athletes, the pressures and perseverance of the sport of wrestling, and his experiences as a coach and athlete.

For those in our community in need of Continuing Education (CE) credit, the day program will consist of two mental health related sessions. In the morning, Derek Ball, Ph.D., Senior Therapist at QC Marriage and Family Counseling will speak to the effects of a mental health diagnosis on the family dynamic. In the afternoon, Dr. Donald Black, M.D., University of Iowa Vice Chair in the Department of Psychiatry will discuss Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), Hoarding Disorder, and other related disorders. Lunch will be provided between speakers. CEU and CME credit will be offered through Genesis Health System.

We’re almost there, but we still need your help completing the Vera French Housing (VFH) Matching Challenge!

If we are able to raise 10K for VFH, anonymous donors have stepped forward and will match the 10K with an additional 10K. Funds raised will be utilized for maintenance projects at our various housing properties.

If you are interested in participating in the challenge, please go to www.cfrgb.org and note your donation is for the VF Housing Challenge.

Get your tickets today at: verafrenchmhc.org/TME