By going through a structured program, the person is given a good boost toward recovery. However, no program is because the outcome depends on the individual.

MADENVILLE — "Unhappily nestled in the heart of the Hamlet of St. Tammany quietly carries on its business of getting alcohols and drug abusers in and out the door." The 44-bed facility, located adjacent to the General Hospital, is a highlights of the need for treatment, because many of the residents are housed in semi-private rooms, each with a private bath, and are provided individual and group counseling, indoor and outdoor recreation, and around various activities.

Larry Rogers, a point for the staff at Bowling Green, said the facility offers a variety of services, including treatment of alcoholism, and a 54-or 7-day program for the treatment of adolescent drug abuser.

"Describing Bowling Green as a "free standing" facility, Rogers said it offers "a caring, loving, trust, and a safe but not comfortable, residential setting." The inclusion and privacy of the family in the process of entering a treatment program for alcoholism or drug dependency, and the development of an individual treatment plan, is an important part of the program offered in treatment facilities located away from hospitals or medical clinics.

Located in Bowling Green, which is one of several Bowling Green Inns located around the county, officials said there is a need for the community to know that a problem with alcohol or drug abuse, must be willing to participate in recovery and to understand that there are serious medical or psychiatric problems.

"Costs for treatment vary according to the type of treatment, but一般 insurance companies cover most of the costs for alcohol or drug abuse treatment," Rogers said.

Included in the cost of treatment, Rogers said, is a two-year aftercare program, during which the individual receives treatment for alcoholism or drug abuse is "a lifelong process," he said. "Bowling Green offers programs for two years, and we have completed the residential program. Aftercare programs, directed by a counselor, are offered for a week and can be located in the individual's hometown.

"When a person checks into Bowling Green, he or she is followed up with a complete medical examination by the medical staff. Detoxification also is supervised by the medical staff," Rogers said.

"Once at Bowling Green, a treatment plan is devised for each resident, and from that point "It's a 41-day program," Rogers added. "We specialize in individual counseling, group counseling, and individual counseling to assigned, required, exercises, and programmed activities.

"Recovery is a continuous growth process," Rogers said, pointing out that he believes many people feel that recovery is a one-time event. "Once you master one level, then you go on to another. Here we see people from all walks of life, from all walks of life, and we cross every section, and at least one out of every four people who come, are trying to solve a drinking problem or a drug problem or both.

"Here we don't bombard an individual with group counseling," Rogers said. "Instead, we try to approach them with a caring, loving form of therapy and try to help them understand and give as much support as possible.

"One program offered by Bowling Green is a "Caring Together," Rogers said. "Counselors work closely with family members, friends and employers or employers of an individual, to help them work through their problems. If the individual refuses to acknowledge his problem with alcohol or drugs, the family members and friends are encouraged to seek help for the individual.

"More often than not, the family or friends and people at work are affected by the individual's problem," Rogers said. "Through counseling, they are taught to get their affairs in order before they can say it to the disease they hate, not the person.

"In intervention, each person makes a list of things the disease dependent does to irritate them; forgetting to do something, not pulling up whatever. Then the chemical dependent is confronted and told he has a problem and his friends and family groups are the ultimate; the wife will leave, he can't see his kids, or he'll be fired.

"The support circle" comprised of people close to the chemical dependent individual, Rogers said, "is important to help the individual." Rogers added that other groups have serious medical or psychiatric problems that must be treated or else.

A structured chemical dependency through education, as that which is offered at Bowling Green and other facilities offers intense, personal help for an individual, Rogers said. If an individual is unable to participate in such a residential program, then the individual can turn to other community organizations such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, Alateen, Narcotics Anonymous, and others, for sources of assistance, Rogers added.

"Through structured programs such as these, the person can get in control of his disease because he has no choice and is receiving constant assistance day in and day out," Rogers said. "This is withdrawal, which is withdrawal from the chemical, varies drug, and the drug system on one's own. Detoxification can be more difficult and the tendency to relapse is more likely to even in to.

"By going through a structured program, the person is given a good boost toward recovery. We're not always successful; no program is because there is not commonly one group of drugs that will help everyone. Recovery is a long-term process, and the person has to realize he has a disease and that individual work or take that drug dependency.

"For many years, it has been said that alcohol and drug dependency is a disease — but in many ways, it isn't.

"Because new strides have been made concerning the identification of alcoholism and their treatment, residential facilities such as Bowling Green are becoming important tools in getting an individual on the road to recovery, Rogers said.

"One program essential for an individual," he said. "We also offer a Speakers Bureau through which we can reach many individuals about drug abuse and what treatments and support groups are available to help.

"Alcoholism and drug abuse has changed because we understand the disease more. More and more, people are learning more about the treatment of the disease, and that's why we're seeing more facilities such as Bowling Green. Here we're concerned with the needs of the individual and our family members — the physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

"Caring and building personal strength are what Bowling Green is all about."

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