



25th Anniversary Report

1985-2010

Rebuilding Lives

Restoring Hope



*Creating a Brighter Future for
Individuals in Recovery from Mental Illness and Substance Abuse*

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Dedicated To: *Our residents who face the challenges of living with a mental illness.
And our staff who provide the hope and encouragement for them to
succeed in their recovery.*

In Memory Of: *Alan Lunt, who inspired the founding of Community Hope and whose
legacy lives on.*

Our Mission

Creating a brighter future for individuals recovering from mental illness and substance abuse by providing housing and services in a dignified, respectful, and person-centered way.

Our History

Community Hope was started in 1985 by families and mental health professionals seeking a safe haven in the community where young adults could continue their recovery from chronic mental illness. They opened our first therapeutic residence and recruited caring, professional counselors who could assist individuals in making a successful transition back to community and family life after many months, often years, of repeated psychiatric hospitalization.

For the past 25 years, Community Hope has provided housing and essential support services within our communities, to young adults and individuals recovering from mental illness. In 2004, we directed our experience in residential services to address the widespread issue of homelessness among veterans and developed the largest housing program in the region for veterans homeless as a result of mental illness and substance abuse.

Today, Community Hope is among the largest providers of transitional and supportive housing for individuals in recovery from mental illness and substance abuse in New Jersey. Our 39 residential facilities are home to more than 300 individuals in recovery.

In recognition of our impact on the lives of so many, Community Hope was selected as the 2009 Outstanding Provider Agency by the New Jersey Association of Mental Health Agencies.

Our programs have enabled hundreds to break the cycle of repeated hospitalizations and chronic homelessness, and we continue to reach more individuals in need. In recognition of our impact on the lives of so many, Community Hope was selected as the 2009 Outstanding Provider Agency by the New Jersey Association of Mental Health Agencies.

The Founder's Message

In 1977 I was unaware that mental illness would soon enter my life and how profoundly it would impact my family and me. That year, my elder son dropped out of college in his senior year and was diagnosed with schizophrenia. He was acutely ill and I didn't recognize the gentle, loving son of better times. I struggled to understand the enormous change in him.

It was only when I happened upon something he wrote about his innermost feelings that I started to gain insight into the internal turmoil that mental illness had created in him. He wrote, "It scares me to death how different from other people I am. The rain of billions of tears falls on me." It was then that I resolved that I would attempt to bring back the sunshine to the lives of my son and others like him whose lives had been shattered.

At that time there were few community residences and those were time-limited, a situation that set up two-revolving doors, one at the hospitals and the other at the few community residences that were available. Long-term housing was a critical gap in the system. With the help of the Morris County Mental Health Association I organized a task force of family members and key professionals whose advocacy for increased housing led to the creation of Community Hope. Our goal was to fill that critical gap of long-term housing.

Community Hope was founded on the premise that individuals with mental illness can successfully reintegrate into the community if afforded a safe environment, affordable housing, support services and most importantly, hope for a better future.

Individuals with mental illness who are homeless and destitute, without a safe haven with food and supportive services are under stress and unable to concentrate on their own recovery. Many who have spent years, even decades, in hospitals have given up all hope in planning for the future. At Community Hope, providing the basic

At Community Hope, providing the basic necessities gives these individuals the foundation upon which they can find the hope, self-esteem and dignity to rebuild their lives. Until a cure for mental illness is found, there is no alternative but to respond to this challenge.

necessities gives these individuals the foundation upon which they can find the hope, self-esteem and dignity they need to rebuild their lives. Until a cure for mental illness is found, there is no alternative but to respond to this challenge. We now serve 300 people a day in our residential recovery programs, including 95 homeless veterans at our Hope for Veterans Program. At Community Hope, we accept the challenge of creating a brighter future for individuals with mental illness.



*Carmela Lunt,
Founder and Board President*

Excerpted from Ms. Lunt's speech upon accepting her Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Council of Behavioral Healthcare, October 2009.

Report from the Chief Executive Officer

For the past 25 years, Community Hope's Residential Recovery Programs have provided stable housing and a range of services to low-income individuals disabled by mental illness and substance abuse.

We address the urgent needs of the most vulnerable members of our communities, whether it is adolescents aging out of foster care with no family to support them in their struggle with a debilitating mental illness; individuals in and out of state psychiatric hospitals battling schizophrenia, bipolar-disorder and depression; or homeless veterans with combat-induced post-traumatic stress and other forms of mental illness.

What has set Community Hope apart and made it possible for 98% of our residents to continue their recovery in spite of the chronic nature of serious mental illness, is an inherent belief that individuals with mental illness can live a fulfilling life in the community. This philosophy drives the commitment of our staff to instill hope and encouragement as an integral part of the support we provide individuals.



*J. Michael Armstrong,
Chief Executive Officer*

Our programs are diverse and we have broken new ground in creating services that respond to the challenges of those in our communities who are impacted by mental illness. Our CHAMP and Partnership Programs began with pilot projects to assist those who have been shut away in institutions for decades to start a re-entry back to society. These specialized programs were effective and have expanded nearly ten-fold since 2000. Our CHOICE Independent-Living Program was developed in response to individuals and families in crisis in the community: Aging parents growing too frail to care for an adult child disabled by mental illness; individuals homeless as a result of a lack of housing they could afford and services they needed.

Our programs are diverse and have broken new ground in creating services that respond to the challenges of those in our communities who are impacted by mental illness.

These innovative programs included reaching out to populations not traditionally viewed as having been impacted by mental illness: Servicemen and women returning from combat with ongoing mental illness and substance abuse issues who have ended-up destitute and in shelters or on the streets. Our award-winning Hope for Veterans Program has served more than 400 homeless veterans since the program opened six years ago.

With a commitment to reaching more homeless veterans, individuals and families in need, Community Hope has grown from serving 52 individuals in 2000 to 300 people a day presently. We thank our generous supporters for helping us to make this possible.

Twenty-Five Years of Highlights and Accomplishments

- 1985 Project Hope founded as an outgrowth of Concerned Families for the Mentally Ill and the Mental Health Association of Morris County.
- 1986 First community residence opens offering 24-hour support to five young adults. Home is purchased with legislative funds sponsored by then-State Assemblyman and current US Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen.
- 1987 Second community residence opens in Boonton with a grant from the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders.
- 1989 Project Hope expands its residential service model offering more independent housing to graduates of our 24-hour group homes.
- 1990 By the agency's fifth anniversary, Project Hope has developed housing and services for 40 individuals.
- 1991 New program targets young adults with mental illness aging out of the State's foster care system with no family to support them in their recovery.
- 1992 A \$310,000 grant award from the NJ Division of Mental Health Services creates an expanded residence and Project Hope now serves 47 individuals.
- 1994 A Project Hope residence is dedicated as the Young Adult Program to address the age-related needs and recovery issues of older teens and those in their twenties.
- 1995 On its tenth anniversary, Project Hope establishes Respite Care for its residents needing short-term intensive support.
- 1996 Project Hope changes its name and becomes Community Hope.
- 1997 The Sparkle of Hope Annual Gala is founded by Fred Hassan, then-CEO of Pharmacia Corporation and later Chairman and CEO of Schering-Plough Corporation. The event will raise more than \$4 million through 2009.
- 1998 More than \$480,000 in grants fund the opening of four new community residences for 17 additional disabled individuals.
- 1999 Community Hope establishes the first Supportive Housing Program in Morris County, creating affordable housing and services for 70 persons by 2010.
- 2000 In collaboration with Comprehensive Behavioral Healthcare (CBH Care), Community Hope embarks on a pilot project known as CHAMP on the Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital to help ten former patients rebuild their lives after a long hospitalization.



Community Hope's Second Community Residence Opens



In 2005, Acting Governor Richard Cody signs the Special Needs Trust Fund into law at the CHAMP Program, citing it as a model for helping patients reintegrate to family and community.

2001 With the help of a \$130,000 housing grant, the Transitioning-to-Independence Residence opens for young adults graduating from our 24-hour community residences.

2002 Within three years, more than \$2.8 million in grants help establish the Supportive Housing Program.

2003 Community Hope is in the process of a major expansion and is serving nearly 100 more individuals in the past three years.

2004 Hope for Veterans opens at the Lyons VA Campus as the largest transitional housing program in the Tri-State Area for homeless veterans.



Hope for Veterans Transitional Housing Program Opens

CARF awards us its highest level of accreditation for Community Housing and Supportive Living.

2005 One year after opening, Hope for Veterans receives the national Community Partnership Award from the Mutual of America Foundation and the (NJ) Governor's Excellence in Housing Award.

2006 Completing construction of a new Independent-Living Residence funded entirely with grants, Community Hope now serves 190 individuals. The successful CHAMP Program on the Greystone Hospital campus expands from serving 10 to 25 individuals.

2007 Renovating the "cottages" at Greystone Hospital, Community Hope and partner agency CBH Care create the 48-bed Partnership Program for individuals hospitalized for extended periods and requiring medical and other specialized services. This program represents a model for successful de-institutionalization and reintegration.

CARF renews accreditation for Community Housing and Supportive Living and awards accreditation for Case Management Programs.

2008 Completion of a new wing expands the Hope for Veterans program to 95 beds.

2009 Founder and President Carmela Lunt recognized with Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Council of Behavioral Healthcare.

Community Hope named 2009 Outstanding Provider of the Year by the NJ Association of Mental Health Agencies.

Valley Brook Village is conditionally approved. It will be the first permanent supportive housing development for homeless, disabled and senior veterans in New Jersey.

2010 Community Hope presently serves 300 individuals daily.



Gala, founded by Fred Hassan (l), has raised over \$4 million since 1997. He is joined by 2009 co-chairs Dr. Sol Barer of Celgene (c) and Cavan Redmond of Pfizer (r).

Rebuilding Lives, Restoring Hope

Mental illness typically strikes individuals in the prime of their lives, often during adolescence or young adulthood. According to The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), “without treatment the consequences of mental illness for the individual and society are staggering: Unnecessary disability, unemployment, substance abuse, homelessness, inappropriate incarceration, suicide and wasted lives. The cost of untreated mental illness is more than \$100 billion each year in the United States.”



This residence was donated to Community Hope to provide housing-plus-services for three adults in recovery.

Community Hope was founded on the premise that individuals with mental illness can successfully reintegrate into the community if provided with safe, affordable housing with access to support services. Now, 25 years later, our outcomes prove that stable affordable housing linked to services is the most effective in facilitating a healthy and productive lifestyle for individuals in recovery from mental illness. With many individuals entering our programs homeless or directly from the hospital, they are without income and reliant on us to help them re-establish their lives. We ensure the most basic of needs: Shelter, food, heat, transportation, support services and other essentials. Our Recovery Programs facilitate residents’ ability to avert hospitalization, homelessness and poverty to become more independent and productive.

Transitional Housing Programs

With up to 24-hours of on-site support staff, these programs are the gateway to many of our housing programs and are critical as the first step for most individuals to reintegrate back into the community after hospitalization. Staff provide assistance with daily living skills, medication monitoring, linkage to healthcare and behavioral healthcare services, transportation and work with each individual to set and strive toward goals for greater self-sufficiency. Community Hope currently provides around-the-clock, daily or weekly support services to individuals, who in the absence of these programs, may otherwise have remained hospitalized.

Young Adult Residential Programs

Recognizing that early intervention is important to successful recovery, Community Hope has a dedicated program for older teens and young adults with a 24-hour group residence that includes services to youth aging-out of the State’s foster-care system. From the group home, individuals can transition into a more independent-living residence down the street where they continue to have 24-hour access to support staff. Our goal is to prepare these young people to manage their illness and become self-sufficient.

CHOICE Independent-Living Program

The Community Housing and Independence for Consumer Empowerment (CHOICE) Program was developed in 2000, targeting individuals who are able to live on their own but who lack access to affordable housing linked to services. CHOICE housing serves as the individual's permanent home. If we are successful in helping people progress through our housing continuum, then it is essential that we provide this permanent housing opportunity so that as individuals recover they can sustain independent living with access to services.

Community Hope created this model in 1999 with the intention to serve 30 individuals who were ready to graduate from group homes or living in distress in the community, either at risk of homelessness or residing with family caregivers who were aging or unable to provide the support they needed. Today, CHOICE provides housing-plus-services to 70 individuals with plans underway to further expand the program. This includes our Family In-Home Services to support individuals and their families upon returning home after a hospitalization.

With a severe shortage of affordable housing, Community Hope developed many of the residences within the CHOICE Program, securing building grants and rental subsidies to ensure the housing remains affordable.

CHAMP and Partnership Residential Recovery and Day Treatment Programs

The Caring and Hope At Morris Plains (CHAMP) Program was started in 2000 with our partner agency, Comprehensive Behavioral Healthcare, to reach individuals shut away in institutions. Located in refurbished homes and villas on or adjacent to the Greystone Park Hospital campus, these programs are specifically designed for individuals who have become institutionalized after years of hospitalization and are reluctant to be discharged even when they no longer require hospitalization.

More than 70 former patients currently reside in the CHAMP and Partnership Programs with the help of 24-hour staff support and benefit from our specialized day treatment programs. Many of these program participants were institutionalized in excess of 15 to 25 years and are now taking the first steps in re-learning how to live in the community and care for themselves.

When Acting Governor Richard Codey signed the New Jersey Special Needs Housing Trust Fund into law in 2005 at a special ceremony at the CHAMP Program, he called the program a successful model to be replicated within the State.



With a severe shortage of affordable housing, Community Hope constructed this house and other residences for our CHOICE Program. It is now home to four adults.

Hope for Veterans® Program

In New Jersey, the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs estimates as many as 6,500 veterans will sleep on the streets or in shelters on any given night. In order to address the crisis of homelessness among our veterans, Community Hope developed the Hope for Veterans Transitional Housing Program. With 70 beds, the program opened in 2004 as the largest, most comprehensive program in the Tri-State area and has served more than 400 veterans in the last five years.

Veterans can remain in the program for up to two years, during which time we focus on the root causes which have led so many to become homeless: Mental illness and substance abuse.

Much more than a shelter, our staff provide comprehensive services so that veterans can develop the necessary skills to progress to independent living, including employment training for job re-entry and securing permanent housing.

With the opening of a new wing in 2008, the program today provides safe shelter and specialized services to 95 homeless veterans daily.

After one year in operation, the Hope for Veterans Program was recognized by the nationally-acclaimed Mutual of America Foundation's Community Partnership Award for addressing a pressing social need and as a model to be replicated in other communities for serving homeless veterans across the country

Valley Brook Village: While hundreds of formerly homeless veterans have made great strides within our Hope for Veterans program, there is a need for affordable permanent housing linked to services in order that veterans can maintain their independent living and avert a return to homelessness. Furthermore, we seek to address the needs of the next generation of veterans – our current soldiers who are experiencing high rates of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

In response, Community Hope has partnered with a private developer to create plans for Valley Brook Village, one of the first permanent supportive housing developments in New Jersey for homeless veterans. Under our conditional award, the VA will provide a 16-acre tract at the Lyons VA campus where our Hope for Veterans Program is located to construct 90

affordable apartments. Veterans who are at-risk of homelessness as a result of post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, and physical disabilities incurred in combat will be able to live in their own affordable apartments with on-campus support services. With predevelopment underway, construction is expected to commence in 2011.



More than 400 formerly homeless veterans have benefited from the Hope for Veterans Program since it opened in 2004.

Architect renderings of the 90-unit Valley Brook Village development.



Special Events



Taking strides to end homelessness among veterans

Somerset Hills YMCA Supports Our Veterans: For the past eight years, the YMCA has hosted the Flag Day 5K Run to benefit the Hope for Veterans Program, raising \$150,000 in support of our homeless veterans.



Accepting the 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Council of Behavioral Healthcare is Carmela Lunt, Community Hope Founder and President, together with (from right) CEO J. Michael Armstrong, Dr. Debra Wentz, CEO of the NJ Association of Mental Health Agencies and National Council Representative James Marhold, President and CEO of Declarations Inc.

Sparkle of Hope

*Annual Dinner Auction
October 27, 2009*



Sparkle of Hope Gala Chairs and Honorees (L to R) Kevin Rigby, VP of Public Affairs and Communications of Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation; David Norton, Company Group Chairman Global Pharmaceuticals of Johnson & Johnson; Honoree Fred Hassan, former Chairman and CEO of Schering-Plough Corporation; Carmela Lunt, President of Community Hope; Honoree John Crowley, President and CEO of Amicus Therapeutics; Honoree Dr. Stuart Peltz, President and CEO of PTC Therapeutics; Dr. Sol Barer, Chairman and CEO of Celgene Corporation; J. Michael Armstrong, CEO of Community Hope; Alex Gorsky, Worldwide Chairman, MD&D of Johnson & Johnson

Photo by Stephanie Lin

In Recognition of our Donors

The Board of Directors of Community Hope gratefully acknowledge the corporations, foundations, businesses and individuals who supported our mission and enabled us to serve hundreds of individuals in need in 2009.

\$100,000 and Over

County of Morris

\$50,000 and Over

Schering-Plough Corporation

\$25,000 and Over

Alcoa Foundation
Celgene Corporation
County of Somerset
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F. M. Kirby Foundation, Inc.
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Merck & Co., Inc.
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Pharmaceuticals
The Hyde & Watson Foundation
Johnson & Johnson
Jones Day
PTC Therapeutics, Inc.
Rand Diversified
Wachovia Foundation

\$7,500 and Over

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\$5,000 and Over

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\$500 and Over

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 Peggy Karr Glass
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 Nancy Pool
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 RE/MAX Classic Group
 Rocco's Restaurant
 Sam's Club, Mt. Olive
 sanofi-aventis U.S.
 Schering-Plough Corporation
 The Shakespeare Theatre of NJ
 Todd and Nanci Smith
 Somerset Hills YMCA
 Spencer Savings Bank
 Stephen Taylor Photography
 Stop N Shop in Basking Ridge
 Sunrise ShopRite, Parsippany
 Tiffany & Co.
 Travel Forum
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 The Westin Governor Morris
 Westminster Hotel
 West Morris Area YMCA
 Willie's Taverne
 Helen Wolfmeyer
 Patricia Worobec
 Wyndham Endless Vacation Rentals
 Dr. & Mrs. Jay Yarnis
 Yogi Berra Museum

AWARDS

2009 Outstanding Provider

Presented by the NJ Association of Mental Health Agencies

Hope for Veterans® Program

2005 National Community Partnership Award –
Presented by the Mutual of America Foundation

2005 Governor's Excellence in Housing Award –
Presented by the NJ Department of Community Affairs

2005 Housing Award –
Presented by the Somerset County Organization on Affordable Housing

CHOICE Independent Living Program

2005 Special Recognition Award –
Presented by The Housing Partnership of Morris County

In Recognition of Community Hope Founder Carmela Lunt

October 2009 Ann Klein Advocate Award –
Presented by the Community Health Law Project

April 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award –
Presented by the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare

November 2006 Local Heroes Award; National Excellence Initiative –
Presented by Bank of America

September 2006 Seeds of Hope Award –
Presented by New Jersey Monthly

June 2006 Unsung Heroes Award –
Presented by the Russ Berrie Foundation

Community Hope Staff Awards

April 2010 Leadership in Addiction Advocacy Award –
Presented to Chief Executive Officer J. Michael Armstrong by the NJ Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies

November 2009 Behavioral Health Champions Award –
Presented to Chief Executive Officer J. Michael Armstrong by the Behavioral Healthcare Magazine

October 2008 STAR Professional Excellence Award –
Presented to V.P. of Veterans Services Susan Visser by the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Services, Alumni Association

May 2008 Robert J. Smythe Award for Outstanding Professional Fundraiser –
Presented to V.P. of Development Julia Bey Ahmet by the NJ Association of Fundraising Professionals

May 2008 Outstanding Mental Health Service to Veterans Award –
Presented to Chief Executive Officer J. Michael Armstrong by the NJ Association of Mental Health Agencies'

May 2008 Inspiring Change in Mental Health Care Award –
Presented to Chief Operating Officer/V.P. of Clinical Services Carmine Deo by the NJ Association of Mental Health Agencies'

ACCREDITATIONS

CARF Accreditation

The case management and community housing services provided within our Transitional Housing, Supportive Living, and Hope for Veterans® programs are accredited by CARF, the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. Our three-year CARF accreditation represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows Community Hope's substantial conformance to CARF standards for programs and services of the highest quality.

Licensed By

Community Hope's Transitional Housing and Supportive Living Programs are licensed by the New Jersey Department of Human Services Office of Licensing. Our Hope for Veterans® Program is licensed by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

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View our Audited Financial Statements and Form 990 on Guidestar.com or contact the Development Office at 973-463-9600 ext. 308 or info@communityhope-nj.org



199 Pomeroy Road
Parsippany, NJ 07054
www.communityhope-nj.org

*For more information about Community Hope, Inc. programs, events and news
Visit www.communityhope-nj.org*
