

Annual Report

2017



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Our Mission



elping individuals, including veterans, and their families, overcome mental illness, addiction, homelessness and poverty by providing housing and support services.

Our Story

ur nonprofit organization was founded in 1985 by caring families of young adults whose lives were impacted by severe depression and other debilitating mental illnesses. Our residential programs and support services were expanded in 2001 to reach homeless veterans struggling with mental

health issues and combat-induced trauma.



Today, Community Hope is the leading nonprofit in and around New Jersey serving needy veterans and at-risk veteran families. We are at the forefront with residential programs that provide a safe haven and essential services each day to hundreds of homeless veterans, aging-out youth and adults struggling with mental health issues. Since 1985, we have restored hope to thousands.

Our Impact



Community Hope reached twice as many individuals in just the past three years.

1,600 served in 2017

1,450 Veterans and their families rescued from homelessness

150 Individuals continued their mental health recovery in our residential programs

Community Hope Highlights and Accomplishments

ADDRESSING THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS AMONG VETERANS

With 20 veterans taking their own lives every day in the United States, many of our nation's former service men and women are clearly facing a mental health crisis. We are aware of the

struggles veterans face each and every day. In response, Community Hope developed a pilot Mental Health Initiative and hired a licensed clinician to provide individual counseling and group therapy on-site to veterans at our largest facility, the 95-bed Hope for Veterans Transitional Housing Program. The results showed a positive trend in recovery for the veterans undergoing therapy and The American Legion in New Jersey made it their fundraising priority for 2016, raising nearly \$100,000 to transform the pilot into a sustainable program.



ENHANCING CLINICAL SERVICES WITHIN OUR MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY PROGRAMS

Throughout this past year, we provided housing and over 15,000 hours of face-to-face services to 150 individuals in our Mental Health residential recovery programs. Community Hope was also among the first agencies to undertake a transition to New Jersey's new fee-for-service reimbursement system and to make the shift to more rehabilitative services for residents of our Community Support Services program.

VALLEY BROOK VILLAGE PHASE II READIES FOR CONSTRUCTION

Subsequent to the close of FY' 17, Federal low-income housing tax credits were awarded to complete the \$15.5 million in funding needed to build Phase II of Valley Brook Village, a permanent supportive housing project for homeless and disabled veterans. Construction of the 50 units is slated to begin in early 2018.



VETERAN FAMILIES PROGRAM EXPANDS TO REACH MORE IN DIRE NEED

Our Supportive Services for Veterans Families Program has expanded into fifteen New Jersey and thirteen Pennsylvania counties to provide rapid re-housing to homeless veterans and veteran families and to prevent at-risk veteran households from becoming homeless. Substantial grants from **The National Defense Industrial Association**, the **PA Veterans Trust Fund** and other supporters assisted us in providing financial aid to these families for such basic needs as rental security, utility payments and furnishings.

Message from the President



hirty-two years after our nonprofit was founded, our mission remains as vital today as it was in 1985. We therefore continue to forge ahead to reach more individuals in dire need of the safety net and the services we provide.

Continued expansion enabled us to serve a record number of individuals and families this year. Public grants and increased private donations made this achievement possible. We restored hope and provided the basic essentials of a safe warm place to sleep, food, healthcare and other support to those struggling with mental illness, an increased number of veterans suffering from the invisible wounds of war and significantly more veteran families facing poverty and despair after faithfully serving our country.

Our veterans, across multi-generations, are facing varying challenges.

The youngest veteran we rescued from homelessness this year was 24 years old and the oldest was in his mid-nineties. We are witnessing an increasing number of Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans with PTSD, more female veterans struggling with the invisible wounds of war as they serve in forward commands and more veteran families in distress. In response, we are addressing a mental health crisis facing our veterans by expanding in-house counseling and therapy within our largest veterans housing facility;

preparing to build phase II of our veterans village and expanding our Supportive Services for Veterans Family Program into nearly twice the geographic area in eastern Pennsylvania.

Simultaneously, we prepared for a major shift in the delivery of mental health services as the State of New Jersey transitions its mental health system to a feefor-service delivery and reimbursement basis. As part of this system change, we are providing more rehabilitative services within our residential programs. Our goal is to safeguard programs and enhance services for those who rely on our residential recovery programs.

We are confident we will tackle these challenges and continue reaching new milestones as Community Hope remains committed to our noble mission and to those who rely on us.

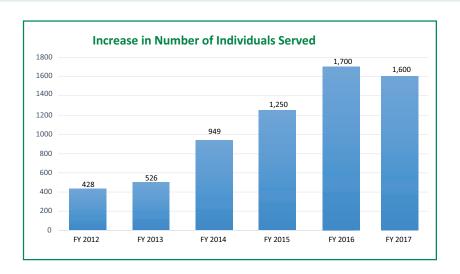
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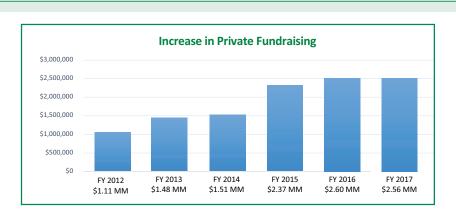
GROWTH IN SERVICES

Within five years we quadruple the number of individuals in crisis we were able to house and provide support services.



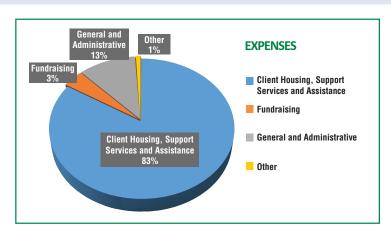
INCREASE IN PRIVATE FUNDRAISING

Fundraising more than doubles in last six years.



FISCAL YEAR 2017 EXPENSES

83¢ of every \$1 funds direct services and supports those in need.



MENTAL HEALTH RESIDENTIAL RECOVERY

Throughout this

Past Year, we

Provided Housing

And Over 15,000

Hours of face
To-face Services

To 150 Individuals

Our mental health recovery programs fill a tremendous void. These programs were first developed when people were discharged from public institutions without the intensive support they required and ended-up living on the streets or cycling in and out of hospitals without any hope for a successful reintegration into the community. Since opening our first residence for young adults in 1985, we have successfully developed a full continuum of residential recovery programs for individuals struggling with such forms of mental illness as bipolar disorder, severe depression and schizophrenia: Illnesses which have disrupted their lives, their families and left them at greater risk for repeated hospitalization and for many, the risk of homelessness.

Our programs are transforming lives. Research confirms that supportive housing leads to more housing stability, improvement in mental health symptoms, reduced hospitalization and greater socialization. It has been our experience that the supportive housing we provide has improved individuals' quality of life. Last year, 95% of those in our Mental Health Residential Recovery Programs maintained their housing and more of our residents gained employment from the previous year.

Throughout this past year, we provided housing and over 15,000 hours of face-to-face services to 150 individuals in our Mental Health Residential Recovery Programs. Our housing and case management services are aimed at sustaining individuals' recovery from mental illness and preparing them to eventually move on to their greatest level of independent living. The depth of support services we provide are comprehensive and include assistance with daily living skills; ensuring that residents have access to behavioral healthcare, recovery and medical services, and we promote wellness and recovery through peer support, nutrition and exercise, reinforcing social skills and providing recreational activities and transportation.

To assist individuals in progressing in their recovery, we provide the following services:

- Intensively-Staffed Residential Programs with 24-hour on-site support to those in need of around-theclock services. This is often the gateway to our mental health residential recovery programs, especially for those reintegrating back to the community after a lengthy hospitalization.
- Our Community Support Services (CSS) Program provides wellness and recovery-based clinical and case management services to more than 80 individuals a day so that they can live independently with access to services.
- In addition, we offer affordable housing to individuals in recovery from mental illness regardless of whether they are accessing our support services.

NEW INITIATIVES

We continue to expand our programs because the need still far outweighs demand. In fact, the World Health Organization predicts by 2020, mental illness will be the second leading cause of disability worldwide, after heart disease.

MENTAL HEALTH RESIDENTIAL RECOVERY

In FY '17, we completed and opened a new supportive housing residence in Parsippany for five individuals in recovery. The project, which entailed the acquisition and rehabilitation of a multi-family residence, was made possible by a \$600,000 grant from the Township of Parsippany.

ENHANCING REHABILITATIVE SERVICES WITHIN OUR MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY PROGRAMS

Community Hope also became one of the first agencies in New Jersey to participate in the State's newest service delivery model. We undertook a major transition to the State's new fee-for-service reimbursement system from its previous contract basis. As part of this transition, we began making the shift from residential services to more rehabilitative-based services for residents of our Community Support Services Program.

GROWING THE CIRCLE OF HOPE

How Scott is Using His Recovery to Help Others

Life was pretty good for Scott growing up. He was the older of two boys"the quiet one". He enjoyed school, particularly math and science, and
played soccer. But things soon changed for Scott. He would endure an
unexpected journey with mental illness—a word that still harbors a societal
stigma that can make recovery for young adults very challenging. The voices
started when he was just 11 years. Somehow he figured out how to manage
them. Then things got worse at 19. Freshman year at college was good, but
life changed drastically in his sophomore year. The voices came back, he
couldn't sleep and he was hallucinating. "I knew something was wrong, but
I couldn't do anything about it." So the long journey of therapists, inpatient
hospital stays, respite care and medications began. He was living with family
but Scott's behaviors baffled them, so he decided to leave, but where could



(Photo Credit: Stephanie Lin)

he go? Our Community Support Services Program was his savior. Scott is entering his ninth year living in one of our supportive living residences with three roommates. He says "I'm not where I want to be yet, but I'm semi-independent and I've gotten a lot better. I am on the right medications and I have a part time job as a group facilitator". Being in this peer counseling role is enabling Scott to share his experiences and success to help others find the road to recovery. He has learned from his Community Hope support staff that recovery is a process and that he has had to have greater patience with himself. "Community Hope is helping me build skills so I can live on my own."

RESCUING VETERANS FROM

Our Veterans Programs address a major underlying source of veterans' homelessness. National VA statistics estimate that 90% of homeless veterans suffer from substance abuse problems and 50% from mental illness and the challenges are increasing. Roughly half the soldiers who served in Iraq and Afghanistan have been diagnosed with mental health conditions, including one in five that suffer from post-traumatic stress.

We rescued 1,450 veterans and their family members from homelessness in FY '17. This represents the second highest number of homeless veterans we served in the past 13 years.

We employ a multi-tiered approach to veterans homelessness, addressing service gaps as they arise. Today our housing continuum consists of:

- Rapid re-housing and homeless prevention services to 750+ veterans and their families annually.
- Over 100 beds of transitional housing wherein homeless veterans can reside for up to 2 years with comprehensive support services to help them rebuild their lives and
- 62 beds of permanent housing to ensure that veterans have a place to call home and support they need.

WE RESCUED 1,450

VETERANS AND THEIR

FAMILY MEMBERS FROM

HOMELESSNESS IN FY '17.

Providing shelter is the first step in ending the cycle of homelessness. Equally as critical are the services we provide which address the major factors leading veterans to homelessness including: post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and other invisible wounds of war. We provide wrap-around services including access to medical care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, employment services, transportation and other support to help the veteran recover and establish self-sufficiency.

VEW INITIATIVES

ADDRESSING THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS AMONG VETERANS

With 20 veterans taking their own lives every day in the United States, many of our nation's former service men and women are clearly facing a mental health crisis. We are aware of the struggles veterans face each and every day. Community Hope began addressing this crisis in FY '15 by developing a pilot Mental Health Initiative with the aid of two major donors. We hired a licensed clinician to provide individual counseling and group therapy on-site to veterans at our largest facility, the 95-bed Hope for Veterans Transitional Housing Program, where eight out of ten veterans on any given day will have a mental health diagnosis. The results were significant, showing a positive trend in recovery for the 20 or so veterans undergoing therapy. The American Legion in New Jersey understood the value of saving veterans' lives through this initiative and made it their fundraising priority for 2016, raising nearly \$100,000 to transform the pilot into a sustainable program. The impact of the counseling for our veterans has led us to embark on a campaign to expand mental health therapy for all 95 veterans in the program.

HOMELESSNESS AND DESPAIR

VALLEY BROOK VILLAGE PHASE II READIES FOR CONSTRUCTION

Subsequent to the close of FY' 17, Federal low-income housing tax credits were awarded to complete the \$15.5 million in funding needed to build Phase II of Valley Brook Village, a permanent supportive housing project on the grounds of the VA campus in Lyons, New Jersey. Construction of the 50 units is slated to begin in early 2018 and like Phase I, will ensure a place to call home with affordable housing and onsite support services for homeless and disabled veterans. In the meantime, Community Hope enhanced services for the veterans residing in Phase I with multiple chronic health issues by establishing a Veterans Peer-Led Support Services program funded by the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey. Veterans are helping their fellow veterans to manage and improve their health and transporting them to healthcare and recovery services.

VETERAN RESCUED FROM LIVING IN HER CAR WITH TWO YOUNG SONS

*Sharon, U.S. Army, 2008-2011, Iraq War Veteran

In 2008, Sharon joined the Army. She served for three years and was deployed for one year in Iraq where she was assigned to 92 Alpha as an automated logistical expert. She provided critical support to her "battle buddies", ensuring that Army forces had the vital equipment, parts and supplies to keep their combat outpost and medical unit running efficiently. Fortunately, Sharon's tour of duty did not leave the kind of battle scars and trauma that other veterans suffered, but it did toughen her resolve and resilience. In July of this year, Sharon and her two young sons moved from Colorado to our area to care for her ailing grandmother. With no job and little but the clothes on their backs, Sharon was desperate to find affordable housing and get her sons settled in a safe place. "It was difficult trying to



*Veteran's actual photo and name were not used to protect her children's identity

find a place to stay out here." Motels were expensive and she was running out of funds. Homeless and living out of her car, she found the local VA Clinic and Community Hope's Veterans Drop In Center. "I just wanted to get help. I didn't want my kids to be on the streets." Our team provided emergency housing placement in a motel for Sharon and her sons that same day and secured an apartment for her two weeks later, providing financial assistance that included the security deposit, initial rent and beds for the family. We also helped her locate other community resources for the furnishings and basic household supplies she needed. She's now looking for a job and hopes to return to school. "My case manager at Community Hope was very caring and understanding. She helped us get back on our feet."

Community Hope Events



Gala founder and pharmaceutical icon Fred Hassan (r) presents the FY'17 Hero's Award to Kenneth Frazier, Merck Chairman and CEO.



Alex Gorsky, Chairman and CEO of Johnson & Johnson (left), accepts the FY '16 Sparkle of Hope Special Honoree Award from Fred Hassan.



David Cote, then- Honeywell Chairman and CEO (left), receives the FY '16 Hero's award from Honorary Co-Chair Aaron Graff, Global Chief Commercial Officer of Ferring Holding, Inc.

Photo Credit: Stephanie Lin

ALA SETS NEW RECORD OF SUPPORT

Both our FY '16 and '17 Sparkle of Hope Galas set new records of support as the events raised \$1.2 and \$1.34 million respectively. The success of these events have been crucial to Community Hope's ability to reach more individuals and families in dire need.

At our 2015 gala, 950 sponsors and donors came out in support of our distinguished honorees Alex Gorsky, Chairman and CEO of Johnson & Johnson, and David Cote, Chairman and CEO of Honeywell.

In 2016, we proudly honored Kenneth C. Frazier, Chairman of the

Board and Chief Executive Officer of Merck for Merck's spearheading of the Veterans Justice Initiative, established in 2011 to provide legal aid to the homeless veterans Community Hope serves.

It was Community Hope's largest gala in the 20 years since pharmaceutical leader Fred Hassan, founded the event to ensure sufficient community-based services to coincide with the pharmaceutical advancements in mental health treatment.



Turning over the reins.

Following recognition of Mr. Hassan's two decades of leadership and commitment, **Brent Saunders**, CEO and President of Allergan plc, was named Leadership Chair.

FY '16-17 Sparkle of Hope Chairs

Fred Hassan

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Brenton L. Saunders

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Mark Alles

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Community Hope Events

eterans Flag Day Run Draws 600

The 16th Annual Veterans Flag Day 5K Run and Fun Walk drew the largest number of participants as runners and walkers kicked off the race in front of our Valley Brook Village for Veterans on the Lyons VA healthcare campus. The event raised nearly \$130,000 in support of housing and services for our homeless veterans.



Hosting Fundraisers for Community Hope

As awareness of our programs and vital services expands, more organizations and individuals are hosting their own fundraisers in support of the work we do. In FY '17, outside groups raised over \$70,000 in support of Community Hope. The largest donation of \$50,000 was from J. G. Petrucci Co., Inc. and Iron Hill Construction Management's Annual Iron Hill Charity Golf Open.





Above: Team MetLife, Title Sponsors

Below: Team Bayer, Colonel Sponsor and Gold Corporate Partner



Above: Team Accenture, Title Sponsors and Palladium Corporate Partner

Flag Day Photo Credit: Jennie Vanderhoof

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2014: First recipient of national Pete Dougherty Award for Excellence in Supportive Housing for Homeless Veterans - Sponsored by The Home Depot Foundation, Presented by the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans;

2014: Community Award - Presented by Spencer Savings Bank in commemoration of their 75th Anniversary

2014: Finalist, Project of the Year - Valley Brook Village for Veterans-National Corporation for Supportive Housing.

2014: Project of the Year - Valley Brook Village for Veterans- Central Jersey Housing Resource

2013: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: President's Staff Grant -Award recognizing projects having the most potential to positively affect individuals & create significant impact in the community.



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Our three-year CARF accreditation applies to our services for: Community Housing; Rapid Rehousing and Homelessness Prevention Programs; Services Coordination; Case Management/Services Coordination: Mental Health (Adults); Community Housing: Mental Health (Adults) and Supported Living: Mental Health (Adults). This 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

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