

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO AND BOARD CHAIR

In the last year, the need for mental health treatment increased substantially throughout our country. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) describe suicide as "a large and growing public health problem," driven by data that suicide is now the second leading cause of death for people 10 to 34 years of age and the 10th leading cause of death nationwide. Suicide was responsible for 47,000 deaths in 2017, resulting in about one death every 11 minutes. Our national affiliate, Mental Health America, reported in 2018 **more than 10 million** adults have an unmet need for mental health treatment, and that number has not declined since 2011. Clearly, there is much work to be done in improving and saving lives.

Here in Monmouth County, the MHA has been doing the work. In 2018, the MHA of Monmouth County (MHAMC) completed its 68th year of providing leadership in advocacy, programs, services, and education to individuals and families affected by mental illness.

We continue to provide the Lifelines program – a nationally recognized, evidence-based suicide prevention training – to schools throughout Monmouth County. This free, comprehensive program has been trained in over 163 schools, impacting 44,410 students, 551 faculty, and 155 parents.

Our outpatient program, Navigate Wellness Counseling offers mental health services to individuals and families. Navigate Wellness is underscored by confidential and compassionate therapy using evidence-based and trauma-informed interventions at two locations in Red Bank, NJ, and Tinton Falls, NJ.

Mental Health First Aid Trainings (MHFA), in partnership and collaboration with key stakeholders throughout Monmouth County communities, has increased the public's knowledge of how to address the mental health concerns of their neighbors, family, and friends.

We remain dedicated to MHAMC's prevention-focused role in Monmouth County and throughout the state in identifying the gaps in the mental health system of care and working with our partners to find solutions.

On behalf of our Board members and professional team, thank you for your generous support and standing with us to help so many on their journey to mental wellness.

Warm Regards,



Wendy DePedro, MSEd./CEO



Thomas A. Schember Board Chair

68 YEARS

The Mental Health Association of Monmouth County is an affiliate of Mental Health America and the Mental Health Association in NJ. The MHAM Ciscolated to promoting mental health as a critical part of overall wellness, including preventions ervices for all, early identification and intervention for those a trisk, integrated care and treatment for those who need it, with recovery as the goal. Our mission is accomplished through strength-based programs, education, advocacy, community partnerships, and the shaping of public policy.



Foundation Board, 2018 Annual Dinner









BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES THROUGH HOUSING AND FINANCIAL STABILITY

- Stop the cycle of homelessness: help individuals successfully integrate into their community, establish independence, and maintain housing.
- Coordinate with community partners to secure permanent housing for clients living with mental illness.
- Provide free financial services, which include screening, benefits application assistance, connections to community resources, and more.
- Enhance financial competency through hands-on, educational workshops that help clients manage money, increase income, find better employment, and improve housing opportunities.

EXPANDING SOCIAL SERVICES, COMMUNITY OUTREACH, AND EDUCATION

- Build resiliency by strengthening the abilities of individuals and families to succeed and offering a comprehensive array of information and referral services.
- Develop competent communities and resources that identify and respond to local needs related to suicide prevention.
- Deliver best practices and evidence-based training that assesses both youth and adult suicide risk.
- Train individuals in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) to lessen the stigma surrounding mental illness and equip laypeople with the knowledge to address mental health issues prior to reaching a crisis point.

IMPROVING THE FUNCTION AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

- Promote the integration of behavioral health and physical health.
- Offer traditional outpatient counseling and in-home therapy to youth, adolescents, and adults with a focus on early intervention.
- Foster supportive individual and group counseling to families affected by a mental health crisis.
- Advocate for caregivers as they navigate the mental health system of care, creating space for their emotional well-being.

CHANGING THE COURSE FOR YOUTH AT RISK

- Intervene, assess, counsel, and refer families involved with the Monmouth County judicial system to community resources.
- Put youth on a path to wellness through development of interpersonal relationships, academic success, and advancement opportunities.
- Support goals of health, safety, and permanency for children.
- Stabilize families in crisis through engaging youth and their parents in conflict resolution and reduction of school truancy.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Support and counseling to over 900 persons living with housing insecurity

Bi-lingual social services provided to over **1,081 households** and **1,647 children**

Crisis interventions to 1,000+ at-risk youth

No cost comprehensive suicide prevention training in 163 NJ schools, impacting 44,410 middle and high school students

193 families received support group services and educational training

2018 Annual Revenue by Source Profile

- State of NJ Grants 58%
- Monmouth County Grants 13%
- Federal Grants 5%
- Counseling & Social Services 15%
- Fundraising & Contributions 9%

2018 Financial Expenditures Profile

- Adult Mental Health Services 53%
- Children's Mental Health Services 22%
- Community Social Services 4%
- Core Mission Support 14%
- Fundraising 7%



Your position along a continuum of mental health will be influenced by a range of risk and protective factors, and environmental influences. In particular, mental health and well-being is most likely to occur in an inclusive environment, where people have supportive relationships with each other.

Last year, we touched more 6,500 lives. Your generous support better equipped us to address the needs of the many, children, adults, and families who rely on us. For that, we are humbled and grateful.

We recognize that more work needs to be done. By donating today, you ensure MHAMC's life-changing programs and services continue.

TEXT MHAMC to 41444 Today

DONATE ONLINE: mentalhealthmonmouth.org

DONATE BY PHONE: 732,542,6422 ext. 108

DONATE BY CHECK: 106 Apple Street, Suite 110 Tinton Falls New Jersey 07724

Please consider doubling your impact by using your employer's donation matching program or supporting with a planned gift.

"DON'T TRY TO DRIVE THE HOMELESS INTO PLACES WE FIND SUITABLE. HELP THEM SURVIVE IN PLACES THEY FIND SUITABLE."

-Daniel Quinn

Homelessness can be an obstacle to recovery, making it difficult to develop good mental health, secure stable housing, find and maintain a job, stay physically well, and to maintain healthy relationships.

There is a two-way relationship between homelessness and mental health. Living with a mental health problem can create the circumstances that cause a person to become homeless in the first place, but it's true that poor housing or homelessness may increase the chances of developing a mental health problem, or exacerbate an existing condition.

MHAMC addresses homelessness and mental health through the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program. Free case management and stability building resources are provided to adults 18 years and older.

Imagine the feeling of finally finding home.



FINDING SERENITY AT THE SHORE

At 50, Kurt's road to serenity was anything but easy. The trauma and abuse he experienced before the age of nine became compounded with his father's death, which left his family financially crippled and forced his mother to work two jobs. By 14, Kurt felt like a burden.

Stress and anxiety weighed on him: he had trouble focusing and sleeping, and the steps he took to break the mental fog exhausting his energy simply wasn't enough. He struggled to maintain healthy relationships, and when his best friend completed suicide, he spiraled into depression.

Kurt turned to drugs and alcohol to bury the pain, and for years the substance use led to numerous encounters with police, which ultimately resulted in his incarceration. Despite his best efforts, he failed to find his purpose.

Kurt's release from prison found him bouncing from shelter to shelter, where he witnessed firsthand the struggles of others, particularly women who were left homeless and unable to obtain benefits. The experience profoundly inspired him to make a positive difference not only in himself, but also in the lives of others.

Kurt involved himself with the church and used his story to launch the Women's Hospitality Network to provide emergency overnight housing for women.

The mental fog was lifting, and his desire to address his mental health and substance use connected him to the Mental Health Association of Monmouth County's PATH program. Kurt's success in working with his case manager produced stable, permanent housing near the shore and his church in a drug-free community.

"It has changed my whole life. PATH taught me to hope"; Kurt found his serenity.

WITH GRATITUDE

\$10.000-\$65.000

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\$5,000- \$9,999

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COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

Community Support Services (CSS) Information and Referral Services Intensive Family Support Services (IFSS)

Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

Housing Navigation Program (HNP)

SOCIAL SERVICES

Grandview and Pinetree Social Services programs Red Bank Resource Network (RBRN)

FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES

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COUNSELING

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PREVENTION EDUCATION

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Lifelines: Comprehensive Suicide Awareness & Responsiveness Program for Teens Mental Health First Aid

MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF MONMOUTH COUNTY



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