



LIB NEWS

THE E-NEWSLETTER OF
LIBERATION PROGRAMS
WINTER 2021/2022

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

As we begin a New Year together, we are grateful for all the lives we have impacted thanks to the kindness and support you continuously show us. 2021 was our 50th year of service, and we can't wait to see what the next 50 years will bring. While we continue to see a rise in the number of overdose deaths, we also see great strides being made to provide harm reduction supplies to those who need it, support from law enforcement and government bodies, and greater public awareness of the need for evidence based treatment options.



This year we remain committed to treating people with dignity and respect as we meet them when and where they need us most. We look forward to continuing to share our work and our accomplishments with you all and hope we can welcome you to our programs and events in-person again too. In the meantime, stay safe and thank you for all you do to support us in providing Recovery for All.

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Peace, Love and Liberation

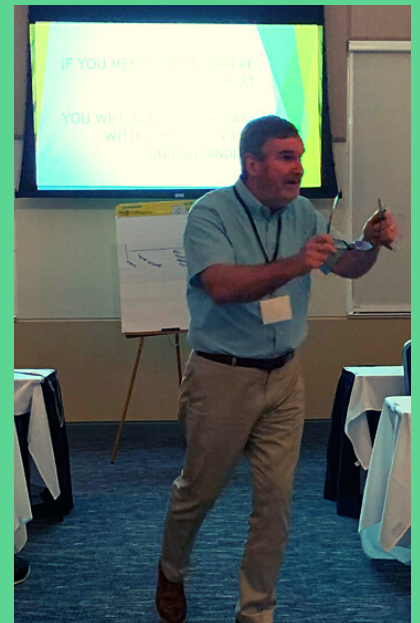
Coming Together

On October 10th our friends from Dmarxx Design hosted an awesome Sunday Fitness Funday at Winfield Street Coffee in Stamford with raffles and fitness classes with all proceeds going to Families in Recovery Program (FIRP)!



We were excited to be able to attend The Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR) Multiple Pathways of Recovery Conference: THE National Recovery Conference in January. It was a great week coming together with our colleagues throughout the Recovery Community to share and celebrate with each other.

Our Chief Recovery Officer, Maggie Young, served as the Keynote Speaker on Day 1 and CEO, John Hamilton, led a workshop on Meeting People Where They Are. Thank you to our friends at CCAR for safely bringing us together!



Increasing Harm Reduction

The Dept. of Justice Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) aims to reduce the impact of opioids, stimulants, and other substances on individuals and communities, including reducing overdose fatalities, and mitigating the impacts on crime victims by supporting comprehensive, collaborative initiatives. Liberation Programs has received funding in a collaboration with DMHAS and the McCall Center to partner with local police departments to increase connections to care for people with a substance use disorder (SUD) and create a cohesive, collaborative response to addiction among community partners.

Our innovative Harm Reduction work via our Mobile Wellness Vans and Medication Assisted Treatment were highlighted in a story by News12 Connecticut in December. Click the image below to see the story.



"Hopefully, one day, when they're ready for some help, they know our name, on a first name basis, our whole outreach team, they know our name so when they want help, we're there to help them. We don't care where you're at, when you want help, we'll come and get you, and we'll get you help."

-Outreach Coordinator Franklin McClain

50x

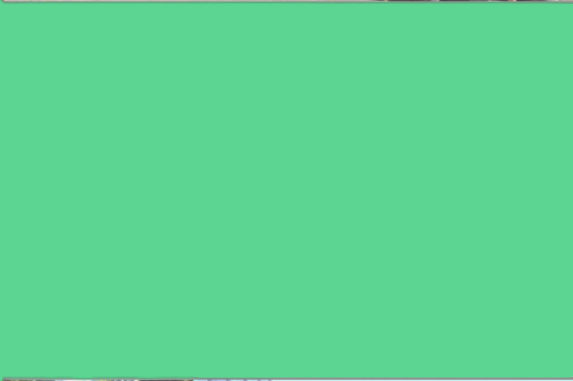
Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is about 50 times as potent as heroin

28.5%

increase in US drug overdose deaths in the 12-month period ending April 2021 (*compared to same period in 2020*)

A Year in Review

Highlights from our 50th Year



 **Liberation**
RECOVERY
FOR LIFE **Programs**
Since 1971

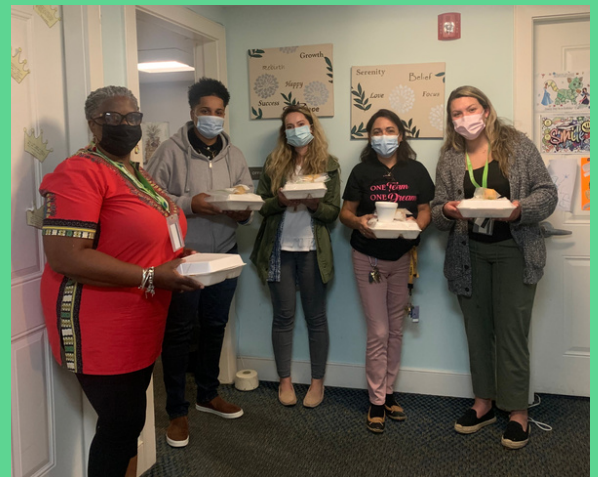
Spotlight on Recovery

A Gratitude Letter from a Recoveree

“My experience here at FIRP has been so pleasant. I came in as a broken spirited mother who had lost her way in this crazy world. I've grown so much in the past 90 days... I was able to stick it out from the help and support from the staff and Recoverees. This place has shown me many skills to help develop a "new me." I've done a lot of soul searching and through the many groups I've grown into a beautiful woman/mother. I'm proud to walk out these doors and to have accomplished so much here. I'm extremely grateful for this experience and will forever remember it with a smile on my face.”

Did You Know?

FIRP is the only inpatient treatment program for Pregnant and Parenting Women (PPW) in Fairfield County.



FIRP Staff celebrating Juneteenth

Raising Awareness

Prescription Drug Take Back Day

A majority of misused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet. Working with the Stamford Police Department for the DEA Medication Take Back Day, 620.5 lbs of unused and unwanted prescription medications were turned in and properly disposed of.



World AIDS Day

Annually, on December 1st, we recognize World AIDS Day. This year's theme was "END INEQUALITIES. END AIDS. END PANDEMICS."

We are pleased to once again join with our community at a luncheon to honor this important day. Liberation Programs offers Health Education and Specialized Services through the Ryan White Program for individuals living with HIV/AIDS.



In Memoriam

On October 15, 2021 we lost Michael Lee, Clinical Supervisor of Residential Services at Lib House. Mike was fixture at Liberation having worked with us for 24 years.

Mike embodied all the best qualities of Liberation Programs—hope, healing, and community—since he joined Liberation Programs on November 1, 1997 as House Manager at Liberation House. In his 24 years at Liberation Programs, Mike dedicated his entire self to the success of our Recoverees.

Whether he was advocating for self-care for staff so they could perform at their highest level or spending his time making sure Recoverees could focus entirely on their recovery journey, it is impossible to quantify the impact Mike had on the countless individuals he encountered. Mike laid the foundation for the success of so many.

We are lucky to have known Mike as he empowered us all to be the best versions of ourselves. He was a shoulder to lean on, a mentor for many, and a beacon of hope for our Recoverees. In celebration of his life and the thousands of lives he impacted, we have established the Michael Lee Scholarship Fund, a fund that will help Recoverees receive education and training to enter the behavioral health field, something Mike was very passionate about.



Thanking our Supporters

So many individuals and groups answered our call for support throughout the year and especially during the holidays.



The New Canaan Congregational Church was once again generous enough to provide Thanksgiving Dinner for the Recoverees at Lib House. We are so grateful for you!

Thank you to our recent Grant Makers!

First Congregational Church of Darien

Near and Far Aid

St. John's Community Foundation

Supporting Liberation

MAKE A DONATION

Monetary contributions can be made online or by calling our office. Cash, check, credit card, wire, money order and stocks are accepted

PLANNED GIVING

Consider a bequest or gift through your estate or name Liberation Programs as a beneficiary of a retirement plan or life insurance

IN KIND GIFTS

We accept donations of items including new clothing and bedding, electronics, home decor, groceries, books and more

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Volunteers can spend time with Recoverees, assist with Administrative tasks, host donation drives and more

SHOP WITH AMAZON SMILE

When you shop on Amazon, use AmazonSmile and choose Liberation Programs as your charity of choice - we will receive 0.5% back from your purchase



@LIBERATIONPROGRAMS

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn - like our pages, share our posts and even consider starting a Facebook fundraiser for us



To learn more about supporting Liberation, please contact our Development Department at development@liberationprograms.org

Staff Spotlight

Lib House Staff

Liberation House, our men's inpatient residential program, has a capacity to serve 65 individuals at a time and is staffed and occupied 24/7. We would like to highlight the tremendous work of the staff at Lib House who work tirelessly day and night to make sure the Recoverees are safe and cared for.

During the Pandemic, these individuals' commitments have not wavered and they have continuously shown up, even during outbreaks, to provide lifesaving treatment and programs. Thanks to their hard work, we have been able to quarantine Recoverees who test positive for COVID-19 while keeping them engaged in programs and active in their treatment plans.

It is because of this staff that we have been able to provide critical services at Lib House during the most difficult of times.

Ana, Anthony, Cindy, David P, Don, Douglas, Erik, Gonzalo, Jesse, Joseph, Karl, Kevin, Maggie, Malcolm, Manuel, Michelle, Miya, Mohammed, Polly, and Shalonta - you are truly Healthcare Heroes!

