

MASSACHUSETTS CLUBHOUSE COALI-

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES: WINTER/SPRING 2011

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CELEBRATING EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIPS: MEMBERS EARN OVER \$13 MILLION!

At its Fifteenth Annual Employment Celebration, on April 5, 2011, the Massachusetts Clubhouse Coalition will celebrate businesses that employ workers who have mental illness who receive support from Clubhouse employment and recovery centers. Over 1,950 Massachusetts Clubhouse members earned more than \$13 million in FY09, an increase of \$4.3 million above earnings in FY03. The Massachusetts Clubhouse Coalition (MCC) credits part of this remarkable success to its National Employment Expansion Project, a grant funded effort to increase employment opportunities for members, all of whom are recovering from the effects of mental illness. More than two thirds of Clubhouse employment is now Supported and Independent Employment. While Transitional Employment continues to be an option for those wanting additional support, such as absence coverage, the Clubhouse movement has embraced the evidenced based practice of Supported Employment.

Expanding Employment,
Raising Awareness
One Job, One Person at a Time



In the Mailroom at
Salem State College



Processing Shoes at
TJ Maxx



Senator Jennifer Flanagan, Co-Chair of Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse with members of MCC Employer Advisory Board at the 2010 Massachusetts Employment Celebration

U.S. CLUBHOUSES JOIN CONGRESSMEN TO SALUTE BUSINESS LEADERS

The National Employment Expansion Project, an initiative of the Massachusetts Clubhouse Coalition (MCC), is currently planning the third National Employment Celebration to be held in Washington D.C. in 2011. On March 24, 2009 the MCC held the second National Celebration which honored U.S. business leaders for their efforts to increase employment opportunities for citizens who are working to recover from mental illness. "What you are doing is important" Congressman Barney Frank told the employers, in front of an audience which included over 160 corporate and non-profit

"We need the effort that every single individual can put forward – and to the employers who recognize that, I am very grateful."
Congressman Barney Frank, Financial Services Committee, speaking at the Second National Employment Celebration on Capitol Hill.

employers, legislators, Clubhouse members, families and allies. "You are helping those you have employed to no longer be excluded."



MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATORS HONOR EMPLOYERS

MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY CELEBRATES CLUBHOUSE EMPLOYMENT

Over 300 legislators, employers, people recovering from the effects of mental illness, family members, advocates and state officials attended a Celebration at the MA State House on March 25, 2010, to recognize the companies who are doing an excellent job as employers of people who have disabilities.

Each of the 32 Clubhouse recovery centers selected an employer to be awarded and invited legislators to present the awards. According to the MCC's annual employment survey released at the event, this was the fourth year in a row that members earned over \$11 million dollars.

"Clubhouse Employment works! Employers recognized at this event truly appreciate the members they have hired and you could hear that in their testimony today" said Reva Stein, the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Clubhouse Coalition.

Massachusetts Secretary of Health and Human Services, JudyAnn Bigby, congratulated the employers and told the audience, "We know that Clubhouses not only help individuals recover, but they are part of our economic engine as well...The earning power of members shows that employers have tapped into a pool of talented, skillful, hardworking individuals who, overcoming the greatest odds, found their strengths as productive employees."



"There is one word that describes the experience of hiring Clubhouse members and that word is rewarding; it enriches my life and it enriches my employees' lives. It is great for our store." Scott Love, CVS Store manager and employer of Haverhill Clubhouse members, speaking to the audience at the 2010 Massachusetts Employment Celebration.

2010 Massachusetts Employer Award Recipients

<p>American Red Cross of Central MA - Worcester</p> <p>Cape Cod Times - Hyannis</p> <p>Catholic Charities Diocese of Worcester</p> <p>CVS - Plaistow, NH</p> <p>Department of Mental Health Western Massachusetts Area Office</p> <p>Dr. Peggy Sheets Audiology Manchester, NH</p> <p>Executive Office of Health and Human Services: Children, Youth and Families Boston</p> <p>Falmouth Beach Department</p> <p>Greater Lynn Senior Services</p>	<p>Hilton Garden Inn—Springfield</p> <p>HomeGoods - Norwell</p> <p>Lawrence Masonic Association</p> <p>Martha's Vineyard Times Vineyard Haven</p> <p>Metro-Boston Recovery Learning Community Boston Medical Center</p> <p>Pawtucket Red Sox - Pawtucket, RI</p> <p>Rima Enterprises, McDonald's - Lynn</p> <p>Riverside Community Care - Dedham</p> <p>ServiceNet - Greenfield</p> <p>Shaw's - Norwood</p>	<p>Steve Hilton - Newton</p> <p>Stop & Shop - Dennis</p> <p>Sturbridge Federated Church</p> <p>T.J. Maxx/Home Goods - Acton</p> <p>T.J. Maxx/Home Goods - Plymouth</p> <p>Target - Westborough</p> <p>The Big Brother Big Sister Foundation Woburn</p> <p>The Edinburg Center - Lexington</p> <p>The May Institute - Fall River</p> <p>Walgreen Store #6072 - Boston</p> <p>Westfield Bank - Westfield</p>
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EMPLOYERS HONORED AT STATEHOUSE

"For the past two years I have been employed at Walgreens. I feel good about working and being responsible. I take things one step at a time. Thank you to Walgreens for being a good employer."

William Wilson, employee of Walgreens Store #6072, Boston, member of Transitions of Boston Clubhouse, speaking to the audience at the 2010 Massachusetts Employment Celebration



CLUBHOUSE MEMBERS AND ADVOCATES RALLY TO PROTECT FUNDING

In January 2011, Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick released his budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2012 which included a \$3 million cut to Department of Mental Health (DMH) funded Massachusetts Clubhouses. This cut, which represents 17% of the funding for Clubhouse recovery centers statewide, poses a serious threat to thousands of people with mental illness who rely on these services for their well-being. Members, advocates, families and friends are protesting the proposed cuts, asking the Legislature to protect the funding. They plan to rally at the State House on March 1st and testify at the House Ways and Means Committee hearing on March 4th.

Flat funded for the past 15 years while serving 1,200 more people than they served six years ago, Clubhouse rehabilitation centers require an additional \$3.6 million, in order to effectively help their members to live successfully in the community as stable, employed community participants. Instead, Massachusetts Clubhouses have been faced with repeated threats to their funding in recent years.

On October 27, 2009, 800 Clubhouse members and advocates rallied in Boston to protest planned cuts to the DMH budget that threatened to eliminate Clubhouse funding entirely. The rally began at the DMH Central Office where members testified before marching to the State House to visit Governor Patrick and state legislators.

The group filled the hallways around the Governor's office and presented his constituent affairs staff with a letter urging the Governor to spare Clubhouses from the proposed cuts. Members then visited their legislators asking them to grant the Governor expanded "9C" emergency powers, so that Human Services would not receive the full brunt of the state budget cuts. In addition, seventy legislators signed onto a letter asking the Governor to spare Clubhouse budgets.

Two days after the rally, Governor Patrick announced that he was protecting Clubhouse funding as a way to protect services for those most vulnerable. Members were thrilled that their voices were heard. Now, members hope to stop the latest threat to their support system and safety net.



Clubhouse members and advocates rally at the Department of Mental Health in Boston.

CONGRESS SALUTES BUSINESS LEADERS *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

The National Employment Expansion Project is an effort organized by the Massachusetts Clubhouse Coalition with guidance from US Clubhouse employers, members and staff. The Project engaged 76 business leaders in an effort to increase employment opportunities for members of over 120 US Clubhouse recovery and employment centers. All of the centers involved in the effort have been certified by the International Center for Clubhouse Development (ICCD) for quality assurance purposes. In addition to holding employer recognition events, the Project produces tools to facilitate employment

expansion, such as employer reference letters and *"A Partnership that Works for You"*, a photo booklet of members working. The national effort helps to raise awareness about people who have mental illness and their accomplishments. The Project also conducts networking and educational forums for Clubhouse members and staff via conferences and statewide employment committee meetings. The Employment Expansion Project received significant support from the Sidney R. Baer Jr. Foundation.



Genesis Club Member
Running the Switchboard
Quinsigamond Community College
Worcester, Massachusetts



Laurel House Member
Managing the Information Center
Norwalk Maritime Aquarium
Norwalk, Connecticut



Magnolia House Member
Bagging at Checkout
Zagara's Marketplace
Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Clubhouses Awarded Federal Homeless Prevention Grants

There is no group at greater risk of homelessness than people recovering from serious and persistent mental illness and those with dual illnesses. In the Fall of 2009, two Massachusetts Clubhouses, Point After Club in Lawrence and Renaissance Club in Lowell, were awarded three-year grants from the federally funded Homelessness Prevention Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) funds to provide housing assistance to homeless individuals who have mental illness. Each Clubhouse provides rapid re-housing assistance to individuals who are homeless or are under threat of becoming homeless.

The MA Clubhouse community plays a significant role in helping to prevent homelessness for those with a psychiatric illness. Clubhouses provide a flexible and comprehensive array of services and are equipped to provide the supports that a person who is homeless often needs. Clubhouses can reach out to people where ever they are—in shelters, on the streets, in hospitals and in their homes. All MA Clubhouses provide employment, education and housing support as well as "case management services" to their members.

Eleven of the 32 MCC Clubhouses have funding specifically dedicated for their housing services (e.g. HUD/McKinney Homeless Grants, DMH Housing Support Grants etc.)

This program has given me my life back, allowing me to regain my independence and freedom. It is helping me to be well and stable." Member of Renaissance Club, Lowell MA, recipient of HPRP housing assistance.

The \$1.5 billion HPRP program was designated by Congress through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. HPRP funding was awarded to communities throughout the country. Point After Club received \$45,100 and Renaissance Club received \$55,000 to provide rental assistance, security and utility deposits, utility payments and moving costs. With this funding the two Clubhouses have been able to move quickly to help people in crisis with rapid re-housing assistance. In it's first 16 months the two clubhouses have helped 58 members to obtain permanent, independent housing.

For more information about the HPRP homeless assistance programs go to: www.massresources.org to find the lead agency that can direct you to the program in your community.

Dual Recovery in Massachusetts

Thirteen years ago MCC Clubhouse members and staff began searching for ways to help members who were struggling with addictions. Members discovered Dual Recovery Anonymous (DRA), a peer-led, twelve step fellowship that supports individuals recovering from mental illness and alcohol and/or other drug addictions and substance abuse issues. At that time there was only one DRA meeting in Massachusetts. The MCC requested and received funding from the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP), a managed care organization that oversees most Medicaid behavioral health services in the state. With this funding the MCC launched an effort to educate members and staff about DRA and Dual Recovery. Thanks to this Project, the MCC now:

- Supports the leaders of 36 DRA groups and substance awareness meetings in MA
- Holds monthly educational meetings for leaders, participants, and supporters
- Provides dual recovery education
- Provides technical assistance to strengthen and develop DRA groups
- Conducts outreach visits and phone calls to support Dual Recovery meetings
- Organizes an annual Dual Recovery Retreat

The MCC is very proud of the growth and work of the 36 DRA groups. Members and staff work side by side to support members in their recovery from mental illness and addictions. The DRA Retreat is for those members and staff taking leadership in their dual recovery meetings. The Retreat is an opportunity to train peer leaders, receive peer support and provide technical assistance to strengthen existing meetings and develop new ones. It also provides an opportunity to educate those who would like to provide support to this growing peer, 12 Step movement. On June 2-4, 2011 the MCC Dual Recovery Retreat will be held at Nichols College in Dudley, MA. Please contact the MCC at mccinfo.maclub@verizon.net for more information and Retreat Registration forms.

MCC and Work Without Limits

The University of Massachusetts Medical School's Work Without Limits Initiative awarded a contract to the Massachusetts Clubhouse Coalition to assist the cross disability employment effort to improve employment systems and outcomes. Work Without Limits is funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services through the MA Medicaid Infrastructure and Comprehensive Employment Opportunities grant. As a public-private partnership that brings together Massachusetts stakeholders, the Initiative seeks to maximize work opportunities for youth and adults with disabilities. The MCC is a member of the Work Without Limits Employer Engagement Team, sharing expertise developed while overseeing the National Employment Expansion Project. The MCC produced a guide for planning employer recognition events and is helping the Project in several of its employer and consumer engagement activities.

Member and Staff, Neponset River House, Norwood MA, Jeremy Scott, ServiceMaster, Inc. and Tim Burne, Aide to late Senator Edward Kennedy at the Second National Employment Celebration on Capitol Hill



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS

Association for Behavioral Healthcare
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Bose Foundation, Inc.
Bridgewell
Commonweal Foundation
Community Foundation for the National Capital Region
Community Healthlink
The Edinburg Center
Eliot Community Human Services
Fellowship Health Resources
Fountain House
Genesis Club
Human Resources Unlimited
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Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership
The May Institute
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of MA
NAMI
Cambridge Middlesex
Riverside Community Care
The TJX Foundation
Vinfen
Waltham West Suburban Chamber of Commerce

About the Massachusetts Clubhouse Coalition



The Massachusetts Clubhouse Coalition (MCC), is a non-profit organization whose membership includes over 16,000 people who have mental illness and the 32 employment and recovery centers called "Clubhouses" that serve them. Over 8,300 adults and young adults participate annually and help to run the centers. Operating as a clearinghouse of information, a provider of technical assistance, and a coordinator of resources, the MCC provides a forum for strategic planning and action. The MCC helps its member Clubhouses expand rehabilitative opportunities in employment, housing, education, health and mental health care while promoting the leadership of individuals who have disabilities. Membership in the MCC is awarded to MA Clubhouses (and their members and staff) once the Clubhouse achieves certification from the

International Center for Clubhouse Development (ICCD). The MCC serves as a model for Clubhouse Coalitions internationally and is overseeing the National Employment Expansion Project. The Project is a multi-faceted approach to expanding employment opportunities while raising awareness about mental illness. The MCC also provides support to the leadership of 36 Dual Recovery Anonymous meetings as a means to help members in their efforts to recover from psychiatric illness and addiction.



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