WHAT IS THE RWU COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS CENTER?

The Roger Williams University (RWU) Community Partnerships Center (CPC) provides project-based assistance to nonprofit organizations and government agencies in communities in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts. Our mission is to undertake and complete projects that will benefit the local community while providing RWU students with experience in real-world projects that deepen their academic experiences.

CPC projects draw upon students and faculty from RWU programs in areas such as:
- Accounting
- Architecture
- Business
- Communication
- Community Development
- Construction Management
- Digital Media
- Education
- Engineering
- Environmental science and sustainability
- Finance
- Graphic Design
- History & American Studies
- Historic preservation
- Justice studies
- Law
- Management
- Marketing
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Public Administration
- Public Relations
- Urban Design
- Visual Arts
- Web Development
- Writing Studies

The Center has completed projects ranging from; market research and planning, historical research, mill redevelopment feasibility studies, urban policy analysis, design projects for affordable housing and education facilities, community business district revitalization, neighborhood revitalization plans, museum exhibit design, historic building rehabilitation studies, social services research, website and graphic design, environmental sustainability planning, and survey development.

CPC project services are performed by students in support of their educational experience. Applicants shall understand that any deliverables generated through an accepted project are intended to provide conceptual information only to assist in design and planning and as such are not intended, nor should they be used for, construction or other project implementation. Professional and/or other services may be needed to ultimately implement a sponsor’s desired goals.

HOW CAN YOUR ORGANIZATION PARTNER WITH THE RWU CPC?

As we prepare for upcoming semesters, we are seeking new projects that can benefit local communities while providing our student/faculty teams with opportunities to apply their learning, engage the community, and create final products that provide benefits to all.

We hope that your organization considers applying for project assistance with the RWU Community Partnerships Center this year. The next deadline for applications for projects is March 3, 2014.

In order to ensure ample time for faculty to develop curriculum to engage students in community projects, the CPC has moved to a year-long application period. Applications submitted for this deadline may be considered for either of the two upcoming academic semesters. The CPC will hold another call for projects in September of 2014, should your organization need more preparation time. In order to assist organizations as they prepare their applications, we are happy to answer specific questions by e-mail or by phone. We look forward to working with you in the future and encourage you to contact us should you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Stephany Hessler
Phone: (401) 254-5211
E-mail: shessler@rwu.edu

Arnold Robinson
Phone: (401) 254-3307
E-mail: arobinson@rwu.edu

RWU Community Partnerships Center
Roger Williams University, One Old Ferry Road, Bristol, RI 02809-2921 | Website: http://cpc.rwu.edu
CALL FOR PROJECTS
Spring 2015 & Fall 2015

Application Deadline: August 4, 2014

Application for CPC Project Assistance

Instructions: We encourage non-profit organizations and municipal agencies to contact the CPC with ideas for projects that can benefit the community while providing meaningful service-learning for RWU students. Please fill out the Application for Project Assistance, answering all applicable questions and including all supporting documents.

In order for any project to be considered for assistance, completed applications must be submitted to CPC Project Coordinator, Stephany Hessler, by 5 pm on August 4, 2014. Applications may be submitted by:

Email: shessler@rwu.edu
Fax: (401) 254-3565
Mail: RWU Community Partnerships Center
Roger Williams University
One Old Ferry Road
Bristol, RI 02809-2921

Any questions regarding the application process can be directed to Stephany at (401) 254-5211.

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SECTION 1: Organization Information

Name of Organization: The Kent Center for Human and Organizational Development

Mailing Address: 2756 Post Road, Suite 104, Warwick, RI 02886

Name of Project Contact Person(s): Sarah Channing, MBA; Director of Development

Contact Information:

Phone: 401.738.1338 x335
E-mail: schanning@thekentcenter.org

Type of Organization

☐ Public (town, city, municipality, special district, government agency)
☒ Private (citizen, non-profit) 501(c)(3) not-for-profit
☐ Other (please explain)

Description of Organization and Mission:

The Kent Center is a comprehensive, community-based, behavioral healthcare provider dedicated to improving quality of life by delivering compassionate trauma-informed mental health, substance abuse, housing, educational, and primary care services.
On average, how many individuals does your organization serve per year?
Our dedicated staff serves over 4,000 Rhode Island residents each year.

How did you hear about the CPC?
The Kent Center’s President and CEO, David Lauterbach, was made aware of this project by Jessica Cigna, a Board Member of Riverwood Mental Health Services (a fellow community mental health center and Horizon Healthcare Partner).

SECTION 2: Project Description

Title of the Project: The Redesign and Relaunch of The Kent Center’s Website

Project Location: 2756 Post Road, Suite 104, Warwick, RI 02886

General Project Description:

Examine www.thekentcenter.org, define ways to create a more engaging environment for site visitors, and redesign the website to incorporate the new vision. Develop social media platforms in a Client Management System that can be easily accessed and maintained by authorized TKC personnel.

Potential Scope of Work/Tasks for RWU CPC:

1) Work with TKC’s Development Director to determine vision of new website.
2) Provide suggestions regarding CMS and architecture options.
3) Design Informational Architecture, including vital mainframes for homepage and interior layout as well as navigational architecture.
4) Create design comps for homepage and interior layouts.
5) Design implements such as tables, forms, surveys, and navigational states.
6) Install and configure a Content Management System with optional plugins.
7) Design and implement blog, social media feeds, user login, and media sharing capabilities.
8) Load content to site.
9) Test/ensure quality across browsers and fix any bugs.
10) Instruct TKC Website Administrators on how to add/delete content to site.

What will be the final product output for this project?

At the culmination of this project, the RWC Student will be able to add a beautifully designed, well-appointed, dynamic and engaging website to their portfolio of work.

Proposed Project Schedule (when the tasks/project needs to be completed):

A soft launch date of the website is scheduled for 30 April 2015.

Please provide the names and contact information for any staff members or volunteers who will be playing a primary role in the proposed CPC project.

The Kent Center’s Director of Development, Sarah Channing, will chair this project. She can be contacted at 401.738.1338 x 335 or schanning@thekentcenter.org.

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1 CPC project services are performed by students in support of their educational experience. Applicants shall understand that any deliverables generated through an accepted project are intended to provide conceptual information only to assist design and planning and as such are not intended, nor should they be used for, construction or other project implementation. Professional and/or other services may be needed to ultimately implement a sponsor’s desired goals.
What resources/previous work would the CPC be building upon that you already have completed? (Please select all items that are applicable)

☐ Strategic Plan
☑ Marketing & Communication Plans
☑ Additional organizational documents
☐ Preliminary photos of the site/project
☐ Maps
☐ Previous research
☑ Survey results
☐ Architectural or building plans

What active support would your organization be able to contribute should your project be selected?

☐ Funding
☐ Volunteers
☑ Staff time
☐ Consultants
☐ Other (please list)

SECTION 3: Project Outcomes

Please describe how this project will benefit your organization and the advancement of your mission:

Creating a fresh, engaging website will drive an increase in donations to our programs, provide our constituents with timely information, and serve as an effective communication platform for activities and events.

Please describe how this project might benefit the overall community, including specific groups that could benefit from this project (i.e. target populations, neighborhoods, specific town/city/region).

A new website will enable our development staff to present information about our programs and services to our clients in a timely manner, while creating an engaging community where donors, politicians, educators, and people with mental illness can access information on topics that are critical to mental health. The Kent Center’s clients come from all over Rhode Island, with the largest population from Kent County.

Please explain why you have chosen to seek assistance from the RWU CPC with your project request, instead of undertaking the project using fee-for-services from a paid professional:

The Kent Center would embrace the opportunity to partner with RWU CPC on this project due to the following reasons:

1) Our nonprofit organization has a very limited budget for communications and advertising.
2) TKC strongly promotes partnerships with higher education entities in Rhode Island.
3) This would be a win-win opportunity for CPC students and TKC Staff.
4) TKC’s Development Director possesses a lengthy history of working with student interns and will be able to provide consistent and timely feedback on this project.

Please describe how this project will benefit RWU students.

This project will benefit RWU students in the following ways:

1) This project serves as a tremendous opportunity for a student to practice the skills s/he has learned in the RWU educational environment.
2) The student will be provided with clear and concise direction on the goals for the website.
3) The student will be given opportunities to provide guidance and recommendations regarding the overall outcome of the site.

4) The student will be able to add a beautiful, well-appointed website to his/her portfolio of work, enabling the individual to qualify for future employment or a raise.

SECTION 4: Financial Information

What is your organization’s annual operating budget? Please include a copy of your most recent budget with the application. 

The Kent Center’s annual operating budget is approximately $14 Million.

What are your major sources of funding?

The Kent Center receives funds from federal and state grants, third-party billing, and donations.

How much funding from your annual operating budget is set aside for this project (if any)?

If we are unable to secure a student to assist us with this project, it is anticipated that we will need to raise $10,000 to implement a new website, all of which would be much better directed to our programs that assist individuals with mental illness or substance use issues.

SECTION 5: Private Sector Involvement

Have you or your organization discussed the project with practicing professionals (e.g. architect, engineer, planner, consultants, etc.)? No

If no, please explain why:

The Kent Center’s Development Director would prefer to partner with a student on this project as it is a win/win opportunity for both the student and our staff.

SECTION 6: Supporting Documents

Please include the following items when submitting your application:

- X Budget for the current fiscal year
- X List of current Board members
- X Copies of supporting resources identified in section 2 as needed to support your application

Kindly note: The Development Director is in the process of creating a marketing plan and conducting/analyzing surveys for this project. These documents will be available at the time a student commences working with The Kent Center. The most recent newsletter by The Kent Center, The Advocate, and a brochure has been included to provide some background on our programs and services.
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<td><strong>100 - The Kent Center</strong></td>
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THE KENT CENTER
Board of Directors
2013 - 2014

OFFICERS

CHAIR:
Mark Delaney
Term: 2012-2015
9 Whisper Lane
N. Kingstown, RI 02852
Wk: 886-2574 Fax: 886-2538
Cell: 263-1410
E-mail: mark.delaney@hexagonmetrology.com
VP and CFO

VICE CHAIR:
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12 Drake Road
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Graphic Designer

TREASURER:
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Fax: 884-0290, Cell 499-1747
E-mail: cbjorklund@gencorp-ins.com
Assistant Vice President

SECRETARY:
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Term: 2010-2013
21 Langham Road
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e-mail: lbgoldberg@cox.net
Housing Manager

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Susan Chiariello (03/23)
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E-mail:SAC188@aol.com
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HM: 508-252-1228
Cell: 401-64-6884
E-Mail: jirving@greenwoodcu.org
President/CEO - Greenwood
Credit Union

Michael Raspallo
Term: 2011-2014
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HM: 949-0115 Cell: 286-6231
E-Mail: mraspallo@cornerofficefinancial.com
Financial Planner

Dan Simpson
Term: 2010-2013
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1200 Bald Hill Road, Ste. 1
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Wk: 828-5767 Fax:826-8903
E-Mail: docdan@cox.net
Veterinarian

Robert Walker
Term: 2011-2014
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West Warwick, RI 02893
Wk: 732-0970 FAX: 738-7265
HM: 828-0609 Cell: N/A
E-Mail: robertwalker770@rocketmail.com
Hillsgrove House Member

Ronald Whitcomb
Term: 2012-1015
15 Spring Lake Road
Sterling, CT 06377
Wk VA:
Phone: 860-564-1561
E-Mail: towodi11@aol.com
Veteran

Revised 03/25/14
OUR VISION
The Kent Center is dedicated to improving the quality of life in our communities by promoting growth, mutual interdependence and recovery. Our programs focus on maximizing the strengths of individuals and systems, while minimizing the deficits. We strive to create an atmosphere where dignity, respect and equality are commonplace...thus enabling the fullness of the human potential to develop.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES
Community Connections
providing services while networking with others

Systems of Support
promoting a "systems" approach to service delivery

Strength Focus
mobilizing the strengths within us

Change and Growth
a constant in life is change itself

Dignity and Respect
what all people deserve at all times

Recovery
turning life experiences into growth opportunities

Courage
taking risks to improve one's life

Teamwork
fostering creative synergy for better outcomes

Continuous Improvement
maintaining a commitment to excellence

Nonviolence
fostering peaceful resolution of conflict

Trauma Informed
recognizing the significance of psychological trauma

CONTACT INFORMATION
For more information or to schedule a non-urgent appointment call
(401) 732-5656

If you need immediate help call our
24 Hour Emergency Services
(401) 738-4300

If you are hearing impaired
you can reach us through the
RI Relay for the Hearing Impaired
1-800-745-5559

Visit us on the web
www.thekentcenter.org

2756 Post Road, Suite 104
Warwick, RI 02886-3003

The Kent Center is a private, tax-exempt charitable organization. Make a donation and make a difference in people's lives. Call our Development Office at (401) 691-6000, x335 to learn how.

Thank you!
Since our founding in 1976, it has been our mission to improve the quality of life for individuals and families who face behavioral health challenges. Through an array of mental health, substance abuse and trauma-informed programs, and with the commitment of experienced and dedicated professionals, we are assisting people in their recovery. Our staff collaborates fully to ensure a holistic approach to care that treats the person, not the illness. Above all, The Kent Center is dedicated to effective, compassionate service in an atmosphere of dignity and respect.

Outpatient Counseling
All outpatient services begin with a comprehensive assessment that applies equal significance to potential issues of mental illness, substance abuse and trauma. Using this approach, our specially trained clinicians work in partnership with our clients to develop a treatment plan. The primary goal of outpatient services is to provide focused counseling that addresses agreed upon, measurable goals that will lead to recovery.

Services include:
• Individual, group & family counseling
• Drug and alcohol dependency treatment programs
• Evaluation and medication support from our accredited psychiatry team
• Programs for specific populations, i.e., veterans, victims of crime, victims of trauma, court referred clients, etc.

Community Support Services
The Kent Center’s Community Support Programs provide a coordinated system of care for adults with serious and persistent mental illness, enabling individuals to maintain psychiatric stability, a good quality of life in the community, and ultimately to achieve their own personal recovery.

Services include:
• Psychiatric, counseling and case management services, designed for each person’s needs
• On-going assessment, advocacy, daily living and vocational skills development
• 24 Hour Emergency Services
• Residential Services (group homes and supervised apartments)
• Hillsgrove House, a clubhouse model of service that provides social and vocational supports for adults
• Court Clinic, a court-based clinician evaluates behavioral health status of individuals who come before the court and recommends appropriate treatment and services, avoiding unnecessary incarceration.

Youth & Family Services
The Kent Center provides a full range of specialized services for children and youth who face emotional or behavioral health challenges, or who have experienced trauma. Our clinicians, case managers and psychiatrists apply a ‘family centered’ treatment approach, which views the entire family as the client. Treatment may be provided in a family’s home, school, other community setting, or at The Kent Center.

Services include:
• Psychiatric and counseling services, including intensive intervention and emergency services
• A specialized diagnosis and evaluation clinic addressing ADD/ADHD issues
• Family support such as in-home and office-based family therapy, parenting skills classes, and one-on-one parent aide services
• The Eleanor Briggs School: intensive clinical and educational services to assist students in grades K-12 to achieve academic and social success

Integrated Primary Care
The Kent Center provides primary care and wellness services to its behavioral health clients and the community at large through a practice called Primary Care Partners (PCP). PCP integrates primary care, behavioral healthcare and wellness for better health outcomes and patients’ overall quality of life.

Services include:
• Primary care medical services that address immediate health concerns, that manage chronic health issues, and that focus on prevention
• Nurse care management for Kent Center clients also receiving behavioral health services to ensure the integration of care
• Onsite wellness services, including one-on-one consultations
• Onsite pharmacy and laboratory

Other Services
The Kent Center is dedicated to improving the overall mental fitness of the communities it serves through a series of specialized programs, including:

Crisis Response Services
Our staff performs outreach to provide therapeutic services to businesses, schools, community organizations and individuals in the aftermath of a traumatic event, such as a fire, robbery, accident or suicide.

Housing Services
As a Federal ‘Housing Authority,’ The Kent Center administers a Mainstream Housing Choice Voucher program for people with disabilities and is also a certified sponsoring agency for Rhode Island Housing’s RoadHome rental assistance program. Additionally, the Center and its subsidiary companies develop, own and manage apartments and houses that are available for rent by Kent Center clients, as well as the general public.
From Fright to Flight:
A Teen Client of The Kent Center battles PTSD—and WINS!

Since she was eight years old, Courtney had bounced back and forth between several community mental health agencies in Rhode Island, never finding the support or guidance she required to develop into an emotionally balanced young girl.

On the first day she walked through The Kent Center's doors, Courtney carried with her a multitude of diagnoses, and an even lengthier list of psychiatric medications. At fourteen, she had already earned a reputation for being aggressive and volatile. She had amassed multiple school detentions and suspensions. And she had experienced her first psychiatric hospitalization.

Erika Cannon, a licensed mental health counselor at The Kent Center, worked by Courtney's side from day one. Erika's initial impression of Courtney was that of a combative, oppositional, reactive adolescent. But Erika also noticed unmistakable potential behind Courtney's guarded expressions and defensive posturing. She understood that Courtney's mental health issues were a very real barrier, holding her back from accessing the resources to excel in her life.

When asked what she remembers most about her first therapy session, Courtney vocalizes how surprised she was that instead of questioning her from behind paper and pen like all her previous therapists, Erika just listened, intently. Courtney and Erika developed a strong rapport with one another, and Courtney eventually felt safe enough to open up about her past experiences.

Erika, in time, gained a greater understanding of the factors that impacted Courtney's mood and behaviors. She was eventually able to assign an accurate diagnosis of PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), and reduce the medications Courtney had previously been prescribed.

Erika spent many sessions with Courtney's family. Initial meetings were especially intense as everyone worked hard to explore their roles, interactions, and patterns of communications, and learn how they had impacted Courtney.

PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) develops in 90% of sexually abused children, 77% of children who see a school shooting, and 35% who witness violence near their homes.

Erika promoted strategies for positive change repeatedly to Courtney, which they practiced together until they became second-nature to her. With time, many of the desired changes occurred, and Courtney was better equipped to accept and cope with those that did not.

Throughout this period, Courtney continued to struggle in school on both an academic and behavioral level. During her junior year, failing to see her own potential - and disheartened by the perceived lack of school support - Courtney chose to drop out of school.

Continued on page 7
A Message from TKC's CEO

To my fellow advocates of mental health:

It has been a volatile season filled with many peaks and valleys for The Kent Center, and for all community mental health organizations in Rhode Island.

This year, we lost a true champion for our cause when Board Member and dear friend Maria Gill passed away. Maria possessed a lifelong commitment of advocating for the rights of people with Serious Mental Illness. She is irreplaceable, and will be missed by all of us who were blessed to have known her.

Pick up any local paper and you will find letters to editors calling upon R.I. State Legislators to provide reprieve from the extensive budget cuts in our industry. This comes after 15 years of consecutive budget cuts by the state! Yet there has been a steady rise in unemployment, alcoholism, suicide attempts, drug use, emergency room visits, and incarcerations in our community.

Something has got to be done to change this critical situation. I urge you to verse yourself in the issues at hand, sign John's petition (page 4), and call your representatives to let them know how critical this issue is, not just for people with serious mental illness—but for our community as a whole.

Now let me share some recent successes. The Kent Center is now fully staffed in psychiatry, with Drs. Steven Karlin, Gerardo Andrulli, and Heather Abrahams rounding out our team.

Our Primary Care Partners practice has expanded, and continues to accept new patients. Physician Assistant Dian Cullion and Nurse Practitioner Joyce Simon have joined our team, and Dr. Martin Kerzer and Ms. Cullion have become certified in providing physicals for the Department of Transportation.

We have recently welcomed our new Chief Operating Officer Elisabeth Kormbee, who joins us from Cambridge, MA. This position combines the VP Clinical Services position and the VP Operations position to ensure smooth coordination of all TKC programs. Liz comes to us with many years of experience in both community mental health centers and community health organizations throughout New England.

I am also pleased to announce we have hired a new Director of Development, Sarah Channing, a Middletown native who has returned to her Rhode Island roots after twenty years of world travels. Sarah's background lies in human rights advocacy, and she chairs all fundraising, grant research, and communication efforts for TKC.

In April, we hosted a Trauma-Informed Care workshop where participants learned how trauma affects people developmentally, psychologically, and physiologically. The workshop was led by Joan Gillice of the National Center for Trauma Informed Care. Guest speakers included Brian R. Sims, a Staff Psychiatrist with Correctional Mental Health Services which serves inmates in 60+ Detention Centers, and motivational speaker Tonier Cain.

Swing into Spring was a tremendous success, with our first silent auction bringing in over $3,500 of the $31,000 raised at the event. See pages 7-9 for detailed information and many photos of the event.

The Kent Center participated in "May is Mental Health Month" both at the State House and by hosting a one mile walk at our own Eleanor Briggs School.

We have continued to develop our alliances with Horizon Healthcare Partners, the YMCA, RI Council/Drug & Alcohol Treatment Association of RI, Harbor House, Warwick 13, and more.

I hope you enjoy the new look of our newsletter, and the stories contained within these pages. Please find us on Facebook for event updates and photos of TKC activities. Have a great summer!

David S. Lauterbach, ACSW President & CEO
Community Mental Health Organizations in Crisis

To: John Howell,
Editor of the Warwick Beacon
Published: 10 June 2014

In the last five years, mental health and substance use disorder services funding was cut by $8.25 million in Rhode Island, while demand for these critical services has steadily increased by 30%.

This had led to significant cuts in programs and underpaid, over-worked clinicians have become stretched to their breaking points.

The proposed 2015 budget paints an even darker picture of what could lie ahead. If CNOM (Cost Not Otherwise Matchable) funding is eliminated, thousands of Rhode Islanders will be barred from accessing mental health services they desperately need.

This, coupled by a reduction in Medicaid health homes funding, is a recipe for disaster. One need only pick up The Beacon to learn of yet another tragedy that could have been prevented if the individual had received the help they required.

We must work together to create a safer Rhode Island. Please call your Representatives and Senators today, and ask them to ensure funding for vital mental health services is not further eroded.

DAVID S. LAUTERBACH, ACSW
PRESIDENT & CEO
THE KENT CENTER

"As someone who lives daily with schizophrenia, my basic ink to mental and physical health is my case manager and treatment team. They have enabled me to learn the skills necessary to survive in the community."

Carol T., NORTH PROVIDENCE

"I have had a case manager since I was diagnosed with bipolar, severe depression, and PTSD. I am very depressed about this matter."

Lynn S., WEST WARWICK

"I am someone who suffers from mental illness. Cutting out funding is not fair to the ones that truly need it. We can offer HOPE and SUPPORT and maybe (if we continue to receive services) we won’t have half as much people giving up on life."

Dawn R., WOONSOCKET
"If Rhode Island continues to leverage budget shortfalls on its most vulnerable constituents and on individuals and organizations that provide them with these critical services, the State will only endure greater costs in the long run, as clients end up in higher costing services such as inpatient psychiatric hospitals, emergency rooms, and residential placements."

Karin D., Pawtucket, RI

“We all deserve dignity regardless of available funds. Please make health coverage for the Mentally Ill an important issue to be solved.”

Julie G., Woonsocket, RI

“People with serious mental illness deserve the same amount of care and support as people with serious physical illnesses. Without them, they can easily end up homeless. With them, they can live and work in our community with a sense of purpose and meaning and safety. Would you deprive cancer patients of their support systems and treatment - I think not.”

Mary H., Cranston, RI

“Discrimination against mental illness must be addressed, restore the budget cuts and do not deprive Rhode Island citizens of important services that make a huge difference. Case Managers have been a proven benefit in fighting mental illness and helping support individuals with mental illness.”

Joseph B., Little Compton, RI

A Petition by John Walker

To be delivered to The Rhode Island State House, The Rhode Island State Senate, and Governor Lincoln Chafee upon receipt of 2,500 signatures.

My brother Bob is one of 52,000 Rhode Islanders who suffers from Serious Mental Illness. I've witnessed him struggle with schizophrenia since he was a teenager - and I've seen how much healthier and happier he is because of the services he receives from his community mental health center.

Due to recent State budget cuts, 1,000 people with Serious Mental Illness have been stripped of their case managers.

Case managers ensure their clients receive the medications, housing, clothing, and food that they require to thrive. Without such fundamental rights being met, those who are in the greatest of need, such as my brother, will suffer unnecessarily.

I believe we are obligated to help people with mental illness stay on their path towards wellness.
Due to R.I. State budget cuts, 1,000 people with Serious Mental Illness were recently stripped of their case managers. Deeply concerned by the inevitable future ramifications of this decision, one client’s brother launched the following petition to voice his concern.

I, and each person that signs this petition, believe people with mental illness should be provided every possible resource to become - and remain - healthy.

We understand what could happen when these individuals lose their support systems. And we are deeply concerned about how this will negatively impact our community as a whole.

Due to the recent loss of CNOM (Costs Not Otherwise Matchable) funding, 1,000 Rhode Islanders with Serious Mental Illness will no longer have access to their case managers. This will inevitably lead to increased rates of depression and anxiety, hospitalizations, and incarcerations.

By signing this petition, I am calling upon Governor Chafee and Rhode Island State Legislators to find a way to reinstate CNOM funding so we can help people with Serious Mental Illness continue to get the support they deserve.

Become an advocate for this critical cause by going to our website at www.thekentcenter.org and signing John’s petition. Take it a step further by contacting your State Senator and Representative.

“Behavioral health systems in the state of RI have been affected annually with cuts in funding since 2008. As a result, those who desperately depend on assistance for services are being affected and either go without or services are inadequate. Please make funding a priority so we can maintain appropriate services for some of our most vulnerable RI citizens.”

Victor S., Riverside, RI

“These recent funding cuts are affecting the most critically ill population in the state. This will only increase the Emergency Room and hospital admissions, costing the state more money that what was cut in funding. This is most certainly causing a public safety issue as well.”

Shawn S., East Providence, RI

“Morally it is wrong to abandon those in need, but on a purely economic level it really makes little sense. It will cost the state more money as the quality of these people with serious mental illness fall further down the ladder of life.”

Linda M., Wakefield, RI

“These cuts are absolutely appalling. It has already been a struggle to take care of the mentally ill in our state, with the CMHCs underfunded, and not enough beds in group homes and the state hospital. Now removing the underpinning from the CMHCs, the system is going to collapse. Reverse this terrible mistake before it’s too late.”

Heather H., Newport, RI

Meet John’s brother Bob. Diagnosed with schizophrenia when he was a teenager, Bob has been an active member of The Kent Center’s community for many years. He volunteers as a Board Member, advocates for people with serious mental illness, and is a Master Gardener at Hillsgrove House. He is pictured here with this summer’s crop of vegetables and herbs.
Despite Courtney’s stubbornness and continued refusal to go back to school, Erika worked collaboratively with the school’s administrators to develop a plan that would better accommodate Courtney’s academic and mental health needs should she decide to return.

When Erika was informed by school administrators that Courtney was at a 7th grade reading level, she sat with her while she read, helping her sound out words and encouraging more consistent reading habits.

Erika provided psycho-educational information to the school administration, explaining Courtney’s mental health diagnoses. She gave suggestions to the administrators and teachers so they could more effectively manage Courtney’s behaviors while encouraging her academic success.

During this time, Erika and Courtney discussed potential stressors that could occur during a school day, and worked on how Courtney could best manage her mood and behaviors if presented by these challenges. They rehearsed, role-played, and visually constructed the various scenarios that could trigger Courtney, ensuring that she felt confident in her ability to overcome her PTSD.

Courtney studied hard and completed assignments on time. She continued to develop her reading skills, and by the time she took the NECAP test, Courtney scored “proficient with distinction in reading”. In 2011, at the age of 20, with her family, teachers, and Erika Cannon in attendance, Courtney walked across the stage to receive her high school diploma.

Now, just weeks shy of her 23rd birthday, Courtney continues to excel both personally and academically. She successfully completed her general education classes at CCRI with a GPA of 3.0 and is pursuing a career in video and audio production at NE Tech.

Courtney and her family continue to stay in touch with Erika, having developed a rapport nine years ago that changed the course of life for that combative, reactive 14 year old girl. Courtney’s family is forever grateful to Erika Cannon and to The Kent Center’s dedicated team for believing in Courtney, and for helping her develop the skills and tools she needed to thrive.
Swinging into Spring - in Style!

On Saturday, April 26, The Kent Center raised over $31,000 in funds at its fourth annual Swing Into Spring Fundraising Dinner & Gala at The Crowne Plaza in Warwick. 180 guests, including the largest TKC staff turnout to date, enjoyed a delicious buffet while listening to the smooth sounds of Rhode Island’s favorite dance band, Brass Attack.

Kate’s own work of art raising $400!

Bob Walker, a longtime client of The Kent Center, shared his inspiring story of living with schizophrenia. He reminded us that when given the proper tools and support systems, people with serious mental illness will not only survive, but thrive!

This year, TKC hosted its first Silent Auction event, where over $35,000 was raised on generous contributions from local businesses such as Dave’s Marketplace, Koch Eye, Trinity Rep, Theatre by the Sea, Greater Providence YMCA, and 1661 Inn & Hotel Manisses.

Unique items included a Majestic Rollerball pen set handmade by HR Director Tom Powell, a crocheted blanket by Lynn Hassell, “The Wave” framed photograph by TKC’s own Caren Prideaux, and framed print “Beaver Tail Lighthouse” by local watercolorist Stephen Brunelli. Also featured were autographed books by Reeve Lindberg, Nathaniel Tripp, Ann Lauterbach, and John Grisham.

Several colorful paintings were contributed by members of Hillsgrove House’s Creative Occupational Unit. The paintings were created under the artistic direction of vocational technician Kate Paquin, who formerly led the Robert Street Artists. The paintings were the hit of the auction, with

After lots of dining and dancing, guests enjoyed a fabulous four-tiered cake featuring The Kent Center’s logo and musical instruments cast in fondant. It was a night to remember!

A special thanks to event sponsors, whose logos surround this page, Development Director Sarah Channing for chairing the event, and the following event committee volunteers:

Melissa Britto
Sue Chiariello
Charmane DiNardi
Larry Goldberg
Kate Paquin
Merrill Petty
Michael Raspallo
Tami Ringeling
Louise Rossi
Jump & Jive to R.I.'s Favorite Dance Band

BRASS ATTACK!

The Kent Center's 4th Annual Gala & Benefit Concert

SWING INTO SPRING!

Saturday, 26 April 2014
7:00-10:00 PM
The Crowne Plaza’s Garden Pavilion
801 Greenwich Avenue
Warwick, RI 02886
Mental Health Cuts Went Too Far

Published in the Providence Journal on 10 July 2014

For several decades, as a result of federal and state legislation, the Rhode Island budget has provided financial support to community mental-health centers (CMHCs). The handful of Rhode Island's regional CMHCs, in turn, are obligated to provide a safety net of essential services for the community, including residents with acute or long-term mental-health problems. The state's vision is that the agencies will provide these services without regard to an individual's insurance status.

Rhode Island gained national prominence when it went from “worst to nearly first” during the deinstitutionalization era, because of the development of community-based services at the CMHCs.

More recently, licensed and accredited mental-health organizations have been asked to respond to other mental-health needs among veterans, trauma survivors, the homeless, ex-offenders, parents of children in the child welfare system, and a seemingly constantly increasing group of applicants with addictive disorders.

Approximately 20 states are increasing mental-health funding recognizing the negative effect on services of several years of annual cuts in state support.

Rhode Island’s General Assembly and Executive Office of Health and Human Services have actually eliminated state funding altogether, while denying data and facts and ignoring the probable consequences.

They started a couple of years ago with agencies serving the developmentally disabled; they did it last year to agencies serving children and youth, and now it is the mental-health agencies’ turn to reduce services and state costs, despite the longer-term effect on quality and costs.

Six directors of state mental health offices, over a 40-year period, worked with the General Assembly and with nonprofit agencies to ensure that residents of Rhode Island had access to home and community-based care.

In Rhode Island, the Division of Behavioral Healthcare and the federal Center for Medicaid and Medicare recognized the numbers of uninsured and underinsured and established a 50:50 split between the state and federal governments.

Approximately 1,000 underinsured adults, plus hundreds of uninsured adults, got the same level of care as Medicaid enrollees, for the same kinds of very acute or severe behavioral-health problems.

The result has been a 30 percent increase statewide in persons served by mental health agencies, yet we are now challenged with a $10 million cut. Now, for the first time in decades, residents risk getting much less than they need, if they do not apply, qualify and get health insurance.

Romneycare, in Massachusetts, has proven that expanding health coverage reveals thousands of adults in need of substance-abuse and mental-health services. It also showed that Obamacare will not be a magic wand that eliminates the uninsured. People in need of mental-illness services often have not, will not or cannot apply for health insurance. CMHCs can help with health insurance enrollment, housing, employment and peer support, but the communities we serve have come to expect us to stabilize all residents referred by police departments, schools, the Department of Children, Youth and Families, health centers and emergency rooms.

Recent federal legislation reaffirms that such mental-health clinics are key safety-net providers, not just for troubled individuals but for the whole community.

Your elected officials and their appointees count on you not knowing or caring that decisions made in the FY 2015 state budget will turn CMHCs back to the 1970s.

We don’t want to go back to the old days of “Sorry, you’re not poor enough, you’re not sick enough, you’re not insured enough to get all the services you need.”

Remember the “budget balancers” when you read about a tragic encounter between a desperate family, a paranoid relative and a police officer. No good will come from intentionally eliminating all state funding for publicly supported mental health services for our most at-risk neighbors! Taxpayers count on community mental-health centers when there is a crisis.

We need some financial relief in order to support our everyday work trying to reduce crises in our communities.

Chris Stephens is President/CEO of Horizon Healthcare Partners, a network of community mental health centers including The Kent Center, Community Care Alliance, Newport County Community Mental Health Center, and Riverwood Mental Health Services.
To celebrate “May is Mental Health Month” TKC hosted a Walk to Mental Wellness at The Eleanor Briggs School. Students, Hillsgrove House Members, and TKC staff participated in the gentle one-mile walk on school grounds, followed by a healthy breakfast. Afterwards, Briggs Kids played with jump ropes, bubbles, and stress toys that were donated by USI Insurance.

In May, Senator Walaska presented TKC’s Development Director Sarah Channing and Hillsgrove House Members with a R.I. Senate Legislative Grant in the amount of $500.00. Walaska has been a longtime supporter of Hillsgrove’s Clubhouse Model, which promotes the concept of membership, a sense of belonging, and the right to self-determination. The grant funds will be used to purchase eight task chairs for Clubhouse Members to use during their work-ordered days.

In June, TKC’s Board retreated to Alton Jones Campus to review the past Fiscal Year. Ron Whitcomb unveiled “About Face”, stories of Veterans who battle posttraumatic stress disorder. Jean Hedge Gavigan presented her valuable insight to the Board. In the afternoon session, The Honorable Stephen Erickson, pictured above with Lauterbach, shared his lengthy history of advocating for people with mental illness.
I want to help people with mental illness SOAR!

Name: __________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________

City, State & ZIP: __________________________________

Email: ____________________________@_______________.com

Phone: ________________________________

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of $________. Keep my contribution anonymous. □

Please choose The Kent Center as your charity when you shop on smile.amazon.com

Kindly submit this form to TKC's Development Office, 2756 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02818.

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Kent Center