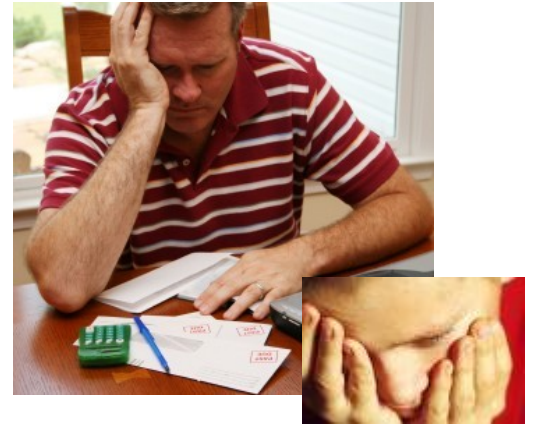


Client of the Month ~ Community of Hope

There is much stress that we carry within ourselves in today's life, whether it be from personal or professional issues. Each of us handles it in our own way, some turning to the wrong crutch, drugs or alcohol. Then, what do they do? Where do they turn?

There is someone who cares. One such 'someone' is the Community of Hope, located within the Pleasant Valley Community of Prayer building in Groton, CT. COH is a charitable, Christian-centered, non-profit organization, whose mission is to assist the recovering substance-abuser, after detoxing, and qualifying homeless people. The organization is designed to create and facilitate opportunities and resources that help to re-establish participants as productive, contributing members of their community and society.



In the past 5 1/2 years, the people at Pleasant Valley Community of Prayer and Praise have bused in, loved and ministered to thousands of people in Stonington Institute's program. Most move back to other areas after commencing their program there. But, many know that going back to the same areas and friends can result in relapse. In 2004, this fact prompted a group to seek a way to provide housing and continuing care for those who want to stay in the area. Thus, Community of Hope was formed, incorporated and gained tax-exempt status. COH currently has 3 counselors, and part-time office staff plus an active volunteer Board of Directors and many other volunteers who contribute to the ongoing success of the program.

In 2005, they became part of the Access to Recovery Federal Grant Program. This 3-year grant was to 'jump start' clients by supplying each with three months of counseling, case-management and housing, and part of the grant's purpose was to include Faith-based ministries. COH was credentialed with ATR in December 2005/January 2006. COH has had full freedom to use the Bible, prayer and faith in their ministry under ATR. COH also managed an ATR recovery living center for women for six months.

They were credentialed with ATR 11 in November, 2007. This grant, however, will cover only clients who are in the DCF Safe Program, on parole, or starting counseling within the first 30 days of being released from prison.

COH is totally dependent on donations and grants to support their entire program. They supply weekly counseling and some case management to each client. Their goal is to assign a personal mentor to each one. They are seeking to develop a computer training program to help them become more job marketable. They have three weekly Bible Centered 12-step programs, and also run two weekly self-development mentor and counselor training classes.

This non-profit organization relies on grants and donations to operate and fund their programs. Their most pressing need is funding for a recovery house for women.

Donations are welcome to the United Fund, designated to Community of Hope. Contact information is:

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860-446-1616, x12

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