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*Celebrating the Past:
Shaping the Future*
1959-2009



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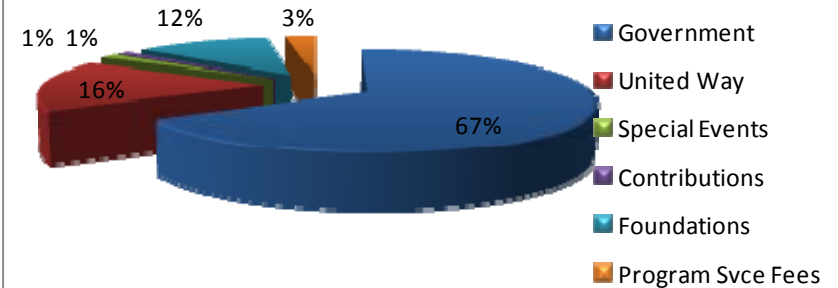
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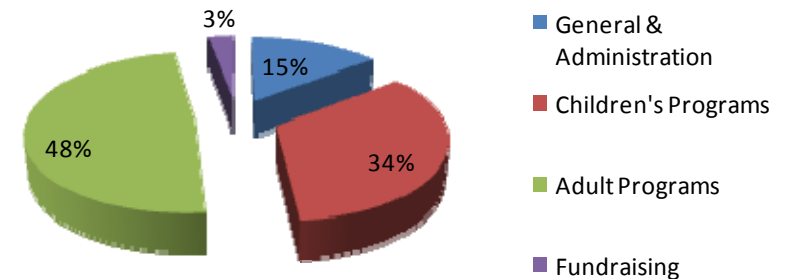
Mental Health America—Allegheny County provides programs and services that support the health of mind and body and works to eliminate the stigma of mental illness and addiction for all.

Statement of Financial Position

Support and Revenue



Expense



Mental Health America—Allegheny County is a tax exempt organization, declared tax exempt by the federal government (under Section 501 c 3) of the IRS Code). A copy of our official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling (toll free from within Pennsylvania) 800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. All donations to Mental Health America — Allegheny County are tax exempt to the full extent of the law.

Staff

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Celebrating the Past: Shaping the Future

A Joint Message from the Chairperson and the President & CEO

October 2008

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we approach our fiftieth birthday, next year, those of us who work volunteer or work for Mental Health America—Allegheny County are proud of our long history. Since 1959, there have been many, many volunteers and staff members who have worked with individuals affected by mental illness, human service providers and others to help improve the lives of thousands of adults, children and families.

Approximately one year ago, we decided that it was no longer appropriate to think of our organization as simply the Mental Health Association of Allegheny County. This change reflects the reality that our mission and beliefs far transcend Allegheny County, or even the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. As a result, we are now positioned as a leader among over 320 affiliated organizations, all dedicated to the belief that all people, regardless of the degree of their mental illness, addiction or disability are entitled to respect, dignity, and the opportunity to achieve their full life potential, free from the negative impacts of stigma or prejudice.

In order to turn our belief and mission into reality, our staff continues to work with thousands of consumers each year. The purpose of this report is to tell you about the results of their efforts. We hope you find it informative.

Finally, in closing, we thank you for your continuing support.

Sincerely,

Kristin DeAngelis *Brenda E. Lee*

Kristin DeAngelis, J.D.

Brenda E. Lee

Chair, Board of Directors

President and CEO

Mental Health America - Allegheny County is committed to the principle that mental health is an essential part of every person's health and well-being. MHA believes that the integration of mental health and general health care saves lives, facilitates quality care and services, reduces negative health outcomes (particularly for those with chronic illnesses or diseases, such as diabetes and cancer, who also have mental health needs), increases workplace health and productivity, and results in long term cost benefits to both the public and private sectors.

In 2009 we will begin our second half century educating the public, raising awareness on mental health issues, working to reduce stigma, and providing advocacy and support services to individuals, families, organizations, service providers, employers and policymakers.

We will do this through our core programs and services which include:

Systems Advocacy

Advocacy is at the heart of everything we do. Mental Health America—Allegheny County focuses its systems advocacy role and reputation on ensuring inclusionary policies that close the gap for populations like children, the elderly, the homeless, or those in the child welfare or juvenile justice system. Through our systems advocacy, Mental Health America—Allegheny County has been a strong voice for public policy and funding initiatives that support the promotion of mental health and wellness, consumer empowerment and family involvement at the local, state, and national level including:

- Mental health parity
- Transportation
- Housing

We will continue to promote health and wellness as a driving force for all of our activities in 2009. and work to reframe mental health in holistic terms, ensuring a strong link between mental health and general health.

Mental Health America—Allegheny County has always worked collaboratively and as part of coalitions within the mental health and broader health communities at the national, state, and local levels. In 2009, we will continue to work with other organizations to create a unified voice that addresses the diverse interests of the mental health community, and partner with diverse groups of stakeholders to move health care reforms forward.

Individual Advocacy

Mental Health America—Allegheny County's ***Adult Mental Health Advocacy*** Staff work with adults affected by a mental illness and/or substance-use disorder to ensure that their needs are being met in meaningful ways. Individuals are encouraged to have a voice in public policy through the ***Let Our Voices Be Heard Coalition*** and to focus on self-help, recovery and consumer empowerment through the ***Consumer Empowerment Emerging Leadership Institute***.

With the closure of Mayview State Hospital, Mental Health America—Allegheny County's Adult Mental Health Advocates have been an integral part of the community support team that works with individuals as they transition from the hospital to the community.

The ***Peer Educator Project for Older African American Adults*** is a collaboration between UPMC Advanced Center for Interventions Service Research and focuses on recruiting and training older adult volunteers to help their peers understand depression and increase access to treatment.

The ***Legal Services*** program provides free legal services to individuals receiving services through the public mental health system. Consultation and/or representation is provided on civil matters only including, debt reduction, landlord/tenant matters, spousal support, divorces, SSI/SSDI, and other areas.

The ***Child and Adolescent Education Advocacy Program*** works with families, school districts and community providers to make sure that the educational, emotional, behavioral and mental health needs of children are being met in the school setting. Education Advocates also work with parents in an effort to help them understand and be able to effectively navigate the educational and mental health systems.

The ***Early Intervention Program*** offers education, training, support and advocacy to daycare providers and the families they serve, on issues around the emotional and behavioral health of children between the ages of two and five.

The ***Juvenile Justice Program*** provides client's rights advocacy for students in two youth development centers (YDCs) —one in New Castle and one in Cresson. The Youth Advocates work to protect the rights of students, ensure that their grievances are addressed, conduct client's rights trainings and facilitate self-advocacy groups with the students. The Youth Advocates also work with students, families and community partners to provide a bridge between the YDCs and aftercare in an effort for students to have a successful transition back into their communities.