CEO CORNER

You may have seen our commercials or the banner on the side of the WRTA buses, or perhaps received our recent newsletter. “Help is Here” has become the tag line for Help Network of Northeast Ohio, but what does this mean?

The Help Network of Northeast Ohio staff, volunteers and Board take pride in the fact that Help is just a phone call, click or text away. When calling our agency, a person will speak to someone who is empathetic, willing to listen and trained in crisis intervention and suicide prevention. That same person has access to over 1,500 resources in our database that can help. Our interactive website provides access to resources and information, a help finder, along with educational materials surrounding suicide prevention.

This year we added our texting feature, which allows people to use their phones to find local food pantries. Beyond the 130,000+ calls that we answer each year, we also provide face-to-face services to over 700 people who are enrolled in our programs such as Guardianship, Representative Payeeship, Peer Centers, Homeless Outreach and Housing, to name a few.

Our vision has and will continue to be to strengthen each of our programs and continue to make them a valuable part of our continuum of care. We want to be an asset to the people we serve, our stakeholders and our funders. We want to continue to grow, not growing for the sake of growing, but to continue to expand services and take on new programs that would bring value to the community. We also want to continue to build our funding base, which includes attracting more funders, sponsors and donors to our agency. We must build value for what we do and show that we are an asset to the community, stakeholders and funders.

In conclusion I’d like to share an experience I had with a Mother of a son who recently died by suicide. I told her about all we do for the community. Her response was, “I wasn’t aware of all that you do, and I doubt my son knew, if he had known, would he still be here today?” I hope to never hear that again. We must continue to promote all we do and let everyone know, “Help is Here”.

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We must continue to promote all we do and let everyone know, ‘Help is Here’.

– Vince Brancaccio
CEO
Crisis Intervention/Suicide Prevention
160,063 calls were answered on the Hotline. Help Network is providing services to Mahoning, Columbiana, Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties, and is a partner of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and roll over line for Ohio. 13 staff are ASIST trained and 12 staff are trained in SAFE TALK. Both are best practices. 99.6% of the calls received were answered in 30 seconds or less.

211 Online Database
Our agency received 6792 online directory hits via the website which is a 21% increase. To access visit helpnetworkneo.org and click on the 211 link and gain access to the same resources our 24/7 crisis workers have in the phone room.

Intensive Guardianship
Help Network staff provides guardianship services to residents of the Tri-County area who are mentally ill or developmentally disabled for its contracted agencies. The agency provided Guardianship Services to 186 individuals in Mahoning, Columbiana and Trumbull Counties.

WarmLine/Peer Support
This Peer to Peer run program specializes in helping individuals who are lonely, depressed, and/or have drug and alcohol related problems. This is a Peer-Run service providing ongoing telephone support to Mental Health Consumers as they work towards their recovery. On average over 100 calls a month were answered on the WarmLine this past year. The calls are of a non-emergency nature but are supportive and helpful
to the caller. The WarmLine expanded to receive calls on Saturday during the fiscal year. Services now available Monday - Saturday.

**WRAP**
WRAP has been extensively studied and is now an evidence-based practice, listed in the National Registry of Evidence Based Programs and Practices. Mahoning/Trumbull County had 4 consumers registered to attend classes, with 4 graduating from the program. This is a 100% graduation rate. Wellness Recovery Action Project offers assistance in the development of skills to aid in recovery.

**Mental Health Prevention**
Help Network staff conducted 24 presentations reaching 37,610 adults/students. Staff also distributed over 14,000 brochures to groups at health fairs, trainings, and speeches in the community and schools.

**Suicide Prevention/Crisis Problem Solving**
In Fiscal Year 2018 Help Network made 28 presentations to 1845 people from various community groups, schools, universities, police departments, jails and clergy.

**Survivors of Suicide**
Sponsor and facilitate support group for families and friends of persons who have completed suicide. The 11th Annual Suicide Survivors Awareness Walk was held on April 28, 2018 for the Tri-County area and was attended by 20 survivors. The 19th Annual Mahoning/Trumbull Survivors of Suicide group and Loss Vigil were held on November 18, 2017 and
were attended by 20 survivors. Thirty-Six Survivors of Suicide support groups reached 77 survivors in Mahoning and Columbiana Counties.

Victims Assistance
Immediate crisis intervention and emergency linkage for victims of crime, including domestic violence and rape. 600 contacts were made to individuals surrounding advocacy, information, court accompaniment and support last year.

B.R.I.D.G.E.S. (Building Recovery of Individual Dreams and Goals through Education and Support)
Mahoning and Trumbull County had 21 consumers enrolled to attend classes and 21 graduated. This is a 100% graduation rate. This is a ten-week course for mental health consumers taught by mental health consumers. Participants learn how medications work on the brain, and most importantly learn about recovery.

Special Navigator for Families with Special Needs
A parent family specialist provides free guidance to help families with children who have mental health and/or special needs. Available to Mahoning and Trumbull County residents. A database of special needs resources has been developed and is regularly updated. This program is funded in Trumbull County by the United Way of Trumbull County, and Trumbull County Mental Health and Recovery Board and in Mahoning County by the Hine Memorial Fund of The Youngstown Foundation.

Senior Line
Information, referral and support services to individuals 55 and over.

Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (P.A.T.H.)
Conduct outreach in Mahoning and Trumbull Counties attempting to engage homeless individuals and guide them to support services.

Community Center
Located on the Northside of Youngstown, the facility serves as a drop-in center is for adult individuals with a mental illness. It also serves as home to the Mahoning County Housing Opportunities Program (M.C.H.O.P.) and Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (P.A.T.H.)
The Community Center is a vital key
within the community at large and especially within the Mental Health Community. The Center is for adults who have been diagnosed with a mental health disorder. The Center is able to help consumers open doors to recovery by providing peer support by focusing on Socialization, Emotional Support and Educational Opportunities.

**Peer Resource and Recovery Center**
We are pleased to announce the opening of Help Network’s Peer Resource and Recovery Center located in East Liverpool. This center provides groups and activities based on recovery for individuals with a severe and persistent mental illness and/or co-occurring disorder. There are activities throughout the day that are both educational and informative. The Center is open Monday through Friday from 10:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

**Mahoning County Housing Opportunities (M.C.H.O.P)**
Help Network of Northeast Ohio is the fiscal agent for the Mental Health system. This Fiscal Year Help Network’s Housing program served 16-18 individuals. We were able to serve 23 permanent supportive housing vouchers which allow very low-income families to choose and lease or purchase safe, decent, and affordable privately-owned rental housing.

**Payeeship**
As defined by the Social Security Administration, a representative payee receives Social Security and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments for beneficiaries who the Social Security Administration has considered to not be capable or managing or directing someone to manage their funds. Help Network provided approximately 300 Mental Health and Developmentally Disabled consumers with services through our Representative Payeeship Program. Each month $275,000.00 or $3.3 Million annually flows through our Payee office. The goal of this program is to assist in reducing the financial exploitation or self-mismanagement of funds and/or to assist the consumer to manage their own funds and become their own payee. Help Network works closely with our local Social Security Agency.

**Mahoning Valley Dispute Resolution Service**
Our goal is to reduce the level of community conflict by mediating civil and interpersonal dispute. Providing mediation services and economical alternative to traditional dispute resolution institutions, such as police departments, prosecutors and the courts. We also provide training, workshops and educational programs for students, business, nonprofit agencies, civic groups and interested persons in conflict management and dispute resolution.
Our 9th Annual Golf Outing was held May 25, 2018 at Knoll Run Golf Course. The outing was a success, with 130 participants who helped raise money for our agency and also enjoyed Memorial Day weekend fun. A special thank you to our Corporate Sponsors the Mercy Health Foundation and the DeBartolo Corporation for stepping up year after year. Thank you to Todd Franco, the Youngstown Vindicator and Coors Light for choosing Help Network as one of the Greatest Scramble qualifiers and donating merchandise. See you all Friday, May 31, 2019 at Knoll Run. Thank you all for your loyalty!

- AFL-CIO Community Services
- Alta Care Group
- Alpine Springs Rehabilitation and Recovery
- Attorney Brian J. Macala
- Attorney James Rafoth, Beard Investment Services
- Belmont Pines Hospital
- Brandywine Apartments
- Catholic Charities
- Ceglia and Associates, LLC
- Coleman Professional Services
- Compco Industries
- Community Counseling Center of Ashtabula
- Compass Family and Community Services
- D.C. Wellness
- Executive Computer Management Solutions Inc.
- First Energy Corporation
- Friedman and Rummell LPA
- Gasser Chair Company
- Haf-Hil Pest Control
- Home Savings and Loan
- Huntington Bank
- InstaCopy Printing
- Knoll Run Golf Course
- Lewis Construction
- LightGov
- M. Frank Beck, DDS
- Meridian Healthcare
- Neil Kennedy Recovery Centers
- Paige and Byrnes Insurance
- Peg and Gary Marinelli Endowment Fund
- Poly Mechanix, LLC
- Scott Seiple State Farm Insurance Agency Incorporated
- SeibertKeck Insurance
- Stone Wealth Management
- Strollo Architects
- United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley
- Valley Counseling Services
- Western Reserve Building Trades
- York Mahoning Mechanical
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Our second Annual Fundraiser was another great success; Start Spreading the News, An Evening with Frank Sinatra, performed by Angelo Babbaro was held at Packard Music Hall on April 12, 2018 and attended by 250 people. A big Thank You to all of the sponsors who stepped up to help put this event on, without your support this would not be possible:

- Mercy Health Foundation Mahoning Valley
- DCW Group
- Executive Computer Management Solutions
- Gasser Chair
- One Health Ohio
- Compass Family and Community Services
- Ohio Capital Corporation
- CCA Rehabilitation
- Eastern Gateway Community College
- First National Bank
- Beatitude House
- Valley Counseling Services
- Coleman Professional Services

- Someplace Safe
- InstaCopy Printing
- Guy G. Latessa, CLU
- Comprehensive Psychiatry Group, Inc.
- Catholic Charities Regional Agency
- DeSalvo Construction
- United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley
- Stone Wealth Management
- Paige & Byrnes Insurance
- Community Counseling Center
- Lewis Construction
- Siffrin
- Eguardianship
- S.M.A.R.T.S.
- Potential Development
- Peg’s Foundation
- The Centofanti Center
FUNDERS BY SERVICE

Information and Referral
• Area Agency on Aging 11, Inc.
• Columbiana Mental Health & Recovery Services Board
• Mahoning County Mental Health & Recovery Board
• State Of Ohio Office Of Attorney General
• Trumbull County Mental Health & Recovery Board
• United Way of Trumbull County
• Youngstown Mahoning Valley United Way

Mental Health Education
• Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board

Prevention
• Columbiana County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board
• Emergency Food and Shelter Program
• Hine Memorial Fund
• Mahoning County Mental Health & Recovery Board
• Peg’s Foundation
• Trumbull County Mental Health & Recovery Board
• Youngstown Mahoning Valley United Way
• United Way of Trumbull County
• The Raymond John Wean Foundation

Hotline
• Ashtabula County Mental Health And Recovery Services Board
• Columbiana County Mental Health And Recovery Services Board
• Episcopal Community Services Foundation
• Mahoning County Mental Health & Recovery Board
• Peg’s Foundation
• National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
• State Of Ohio Office of Attorney General
• Frances and Lillian Schermer Charitable Trusts

Housing
• City Of Youngstown Community Development Agency
• U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
• Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board

Recovery
• Peg’s Foundation
• Trumbull County Mental Health and Recovery Board
• Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board

Warmline
• Columbiana County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board
• Mahoning County Mental Health And Recovery Board
• Peg’s Foundation
• Trumbull County Mental Health And Recovery Board

Homeless Outreach
• U.S. Department Of Health And Human Services

Community Center
• Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board

Columbiana County Peer Resource & Recovery Center
• Columbiana County Mental Health & Recovery Board
• Peg’s Foundation

PEER Resource and Recovery Center
• Columbiana Mental Health and Recovery Services Board
• Peg’s Foundation
2017 FISCAL REPORTS

HNNEO Expenses
- Call Center
- Admin
- Community Center
- Peer Support
- Homeless Outreach
- Prevention
- Guardianship
- Housing
- Payeeship
- Recovery
- Warmline
- Peer Resource & Recovery Center
- MVDRS

HNNEO Income
- State Grants and Levies
- Title XX
- Donations
- Other Fees
- Federal Funding
- Contract Income
- Other Revenues
- United Way
- Other Grants

HNNEO PERSONNEL

HNNEO Board of Directors
- Sharon A. Stringer, PHD, President
- Atty. Brian J. Macala, Vice President
- The Rev. Gayle Catinella, Secretary
- Robert Gardner, Treasurer
- Nikola (Nick) Ceglia
- Wayna Hightower
- Crystal Jones
- Cindy Michael
- Evelyn Mihin
- Chrysann Mitzel
- Meachael (Mickey) Smith
- Darren Thornton
- Kenneth M. Tkatch
- Gary R. Walker, PHD
- Atty. John Ams
- Deatrice Traylor

Executive Staff
- Chief Executive Officer: Vince Brancaccio, MSSA, LISW-S
- Associate Executive Director: Catherine R. Grizinski, M.Ed., L.S.W., C.I.R.S.
- Chief Operating Officer: Todd A. Marian, M.B.A.
- Chief Financial Officer: Dean Wennerstrom, C.P.A.
- Director of Housing and Supportive Services: Lee Devita
- Director Mahoning Valley Dispute Resolution Services: Mark Luke
Mission Statement

Improving lives by providing immediate comprehensive services to support and connect people with community resources.