



Common Ground

helping people move from crisis to hope

2015-2016

ANNUAL REPORT



From Our CEO

Hello Friends,

Welcome to the 2016 Common Ground Annual Report. This is my first annual report as President and CEO. We have had an amazing year and I hope after reading this report that you agree with our results and support our plans moving forward.

We have accomplished much in the past year including being named one of six organizations in the country to receive a grant from the Department of Justice to combat human trafficking and the associated fall out. In addition, we moved our runaway and homeless youth programs to Hendrie Boulevard in Royal Oak to a bigger and newly renovated facility. We also celebrated our 45th anniversary this year. Current and former staff and volunteers gathered at the Village Club to enjoy a meal and reminisce. The year was also a success from a financial perspective. We met both our revenue and expense goals.

Looking ahead there is still much to do and we need your help. We want to enhance our chat/text service to be available 24/7. We currently offer the service from 4pm – 10 pm Monday through Friday. Last year we received almost 3,000 text/chat communications. We believe expanding the hours will be particularly effective among our youngest in crisis. This expansion will cost approximately \$120,000 a year.

We would also like to expand our OCIRT (Oakland Crisis Intervention & Recovery Team) 24/7. This is our mobile unit, visiting people in their homes for follow up, picking them up from area hospitals or for onsite intervention if they are unable to make it to our facility. The program currently operates 12 hours each day and would require an additional \$400,000.

We have also been talking about the needs of our entire community. We have been exploring the need to expand our presence in the southern part of the county. Our most critical constituents may not be able to travel to our Pontiac location. We want to be where we are needed, when we are needed.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Kay White and entire Board of Trustees for Common Ground. Their engagement, support and faith have made 2016 a success and they have helped me grow as a CEO.



Heather Rae

President / Chief Executive Officer



Heather Rae

Chief Executive Officer



Kay White

Board Chair



Doug Wright

Chair Elect

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In Memoriam

Common Ground remembers our beloved volunteers and staff that have passed on.

Their dedication to the work and mission of Common Ground will never be forgotten.

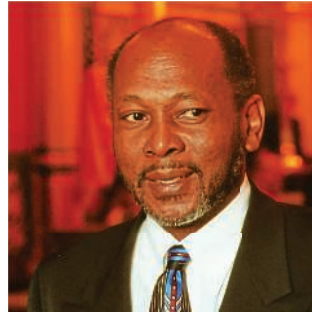
They will forever be in our hearts, as we continue to serve the community that brought them to us.



Joseph Boone



Sara Hasenmueller-Weinberg



Hubert Price



Renee Smith

2015 - 2016 Financials

People Served

Responded to **57,821** Crisis Calls

Conducted **6,725** Emergency Cases

Serviced **1,281** People Through Mobile Services

Community Outreach

72 Events Conducted

581 People Informed

Revenue	Dollars	Percentage
Government Grants & Contracts	\$11,585,003	89.75%
Public Support	\$653,574	5.06%
Business Income	\$226,221	1.75%
Volunteer & In Kind Support	\$443,360	3.43%
Total	\$12,908,158	100.00%
Expenses	Dollars	Percentage
Responding to Crisis	\$7,953,469	61.62%
Providing Safety and Advocacy	\$3,374,837	26.14%
Community Outreach	\$81,033	0.63%
Management and General	\$1,079,532	8.36%
Fundraising	\$189,327	1.47%
Increase in Net Assests	\$229,960	1.78%
Total	\$12,908,158	100.00%

The 45th Anniversary

Staff and volunteers celebrated Common Ground's 45th Anniversary at the Village Club. The gathering featured good food and a retrospective video of our history, but the highlight was catching up with old friends.



Sanctuary Grand Opening

The Sanctuary's grand opening was celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 2, 2016. Staff, volunteers, supporters and neighbors came out to celebrate the occasion and tour the new youth home.



COMMON GROUND'S IMPACT

90 cents of every \$1 goes directly towards servicing our community

Jail Diversion

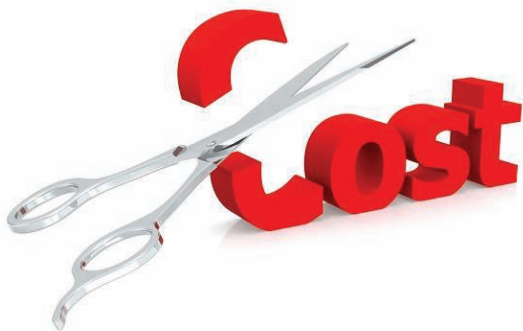
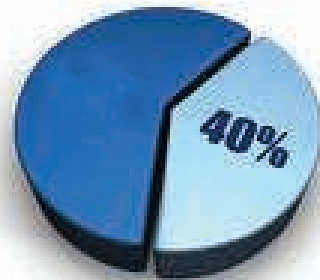
40%

of adults with mental illness are arrested at some point in their lives for non-violent crimes. In 2015, 431 people were taken to Common Ground, and referred for treatment, rather than sent to jail. The average cost of incarcerating someone is

\$11,748

Through jail diversion, Common Ground saved Oakland County

\$5 Million



Improving Outcomes

Common Ground treated

3,850

people for mental health and crisis issues. This would have cost Oakland County taxpayers more than

\$5.3 Million

if they had been seen in an emergency room.

COMBATING CRISIS

Emergency Department Boarding

The average wait time for psychiatric patients in emergency rooms ranges between

8 and 34 hours!

people needing treatment can access Common Ground's many Crisis Services directly, bypassing the hospital all together.

Over 3,500

people were able to receive crisis services at Common Ground instead of Emergency Departments, last year.



Reducing Distress

Common Ground receives more than

50,000

calls, texts and chats, each year to its Resource and Crisis Helpline.

83%

reported measurable improvement by the end of the call!



Living Through Testimony

SARA MAJOROS



HER STORY

Six years ago, Sara began working at Common Ground, as a volunteer. 10 years before that, she lost her brother David to suicide. It wasn't just David's death that brought her to volunteer; rather, it was coping with the loss, and realizing the importance of talking about personal issues that brought her to Common Ground.

Her brother had attempted suicide at 16-years-old, and completed suicide at 33-years-old. Unfortunately, in the 70's and 80's, there weren't many resources or support groups for suicide or mental-health. "...the way we dealt with issues, was by sweeping them under the rug," she said. His death really opened my eyes to how important it is to talk about these things," she said.

It wasn't until she began to really speak up about suicide, that she realized her passion, "I had a lot of heavy things going on in my community, and the more I spoke on the topic of suicide, the better I felt," she said, "I was in the mix, talking about everything—it was kind of amazing!" Her brother's death ultimately brought her to Common Ground, but for Sara, it was more than trying to remember him, "I wanted to turn the saddest thing in my life, into the best thing in my life."

AT COMMON GROUND

Sara wasn't sure how things would be, working at the Crisis Helpline, which offers crisis support through phone, online-chat and text. But she's glad that she took that initial step, "I thought to myself, 'is every call going to be a suicide call?'," she said, "But I've talked to people about so many different things." According to Sara, people tend to call about different types of crises such as abusive relationships, homelessness, concern for a family member, loneliness, and loss.

When it comes to the online-chat and text, things can be a little different, "The person reaching out via text can be afraid, but they're completely safe: you don't have to reveal your name, nor do you have to speak. It really gives you the freedom to let it out," she said. "I chatted with a girl, one night, and she made me think of myself. I could empathize with how she felt and what she was going through," she said, "The most important thing that we do is listen, and help empower people by reflecting feelings of understanding... It's important for people to be heard."

AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT

Sara never thought she'd grow to be so open to talking about suicide, "...Every week I'm asking someone if they're thinking about suicide—I would have never had the courage to ask my brother that," she said. After her brother's first attempt at suicide, she never checked with him and asked, "what's going on" or "what's wrong", "I said maybe a sentence to him, I had no idea how to handle that kind of thing. I went back to college and just kind of hid out with that secret," she said.

The truth was that she didn't know what to feel or how to respond, and aside from the lack of discussion with her family, she had no experience or education on how to deal with mental health issues, "We didn't talk about mental health in high school, or any time in the 80's," she said. She's been inspired to promote education and change within her own community. Sara is a founding member of FarmingtonSafe, a taskforce in Farmington, that brings the topic of suicide and mental health to her community.

2015 - 2016 Volunteers

Lisa Abed
Kassandra Abouzeid
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Fadowa Akram
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Carly Bastow
Ellen Bean
Michele Berry
Nikita Bhatnagar
Lamia Boady
Mary Bonds
Melissa Bouchard
Gabiella Boufford
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Layla Habhab
Meghan Haley
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Nicholas Hall
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Yomna Hassaballa
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Nathan Hayrynen
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Rasheda Huguley
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Ashley Jenkins
Vanna Jones
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Common Ground is thankful for our Legacy Society Donors and the contributions that they have made. The generosity of these individuals and organizations have helped Common Ground carry out our mission of helping people move from crisis to hope.

Membership in the Legacy Society begins with a pledge of \$500 for five years. Donors can become Leaders by donating \$1,000 for five years, Partners by donating \$5,000 for five years, and Benefactors by donating \$10,000 for five years.

To become a member of the Legacy Society, contact us at 248 451-3730.

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