



8,631 Rides Provided

The combined efforts of all partners resulted in 8,631 rides provided by Hope on Wheels in 2023.



354,300 Miles Driven

The community impact in terms of distance covered by Hope on Wheels amounted to 354,300 miles.



3,724 Recovery Support Rides

3,724 rides were recovery-related, emphasizing the program's dedication to supporting individuals in recovery from addiction.



7,102 Rides to Medical Appointments

We provided 7,102 rides for Ohio residents to access critical health services in our community through Medicaid.



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Hope Town, Inc.

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www.HopeTownOhio.org

Dear Community Partners:

We are a grateful, mission-driven, solution-focused team at Hope Town. This has been a dream for many years, and seeing it manifest gives us meaning and purpose and produces life-saving results for many in our community.

Addiction has had a devastating effect socially and economically and repeats (and sometimes worsens) generationally. Hope Town provides vital services and resources that support the person, their families, all treatment providers, and the criminal justice system. For decades, addiction was treated clinically mainly because there weren't the resources packaged in a way to navigate all the other parts of life comprehensively. Hope Town's services help improve clinical treatment results and provide the support to have lasting change. In turn, it can lessen the financial burden on the community as they return to becoming a productive member of their families and our society.

Hope Town is positioned to help more people in 2024 and beyond. We are focused on developing these "gap" services and have already made a significant impact. I'm incredibly proud, especially of the dynamic services that we have launched to complement our primary recovery housing service. "This is not your typical "sober house". This dynamic level of care produces life-changing results for families where we live.

Sincerely,

Ted St. John



Hope Town is a member of the Mental Health & Recovery Board as a contractor provider. OhioMHAS values and depends on successful partnerships with community agencies, organizations, and boards. Partners are needed to provide the continuum of care to Ohioans, helping people where they are. Community partners play a vital role in mental health and addiction services.

Ohio has a county-operated, state-supervised behavioral health system comprising behavioral health authorities and boards. These boards plan, evaluate, and fund local mental health and addiction services and contract with various providers for their community members' prevention, treatment, and recovery support.

www.mha.ohio.gov



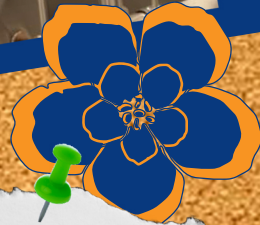
Ohio Recovery Housing is an alliance of individuals and organizations operating quality recovery housing in Ohio.

Ohio Recovery Housing (ORH) is a state affiliate of the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR). As such, ORH creates and maintains standards of excellence for recovery housing in Ohio that meet the expectations of NARR through a peer review certification process.

Additionally, Ohio Recovery Housing provides training, technical assistance, and tools to assist recovery housing operators in advancing their understanding and practice of a quality recovery home.

www.ohiorecoveryhousing.org

HOPE



WE DO RECOVER

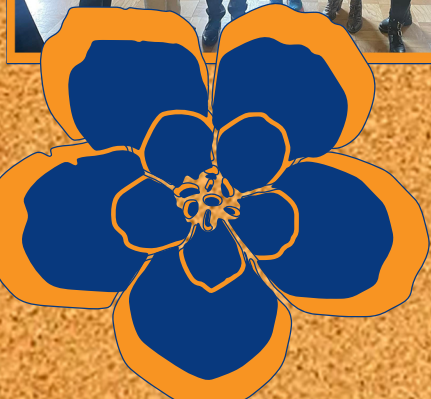


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Visit Us Online:
HopeTownOhio.org

TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Strategic Highlights

Hope Town is positioned to bridge critical service gaps in Portage County. Our services improve outcomes for adults with addiction. Hope Town is a respected organization with a reputation for quality, innovation, grit, and goodwill. We have a diversified revenue system that supports stability and growth.

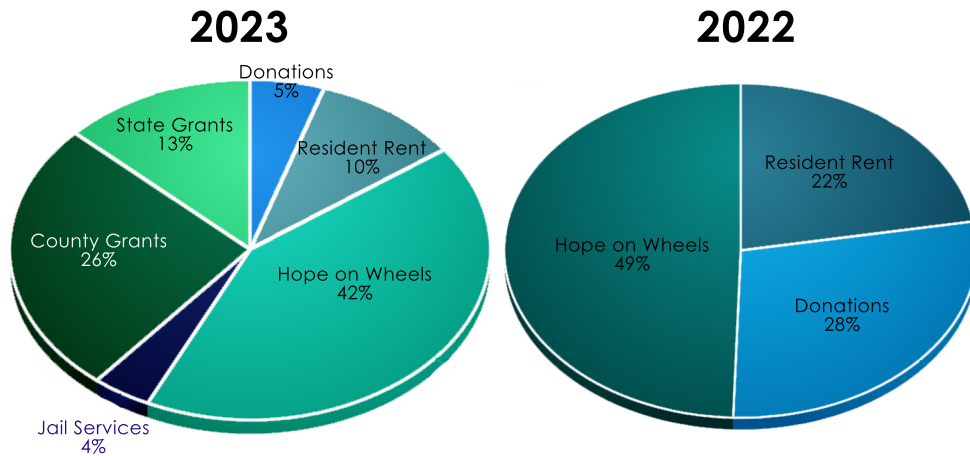
Financial Stability & Growth

In 2022, our revenue was \$300,000. 49% of our revenue came from Hope on Wheels, 28% from community donations, and 22% from recovery housing residents. Our income from Hope on Wheels has bolstered our financial position.

2023 & Beyond - Diverse Revenue Streams

- In 2023, we've diversified our financial structure, ensuring stability and growth opportunities. We are grateful for the annual state allocation of \$150,000 from OhioMHAS and \$150,000 from a county grant through the Mental Health & Recovery Board.
- Long-term partnerships, like the ten-year \$25,000 per year county grant and the five-year contract with the Portage County Jail, have added to our financial sustainability and improved our ability to serve the community effectively.

Revenue Sources



Our Board ensures the 501c3 organization is financially, legally and ethically sound.



Tim Schaffner, Board President



Rose DeRoia, Treasurer



Donna Duff, Secretary



Marilyn Sessions, Member



Mike Fuchs, Member

LEADERSHIP



Meet Shelley

Shelley Goff
Event Coordinator / Female House Coordinator

She received her CDCA certification from the state of Ohio. At 55, she returned to college and is attending Kent State Trumbull branch, seeking all addiction, recovery, and behavioral health classes.

Shelley was born and raised most of her life in Warren, Ohio. When she remarried, she moved to Columbus and then Ocean City. She is a mother to three children and a grandmother.

She spent 40 years in the healthcare field doing medical insurance billing and then, in the fall of 2022, became a part of Hope Town. She knows firsthand the effects of alcohol and substance abuse and the destruction it does to the family.

For 35 years, her brother, Mark, struggled with alcohol and substance abuse, which ended up taking his life in October 2022. The years of ups and downs with his struggles to remain in recovery were hard on the entire family.

Meet Brian



Brian Norsen
House Manager / Operations Coordinator

Brian came to us for help in late 2022 and quickly proved himself invaluable to the Hope Town mission. From the day he arrived, he proved himself as a person with a tenacious work ethic and adapted to thrive in our system. His passion for helping others and willingness to align with our mission proved itself immediately, and putting him in a position to help the Hope Town mission became inevitable.

Brian spent 20+ years in the masonry trade and was most recently a crew supervisor, but he wanted to align with the purpose his Higher Power presented. He credits his connection as a significant driving force and maintains that it has given him purpose.

Brian has become the manager of our men's house, a driver, a backup dispatcher, and a jack-of-all-trades who makes the mission of Hope Town work the way it does. Recently, he has taken over the management of our vehicles, and his role is destined to keep expanding.

TESTIMONIAL

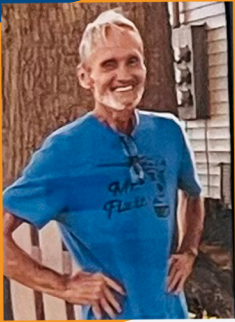


Hope Town saved my life!!

My name is Jordan Ditty, and I have been addicted to painkillers for a good 7 to 8 years of my life. I have been in and out of treatment since 2019 and could never get much clean time under my belt. So, when I got out of treatment in February of 2023, I decided to give Hope Town a chance. It was the best decision I have ever made in my life. Eight months later, I am back home with my wife and two kids, and I have never felt better in 15 years of my life!! First off, the owner and management of Hope Town Recovery are amazing individuals. I am so grateful for them and everything that they do. I have never been to or heard of a place that offers so much to you than Hope Town. They have every resource available to get back on your feet and live a happy and clean life. They will give you rides to and from work. They will help get you clothes if you are in need. They will get your toiletries and cleaning supplies. They even offer free meals at times. The house itself is in a great part of town. I felt so safe there; it was not surrounded by drugs or violence, and it was a very clean house inside to live in. I am a clean freak and was surprised by the clean living quarters. The house leader, also a fantastic person, drives everyone to and from meetings daily. So you always have an opportunity to get to meetings. Everyone in the house is super friendly and genuinely cares for each other. There is always someone to talk to if you need anything or just someone to vent to. I cannot say just how grateful and happy I am for a place like Hope Town Recovery!! If you are serious about turning your life around and wanting to get back on your feet and start living a clean and sober life, I strongly recommend going to Hope Town Recovery! Thank you for everything you have done for me, Hope Town staff!! You guys are the best!!!

-Jordan Ditty

TESTIMONIAL



The following letter is from a Hope Town resident who has been in active recovery (clean & sober) since May 1, 2021!

I arrived at Hope Town on August 1, 2021. I didn't know what to expect. Things were not easy at first, but I was determined to try. I kept myself busy working the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous with my sponsor, as well as helping around the house. It made me feel good about myself. Eventually, I was elected house manager, and it felt good to serve a role in making Hope Town an excellent place to live and recover. Ted told me he wanted Hope Town to be a peer-led organization. I didn't know what that looked like, but we all at Hope Town held each other accountable. It worked and still does.

In late 2021, I may have mentioned to Ted that he should start his own transportation company and do a better job getting people to their appointments, not making them wait hours to return home. I was having these issues with my medical transportation frequently. Of course, Ted, being Ted, he did precisely that, and Hope on Wheels was established.

I landed at Hope Town because Hope Town needed me, and I needed Hope Town. Hope Town has given me purpose, which I needed. I have learned so much about willingness, patience, and acceptance of others. Ted St. John has played a huge part in my recovery. I could not have made it to this point without him. I love him like a brother.

After about 13 months, I left Hope Town on September 10, 2022, and have my place locally. I continue to drive for Hope on Wheels, which I enjoy doing. Today, I do things that I enjoy, like hanging out with family, golfing, and watching movies. It's a good feeling to know I can do whatever I enjoy. I'll always be grateful to Hope Town, Ted St. John, Adam Ciganik, and all who supported my recovery.

LEADERSHIP

Meet Adam



Adam Ciganik
Program Director

Adam was raised as a Portage County resident by a single mother, a Sergeant Correctional Officer at the Portage County Jail. He was taught the importance of serving others with an empathetic perspective. These morals diminished as Adam's addiction rendered him powerless and a slave to compulsive, self-centered behavior.

From age 15, Adam's addiction continued to spiral out of control for over 20 years.

His mother passed away from cancer on Mother's Day, 2011, and he experienced untreated mental health as well. The years that followed consisted of I.V. heroin use, which produced consequences such as depression, isolation, homelessness, incarceration, drug overdose, suicide attempts, and the inability to maintain long-term employment.

On June 6, 2019, through an act of desperation and divine intervention, Adam decided he had suffered enough and admitted himself into residential treatment with the willingness to change. Adam decided to continue working in the construction trade throughout the first few years of recovery. He often found himself anticipating the moment he was done with the workday so he could help more people find recovery. He realized his soul's urge was to be of maximum service to others. He decided to follow his heart by changing his employment direction.

Adam worked for Hope Village as a certified Peer Recovery Supporter from 2021 until 2023. He was promoted to Jail Reentry Supervisor and Linkage & Navigation Coordinator. He then transferred to Hope Town, and we brought his programs. Now, he and his staff continue to help bridge gaps and navigate urgent needs when assisting individuals suffering from mental health and addiction.

LEADERSHIP

Meet Neil



Neil Hirsch
Project Manager / Hope on Wheels
Manager

A lifelong resident of Northeast Ohio, Neil has utilized his own experience with long-term recovery to fuel his motivation to help other people with addiction achieve their own life goals. Neil began working in the treatment field five years ago as an overnight monitor for a treatment center in Warren, Ohio, where he quickly realized that people with addiction in treatment were being under-served. Neil began running groups and individual sessions for New Day Recovery at their River Falls location. Looking for ways to innovate in the addiction treatment field, Neil worked his way to lead CDCA, where he was given the chance to start leaving his fingerprints on the program model itself.

Neil then left to join a start-up treatment center in Warren, Ohio, called Safe Harbor Recovery, where he worked with a team of talented individuals who believed in him enough to help him design the program model and settle into a new position: program coordinator.

Neil joins Hope Town as the Project Manager with a firm belief that every person with addiction has a voice that deserves to be heard and acknowledged, and he has made it his purpose to meet them where they are and attempt to guide them to a new life.

Realizing that addiction recovery has many different layers and that some regions of the recovery process are underserved, Neil was attracted to the vision of Hope Town to help those struggling with substance use disorders reintegrate into society with a plan for continued success and better odds at building the life they were always meant to live.

OUR MISSION

Our Purpose

We believe that everyone is recovering from something.
We believe that people do recover.
Our purpose is to help people recover.

Mission Statement

Fostering Hope, Fueling Recovery:

Hope Town stands dedicated to championing individuals in their pursuit of recovering from substance use disorders and co-occurring mental health disorders.

Through an integrated system that includes recovery housing, peer support networks, employment initiatives, essential transportation services, jail supports and social enterprises, we aim to inspire profound change and help liberate people to build a foundation for a brighter future.

Our Vision

To inspire others to improve their lives so that they may go on to inspire others to do the same.

Our Values

- Home • Health • Community • Purpose • Integrity
- Accountability • Humility • Peer-led recovery



SERVICES PROVIDED

Recovery Housing

We offer two separate male and female peer-led social-model homes for adults with addiction. They are structured, clean, safe, affordable, and full of recovery support.



Employment Services

We partnered with Portage County Ohio Means Jobs to help our residents connect to meaningful employment with good pay based on their skill sets and preferences. They also provide transportation to and from work for up to six months. They help to purchase necessary clothing, tools, and other needs, as well as a lunch stipend.

LEADERSHIP

Meet Ted



Ted St John
Chief Executive of Hope Town, Inc

Ted St. John is a dedicated leader and lifelong Portage County, Ohio resident with a multifaceted background and a passion for community service. Since 2012, he has immersed himself in various facets of substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, holding pivotal roles at esteemed institutions such as Glenbeigh Hospital, First Step Recovery, and New Day Recovery. Throughout his career, Ted has been instrumental in ensuring agencies meet necessary licensing and

accreditation standards while also spearheading the establishment and operation of several local recovery houses.

Before his SUD treatment work, Ted enjoyed a diverse career path that included stints as a personal trainer, national-level bodybuilder, health club owner, and successful steel sales professional. Beyond his professional endeavors, Ted remains actively engaged in community service, serving on committees such as the Portage County Drug Task Force and the Trumbull County ASAP Coalition. Ted is pivotal in organizations like the Portage County Substance Abuse Coalition and the Portage County Specialty Dockets Advisory Board.

Additionally, Ted sits on the Board of Directors for Ohio Recovery Housing and the state's OneOhio Recovery Foundation, leveraging his expertise to advocate for those in need of support. Ted's commitment to service extends beyond his professional and advocacy roles, as evidenced by his honorable service in the U.S. Air Force as a Military Police officer.

Furthermore, Ted has contributed to education and youth development as a member of the Windham School Board since 2020. With a rich tapestry of experiences and a steadfast dedication to making a difference, Ted St. John continues to drive positive change in his community and beyond.

Warm Welcome from Windham

Beyond the considerable volunteer hours invested in Hope Town, the community rallied to contribute washers, dryers, appliances, furniture, décor, and kitchenware. This outpouring of support reflects Windham's residents' genuine care and dedication. Despite initial concerns about potential opposition (NIMBY issues), the organization experienced a warm and supportive welcome from the community, dispelling any reservations.

Hope on Wheels Initiative (June 2022)

In June 2022, the organization expanded its impact by launching our Hope on Wheels program. This initiative, conceived by house manager Karl Yon, addresses the transportation needs of residents requiring access to critical life appointments, such as medical appointments and recovery support meetings. Recognizing gaps in local Medicaid rides, Hope Town, after rigorous credentialing and contracting procedures, stepped in to provide transportation services for community members covered by Medicaid insurance. This ensures crucial access to medical appointments and treatment services, further solidifying Hope Town's commitment to holistic care.

Hope Town in Ohio's Behavioral Health System

Hope Town plays a pivotal role as a contracted provider for the Mental Health & Recovery Board, aligning with Ohio MHAS's emphasis on fostering successful partnerships with community organizations, agencies, and boards. The organization actively engages in collaborative efforts, recognizing their significance in delivering effective mental health and addiction services. Within Hope Town, it aligns with regional behavioral health authorities and boards to plan, evaluate, and fund mental health and addiction services locally. This collaborative approach ensures a comprehensive continuum of care, meeting individuals at various stages of their journey to wellness.

Transportation

We are contracted and credentialed with eight insurance plans to provide rides to medical appointments and treatment services for residents and the rest of our Medicaid community. We have partnered with University Hospital, Portage County Adult Probation, and several treatment centers to provide rides for their patients/clients.

We also have some resources to help our residents initially with other transportation needs such as recovery meetings, grocery, recovery events, probation, court appointments, and even work (short-term).



Reentry Services for Portage County Inmates

We signed a 5-year contract with the PCSO for reentry planning and coordination. We have a strong relationship with the administration and are committed to helping inmates plan for release to improve chances for recovery. This, in turn, helps with recidivism, new charges, and compliance with community corrections.



Linkage & Navigation

We have 3-4 peer supporters trained to work in the jail and throughout our community to address urgent needs (housing, transportation, connection to treatment services).

Genesis of Hope Town Ohio

In the autumn of 2019, Hope Town Ohio was established through a transformative initiative fueled by a generous \$175,000 donation from the Regina Rebhan Foundation. The organization's roots took hold when Neighborhood Development Services (NDS), a local nonprofit, contributed to two townhouses in Windham, Ohio. Under the organization's guidance, these structures underwent restoration to become recovery housing facilities specifically designed for individuals seeking support for substance use and mental health disorders.

Community Collaboration: Building Hope Together

The creation of Hope Town was a collaborative endeavor that engaged the entire community. The interior restoration was predominantly done by dedicated volunteers, including skilled individuals and those passionate about the cause. Over a dozen events were organized, drawing participation from numerous volunteers, ranging from judges, commissioners, state representatives, police officers, probation officers, and drug court participants to teachers, administrative staff, church groups, friends, neighbors, and schoolchildren. Together, they orchestrated successful moving, cleaning, and painting parties, fostering a collective sense of accomplishment and purpose.

