



**PERCEPTION
PROGRAMS, INC**

Creating hope ... changing lives



**YEARS OF
SERVICE**

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



STEEPLE CHASE SUPPORTERS RIDE AND WALK TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF NEIGHBORS IN NEED

*Cycling and Walking Routes for All Ages and Abilities;
Foundation Matches Every Dollar Raised*



Hundreds of supporters participated in the 2020 annual Steeple Chase Ride/Walk this August. They pedaled and walked to raise critical funds for three eastern Connecticut social service organizations that change the lives of area residents. Many participants biked 20, 35, 50, 62.5 or 100 miles.

Every dollar raised was matched by a grant from the Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation. The Steeple Chase supports three non-profit beneficiaries: Perception Programs Inc., Windham Area Interfaith Ministry (WAIM), and the Windham Region No Freeze Project.



Over the years, Steeple Chase supporters have traveled from 26 states to participate in the event. Many participants support the event for personal reasons, while others are committed to a healthy lifestyle and love the low-traffic routes and their amazing vistas.

Over the years, the event has raised almost \$1.5 million through the efforts of hundreds of participants who love the ride. For the fourth consecutive year, the Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation matched all donations to the charity bike-a-thon.



You can follow the event on Facebook @SCbiketour, Twitter @SCbiketour, Instagram @steeplechasebiketour, and on LinkedIn.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our revenue mix continues to shift, with another year of growth in fee-for-service, reducing our reliance on the perennially tenuous availability of government funding. With flat funding on our government contracts in fiscal year 2020, PPI achieved an overall growth in revenues. COVID-19 relief funding helped us weather the cash demands of increased expenses due to the pandemic.

Assets

Cash	570,023
Accounts Receivable	905,270
Other Current Assets	2,294,881
Net Property, Plant and Equipment	1,272,199

Liabilities and Fund Balance

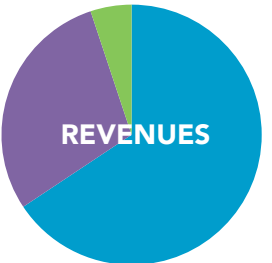
Current Liabilities	388,637
Long Term Liabilities	2,229,018

Net Assets

Unrestricted	2,649,795
Restricted	3,772
Current Year Earnings	(628,418)



- Community Justice 35%
- Behavioral Health 55%
- Risk Reduction 9%



- Service-Related Reimbursements and Fees 36%
- State & Federal Funding 59%
- Other Income 6%

OUR MISSION

Perception Programs promotes wellness through innovative and holistic behavioral healthcare for individuals and our community.

Creating Hope.....Changing Lives

GRANTS RECEIVED DURING THE FISCAL YEAR

Chelsea Groton Foundation: \$3,000 for our PATH Outreach and Case Management Services

Community Foundation of Southeastern CT Women & Girls Fund: \$5,000 for “Welcome Baskets” which supply basic needs to women entering our Next Step Program

Putnam Bank: \$500 to use for Art Therapy supplies

SBM Charitable Foundation: \$5,000 for PATH

Pageau Foundation: \$1,331 to provide gap funding for residents of our sober houses while they await their first paycheck.

Charter Oak Federal Credit Union:
\$1,500 to support our PATH to Recovery program

Altrusa Club of NECT: \$1,200 to create a meditative retreat space at our Next Step Cottage

A generous award from an **anonymous donor** in the amount of \$3,000 to fund Telehealth licenses needed to continue services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

*“Perception House
has given me a safe
place to recover
and remain sober.
Allowed me to
openly share pain
that I have been
suppressing or
shameful of sharing.
It has given me
hope to address my
trauma and PTSD
with formal therapy.”*

— D.D.

ALTERNATIVE IN THE COMMUNITY

AIC delivers basic needs assistance, evidence-based case management, and job development services to Pretrial, Family Services, and Adult Probation referrals in the Willimantic and Danielson communities. AIC is funded by the Connecticut Judicial Branch Court Support Services (CSSD). AIC maintains a Level 1 status, given by CSSD to programs that reach 100% of their goals and requirements. This Level 1 status speaks to the excellent assistance provided by the AIC team to the individuals they serve. At the beginning of the pandemic, AIC quickly shifted to telehealth and virtual meetings to allow clients to complete their court-appointed services.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTERS

Perception Programs has three BHC sites located in Willimantic, Danielson, and Storrs. Each location is staffed with talented clinicians to meet clients where they are at in their journey, offering many evidence-based models of therapy. The BHCs offer a holistic approach to treatment through individual counseling, medication management, group therapy, and Intensive Outpatient (IOP). The Willimantic and Danielson sites provide Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), including Suboxone, for those living with an Opioid Use Disorder. The Willimantic site is proud to serve our Latinx community by offering services in Spanish. The Storrs location was already participating in telehealth services when the pandemic began, allowing for the BHCs to quickly transition all services to telehealth to continue to stay connected to our communities during these difficult times.

OUTREACH AND CASE MANAGEMENT

Perception Programs provides five case management services: Latino Outreach, PATH (Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness), Shelter Outreach Initiative, ERSC (Eastern Region Service Center), and HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for Persons

with AIDS). These programs receive funding from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Federal HOPWA program. Each of these services provide community-based assistance to help individuals connect to services for treatment, basic needs, and housing. In the COVID-19 environment case management was provided through telehealth services and in-person with physical distancing to distribute basic needs that the community needed.

RISK REDUCTION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM

RRO staff provide Hepatis C and HIV/AIDS testing and prevention education in the community. Risk Reduction receives funding from the Department of Public Health. The program utilizes a harm reduction model with the syringe exchange program and Narcan trainings. Staff have mobile services providing assistance in several locations across Eastern CT and offer home visits. Through the COVID-19 pandemic the team found creative ways to continue to provide safe contacts to those in need of this vital service.

PERCEPTION HOUSE

Perception House is a 22-bed residential treatment facility for women who struggle with both substance abuse and mental health. The program is funded by DMHAS, CSSD and Federal Probation. As of September 2019, Perception House transitioned to female-specific, trauma informed treatment. Residents are supported in their recovery through individual and group therapies, life skills training, and in-house AA/NA meetings. Within the past year, Perception House staff transformed the décor of the house and treatment modalities to be gender-specific geared toward trauma-informed. Through a generous grant, Perception House was able to purchase several curriculums from Stephanie Covington to provide standardized group therapies. Perception House remained fully operational during the pandemic, with staff and residents working as a team to make the best of the new challenges they faced.

GRACE HOUSE

Grace House is a 5-bed therapeutic halfway house for women who are on parole and transitioning into the community. The program is funded by Department of Corrections. Residents in the program may be in recovery, struggling with acute mental health needs, and have emotional or cognitive delays. Grace House provides female-specific and trauma-informed treatment through both individual and group therapies. Grace House provides support to its residents through life skills training, educational opportunities, and assistance with job searching. In the past year, two women enrolled in college courses at Wesleyan University and Three Rivers Community College. Throughout the pandemic, staff and residents continued their daily routines within the program and worked together to adjust.

NEXT STEP COTTAGE

Next Step Cottage is a 28-bed work release halfway house for women who are on parole and re-entering the community. The program is funded by Department of Corrections. The residents at Next Step Cottage are provided support through several case management services, Psycho-educational groups, employment specialist services, and life skills training. Residents are given opportunities to participate in educational opportunities as well as volunteering when they are not working. Next Step Cottage provides female-specific support to all its residents. Residents engage in treatment services through PPI's Outpatient Program in Willimantic. As a halfway house charged with connecting women in the re-entry phase to employment, COVID-19 has brought many challenges. Staff and residents rose to the occasion and made the very best of a difficult situation.

DEAR FRIENDS,

As we celebrate Perception Programs 50 years of service, I am humbled and proud to have led this agency for the past 5 years. It has truly been my honor.

Today, we continue to face many of the same longstanding issues that have plagued us for years. Heroin is still destroying lives. HIV infection continues. Stigma related to mental health and substance use disorders exists.

Through the challenges and rewards, PPI has stood with our mission- Creating Hope...changing lives.

Creating hope in 2020 has been an entirely different adventure. The COVID 19 pandemic has seen PPI staff rise to meet the needs of our clients in new and creative ways while also ensuring a high level of safety. We quickly adjusted our outpatient programs to telehealth and adhered to all CDC, DMHAS and DOC recommendations. The struggle has been real for both staff and clients, but HOPE has prevailed. For this we are thankful.

Sincerely,
Kristie Scott, CEO

This year we reached a milestone- our 50th anniversary. Over these past years Perception Programs has grown more than anyone could imagine.

With that growth, came change and challenge.

Founded in 1970 as a single program, today's PPI now operates 16 programs in 11 locations, offering a broad range of treatment addressing substance use and mental health challenges.

Scientific advances have led PPI to offer Medication Assisted Treatment as well as holistic behavioral healthcare. We currently employ 5 APRNs in our Storrs, Willimantic, and Danielson programs.

As for challenge, none could be greater than the current COVID- 19 pandemic. With in-person contact suspended in the community programs, PPI turned to technology. Using telemedicine, PPI was able to continue to provide services.

While much has changed, one thing has not: Perception Programs remains committed to our mission:

"Perception Programs promotes wellness through innovative and holistic behavioral healthcare for individuals and our community."

We are proud to have served over 5,000 clients this past year and we look forward to continuing in the coming years.

John F.B. Haney, MD
Medical Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Founded in 1970 as a nonprofit agency providing treatment for substance use disorders, addictions and mental illness, Perception Programs is governed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors.

**John F.B. Haney, MD,
Founder & Chairman**

Retired, Medical Director,
Natchaug Hospital

**Christopher Burke, Atty,
President**

Retired, Clerk of the Superior Court

**David Correll,
Treasurer**

Retired, Finance Manager,
Pratt & Whitney Legal Services

**Cynthia Van Zelm,
Secretary**

Executive Director, Mansfield

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Mary Gawlicki

Founder, Gawlicki Family Foundation

Brian P. McCarthy

Real Estate Broker/Owner

Donna McLaughlin

Retired, Audiologist, Speech Pathologist

William Lugo

Professor of Sociology, ECSU

Shamim Patwa

Director of Special Education, Mansfield

Janit Romayko

Retired, Director, Mansfield Youth Services

Roderick Wilson, Sr.

RAD Computing, Owner

Amanda Nieves

ECSU Student - Class of 2022

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Kristie Scott

Chief Executive Officer

Erin Joudrey

Chief Operating Officer

Nancy Waterman

Vice President of Finance

Dan Gerwien

Human Resources Manager



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LOCATIONS

**Alternative in the
Community (AIC)**
109 Valley Street
Willimantic, CT

13 Water Street
Danielson, CT

Administration
54 North Street
Willimantic, CT

**Behavioral Health
Center (BHC)**
54 North Street
Willimantic, CT

13 Water Street
Danielson, CT

1244 Storrs Road
Storrs, CT

**Outreach & Case
Management**
109 Valley Street
Willimantic, CT

Bill's House
46 Quercus Avenue
Willimantic, CT

Wilson House
226-228 Jackson
Street
Willimantic, CT

UConn SHARE
2006 Hillside Road
Unit 1248, Storrs, CT

Next Step Cottage
215 Valley Street
Willimantic, CT

7 Cottage Place
Willimantic, CT

Grace House
219 Valley Street
Willimantic, CT

Perception House
134 Church Street
Willimantic, CT

*"I would like to take this time
to commend staff members
for everything they did for
me. Without them, I'm not
sure if I could have done it.
I'd also like to thank them
for all their hard work,
even through the difficult
moments."*

— Anonymous

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