



ANNUAL REPORT

2019

A quick note from our Founder, Robin Keener

It is with great pleasure and confidence I announce that we are moving into well-deserved leadership changes.

Congratulations Katelyn Shephard!

Katelyn Shephard has proven herself to become our new Executive Director. As founder I will continue to be a support to Homecoming Project.

Congratulations Stephanie DiBella!

We welcome Stephanie DiBella as our new Program Manager.

Both of these women are great assets to us. Their experiences with recovery and Homecoming are proven examples of how abstinence-based recovery can work; that women can change their behaviors and become empowered leaders in the community and that still suffering substance abusers can recover with behavior changes, life skills training, and case management. Love and good orderly direction are balancing tools for our staff.

We are grateful to have staff at Homecoming that are committed to continuing the principles that have been in place for over 14 years. The continued success rate of 80% of our graduates will remain the guiding light.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Robin Keener
Founder



A message from Executive Director, Katelyn Shephard

Moving into the role of Executive Director of Homecoming Project is a huge honor for me. My journey beginning as a Homecoming Resident in 2012 up to this point has definitely not been a neat, straight line. I have learned a lot about recovery, helping others, non-profit organizations, and about myself. This is a process that will continue on forever and I am grateful to have had, and continue to have, the best teacher. Robin Keener helped guide me in my own early recovery, guided me back to resources when I stumbled, and trained me how to be an employee in the place that had helped me so much. Her tough love cuts through the facades and excuses many of us addicts have in place when we come into recovery. Recovery is at the core of Homecoming. The

INTEGRITY
IS DOING THE
RIGHT THING.
EVEN WHEN
NO ONE IS
WATCHING.

program runs on the principles of 12-step recovery and helps women to break the cycle of addiction, become grounded in recovery, and build new lives for themselves and their families. Continuing this mission and upholding the standards of Homecoming is now my responsibility. The strong program, amazing relationships and partnerships within the community, board members, alumni, and volunteers, make the responsibility more exciting than daunting. I am overwhelmed by and so grateful for all of the support I have been receiving.

Women have been learning to stay clean and sober at Homecoming for over 14 years - long before addiction was declared a national emergency. The yearlong program at Homecoming gives residents the time to get strong in their recovery and learn how to live without drugs. I am incredibly grateful for the acknowledgement of the crisis and the increase in resources for addicts and alcoholics. However, much of the funding is inaccessible to Homecoming since we remain an abstinence-based recovery program. Medications containing opioids have been helping to reduce overdose deaths. They do help many addicts, and they were my introduction to recovery. However, they only address a physical component of addiction, not the mental, emotional, and spiritual components. Personally speaking, all I wanted while I was stuck in my addiction was to be free. Primarily, free from the physical dependency on opiates, then I realized I wanted freedom from myself, the underlying cause of my addiction. Medicated maintenance gave me freedom from buying drugs off the street for a time, but it was not the level of freedom that I wanted. It also did not stop me from continuing to abuse drugs. I felt more trapped when medical professionals told me that the severity of my addiction meant that it was very unlikely that I could ever live without these drugs. Homecoming believed that I could and so did 12-step fellowships. I needed a

lot of support and had to re-learn how to live without drugs. The program at Homecoming is specifically designed to do this; it provides the time, structure, attention, and connection to resources needed to recover from active addiction. While medicated maintenance can be helpful, it is very important to me that Homecoming is abstinence-based and teaches women how to live without drugs. It brings freedom.

“RECOVERY IS AT THE CORE OF HOMECOMING.”

Drug free recovery is possible and having the ability to make that choice should be available. Today I am so grateful to be a part of this program and grateful that I don't ever have to live in fear of opiate withdrawal again, so long as I continue to treat my disease.



***Thank you to all of our volunteers and donors...
We truly could not do this without you!***

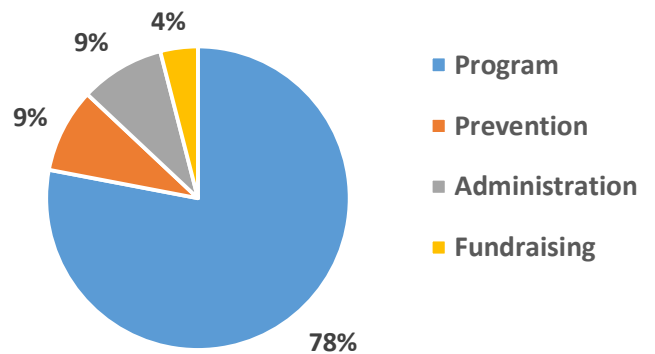


Financial Update

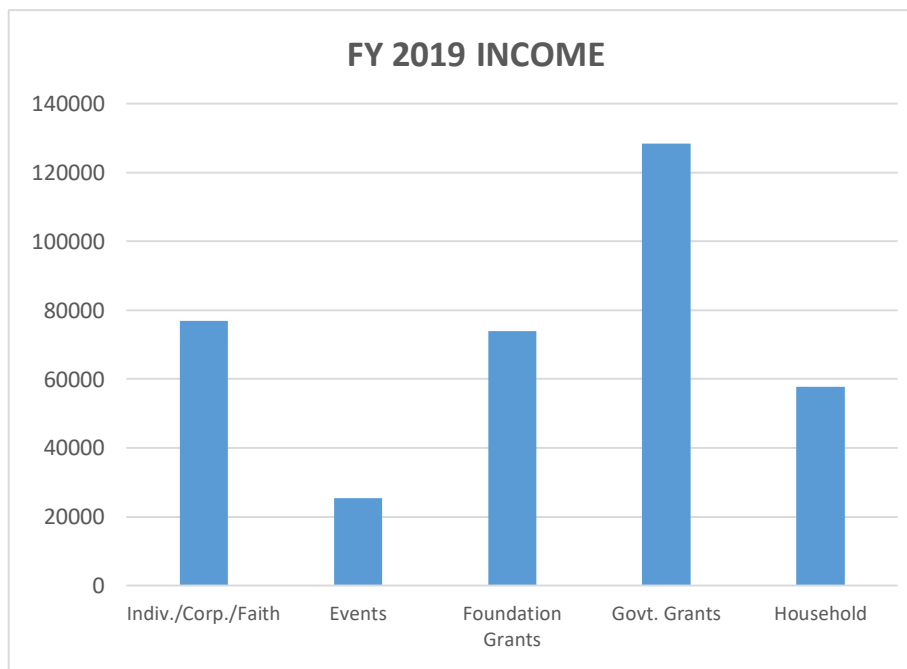
Homecoming Project spends nearly 90% of our income on housing and services for residents (PROGRAM) and services to graduates who still struggle with issues that challenge their sobriety (PREVENTION).

We are tremendously grateful to Harford County Government for their financial support and advocacy for Homecoming Project. We deeply appreciate the Glassman Administration for prioritizing substance abuse awareness and recovery resources. All of Homecoming’s government funding is local; as an abstinence-based program, we are not eligible to receive state and federal funding.

FY 19 EXPENSES



FY 2019 INCOME



Homecoming works hard to diversify our funding streams. We rely on grants and contributions from individuals and companies in the community for almost half of our operating revenue. Please help us continue to assist women on their journey to become vibrant, contributing members of the community by donating to Homecoming Project, Inc. today.

Homecoming Project is a participant in the Maryland Charity Campaign. If you are a current or retired State of Maryland employee, please consider Homecoming as the recipient of your MCC contributions.



Homecoming Project lives and operates by 6 principles

ACCEPTANCE – HOPE – INTEGRITY – GROWTH – DIGNITY – EMPOWERMENT

The following are words of experience with these principles from our alumni...

INTEGRITY

"I came to Homecoming with no morals or values. Here I was able to discover what is important to me and live that out. This program taught me to be true to myself."

DIGNITY

"I am proud of the woman I have become today because of this program. I have realized that my behaviors during active addiction do not define me or make me a bad person. I am capable of anything I set my mind to when I put down the drink or drug."

HOPE

"Seeing the consistent involvement with Homecoming from alumni, volunteers, and the community gave me immense hope. Hope that I could graduate this program, that I could stay sober, and that we can and do recover. I always thought I would be a prisoner of alcohol, but today I am living a life beyond my wildest dreams."

GROWTH

"The growth I have achieved in this house is astonishing. I was given the opportunity to be a leader, a friend, and a woman with grace. Without these opportunities, I would not have grown into the person I am today."

DO
WHAT IS
RIGHT
NOT
WHAT IS
EASY

EMPOWERMENT

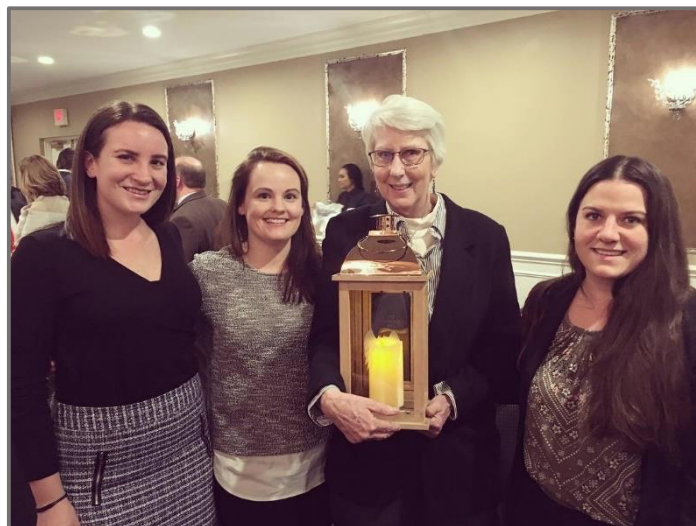
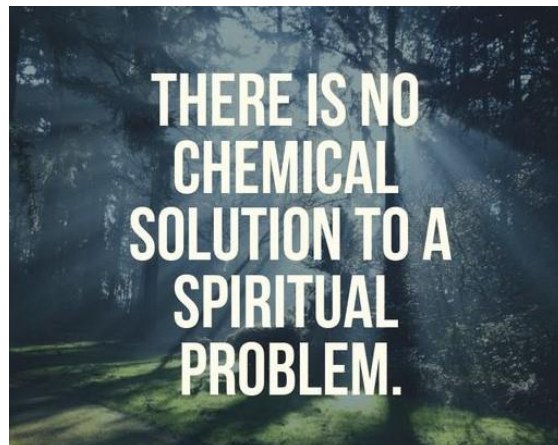
"Here I was taught the concept of work ethic, and being a productive member of society. Showing up when scheduled, arriving earlier, trying my best at work, and using my strengths to stand out in the work place."

ACCEPTANCE

"At Homecoming I learned to accept life on life's terms without utilizing drugs or alcohol. When I relinquished my attempts to control everything and everyone, I finally found a peace I had never known."

2019 Year in Review

- Founder Robin Keener received the First Annual Joe Ryan Champion of Prevention and Recovery Award presented by Addiction Connections Resource.
- This year six women graduated our program. Additionally, all graduates since 2018 are currently clean and sober and contributing to the community.
- Thanks to the generous support from the Harford County Government, Barry Glassman Administration, we obtained funding for job training and furthering education. This has allowed us to help eight alumni continue their education. This will provide them with better job opportunities and financial stability. The majority of these alumni are pursuing degrees in helping fields such as nursing, social work, and non-profit management.




“Homecoming showed me that I had the sparkle in me all along. All I had to do was uncover it from drugs and alcohol.”

- Homecoming Project Alumni

Unable to make it to last year's gala? Here are some pictures of the fun...



This year's Gala has been cancelled due to Covid19. Your support is still valued and needed. Please visit our website www.homecomingrecovery.org for information on how to support Homecoming.



Celebrating 14 years of providing a safe home for women in recovery

HOMECOMING PROJECT, INC.

Gala at Water's Edge Events Center

CHANGE THE DATE

Thursday, September 16, 2021 6PM · 10PM

*Water's Edge Events Center
4687 Millennium Drive. Belcamp, MD. 21017*

Dinner, Dancing, Silent Auction, and Community Fellowship