



Magnolia Clubhouse: Bringing Hope to Men and Women Who Live with Mental Illness

The statistics for mental illness reveal a national crisis. One in four people lives with a mental illness, but fewer than half get treatment. Because treatment often consists of medication, some benefits, and perhaps housing, this still leaves most to live in isolation and desperation. Magnolia Clubhouse fills this critical void in our community mental health care system.

Established in 2004 and located in University Circle, Magnolia Clubhouse is the successor to Hill House (founded in 1961) that was a pioneer in the field of psychiatric rehabilitation. It is one of 300-plus Clubhouses worldwide based on the Clubhouse Model. At the heart of the model is the philosophy that work and relationships are rehabilitative and that both mental and physical health are enhanced when disconnectedness is reduced.

Members and staff work side-by-side to run the Clubhouse—on any given day you will find members cooking the daily lunch, answering phones, editing in the video lab, working in our resale shop, preparing mailings, or maintaining the grounds. In keeping with its holistic approach, both behavioral and primary care are offered on-site in the Carriage House Clinic.

While 80% of those with mental illness are unemployed, most want to work. The Clubhouse offers a robust Transitional Employment Program that supports members in time-limited jobs that build confidence and offer a bridge into (or back into) the workforce. In addition, members interested in continuing educational pursuits—from GEDs to graduate degrees—are supported in their endeavors.

With research-proven outcomes, the Clubhouse Model is one of the most effective—and sustainable—resources available for improving and saving lives. Remarkably affordable, one year at the Clubhouse costs less than one week at a hospital. One of three Clubhouses in Ohio, Magnolia is working diligently to increase this number across our state in keeping with our larger aspiration:

Our vision is that one day, across the world, the social rights movement for human justice to which Clubhouses are dedicated, will no longer be needed. People who live with mental illness everywhere will live lives of dignity and fulfillment, and reach their full potential.



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