



2185 West 8th Street • Erie, PA 16505
(814) 453-5806 • (888) 453-5806
www.StairwaysBH.org

Thanks to your support last year, the 411 professionals at Stairways Behavioral Health **provided mental health services to 8,018 adults and children in Erie and Crawford counties**, an 18% increase over the previous fiscal year. We continued to focus on health, wellness and personal successes rather than on illness and disability, encouraging both our staff and clients to develop their individual strengths and talents to live, work and enjoy life more fully.

We hope you share our pride in these 2008 accomplishments:

Fighting Stigma

With *UP Magazine*, Stairways Behavioral Health created a new way to tell stories of recovery and help thousands in our communities. This free publication gives readers access to resources and information so they can be as comfortable talking about a mental health disorder as they are about pneumonia, glaucoma or asthma. Your annual contribution helps our efforts to educate the public.

Providing Independent Living Services

Stairways works to help people stay well, avoid hospitalization and live productive, quality lives. A record 5,616 people visited our outpatient clinics in Erie, Meadville and Titusville for treatment and therapy. Our professionals assisted 2,512 adults in their homes and apartments through our mobile, case management and HomePLUS services.

Giving Hope to Children & Youth

Last year, Stairways professionals helped parents and educators in public, private and charter schools address the complex needs of 1,165 children with emotional and behavioral disorders in Erie and Crawford counties. Not only did your generosity help our kids stay in school, it decreased the likelihood of them engaging in high-risk behavior while increasing their self-esteem and potential to grow up healthy, caring and responsible.

Counseling for Everyone

We successfully opened Stairways Counseling Center where professional counselors provide therapy sessions for Erie County individuals and families with health insurance. Your annual contribution helps us continue this service for our friends and neighbors living under 150% of the poverty level *who are with and without health insurance or medical assistance*.

Furthering Employer Partnerships to Assist Employees

Thousands of workers in Erie and Crawford counties benefit from dynamic partnerships between Stairways and their employers. We assist progressive employers by providing confidential counseling sessions, educational opportunities and ongoing workforce support for their employees and their families. Your support promotes our healthy workplace initiatives.



Annual Contribution Renewal Form

Yes!

I want to renew my commitment to helping men, women and children with major mental illness find a home, a job, a supportive community – a fuller life.

Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of:

- \$25 \$250
- \$50 \$500
- \$100 Other \$ _____

OVER, PLEASE

Creating Mental Wellness Through the Arts

Last year, 405 adults and children experienced the healing power of art through programs taught by community artists, writers and musicians at Stairways Center for Arts & Humanities. Your generous support allowed their art to be featured in the permanent *Renew the Spirit of Erie Art Exhibit* at Erie City Hall as well as in an exhibit at the Pennsylvania State Capitol last June.

Providing Safe & Affordable Homes

Stairways staff members helped 806 people in residential programs with varying degrees of independence – helping them access safe, affordable permanent housing as well as temporary housing and support for 319 people experiencing a mental health crisis. Your annual contribution helps us maintain an emergency fund for clients to cover necessities when they move into their first apartment.

Supporting Education & Meaningful Work

Last year, your annual contribution helped 450 individuals attend classes or return to work through Stairways educational and vocational programs. Many earned their GED or attended classes to improve reading, writing and computer skills, to better manage finances or to learn English as a second language. Your annual contribution supports our teachers and job coaches as they assist individuals to return to school or secure employment.

*We cannot continue our important work without you!
Here are some ways you can help:*

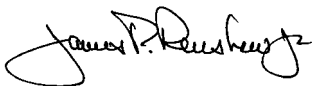
Educate Yourself. There are dramatic advancements in medications plus new therapies and breakthrough research on how the brain works. Learn more about mental illness, treatment and support programs at www.StairwaysBH.org.

Talk about it. Spread the good news about mental health and wellness. Email friends. Break the silence. Talk about mental illness. Seek treatment. Tell someone you see struggling that he or she is not alone – help them make that first step to call Stairways at 814-453-5806.

Volunteer. Your time and talents are valuable gifts to Stairways. Call 814-878-2133 to learn more.

Make a charitable gift. Your donation makes it possible for Stairways to continue our anti-stigma efforts and expand and develop services for those who suffer most. *Please send the largest gift you can today.* The more generous your gift, the more people we can reach with our innovative services that have helped thousands lead more productive and satisfying lives.

If you have already sent your annual gift, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your continued support and commitment to the Stairways mission.



James Renshaw
Chairman
Stairways Board of Directors



William F. McCarthy
CEO & President
Stairways Behavioral Health

Stairways Behavioral Health is a private nonprofit organization that assists persons with mental health care needs at any stage of life by providing comprehensive rehabilitation, treatment and support essential for living, working, learning and participating fully in the community.



- I am enclosing my check payable to Stairways Behavioral Health.
- Please charge my gift to my:
 - Visa MasterCard American Express

Credit Card Number

Expiration Date

Authorized Signature

Name on Credit Card

To charge your gift by phone, please call 814-878-2071

- My company will match my gift. The form is enclosed.

- My gift is

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

- Please send notification to:

Name

Address

City State Zip

Please print clearly so we may correctly acknowledge your gift.