

# Fairweather Lodge



*Affordable living arrangement for persons with mental illness who wish to live and work together in interdependence.*

## What is a Fairweather Lodge?

A lodge is a living arrangement designed specifically for persons with mental illness who are active members of society and wish to live independently. Those who benefit most are persons who may not be able to afford things like rent, food, transportation and utilities on their own, but could do so with the help of other house mates.

Lodge members share in the day-to-day experiences of running a home, and do so more affordably than if they lived on their own. Lodge members create their own house rules and manage their own activities. Lodges are member-managed.

Staff assist only as needed and are available in emergency situations. On-site staff is very limited, as the goal of the lodge is to promote independent living with minimal assistance.

## Who qualifies for the Lodge program?

- Applicants should be at least 18 years old, have diagnosed mental illness, and be interested in living a more independent life.
- Applicants must be homeless or facing imminent homelessness.
  - Applicants should be able to function reasonably well with psychotic symptoms, if present, and participate in simple group discussions, task training and performance.
  - Applicants should be physically able to participate in activities at home and in the community.
  - Since greater independence is a major goal of this program, the applicants should be interested in working, at least on a part-time basis. Stairways staff will assist members in finding work.

## What are the benefits of living in a Fairweather Lodge?

- The Lodge provides very affordable group living while respecting one's personal freedom.
- The Lodge creates a supportive environment in which residents live, grow and learn from others.
- The Lodge encourages residents to take part in healthy, decision making processes.
- The Lodge offers support at home and on the job as members live and work together.
- The Lodge ensures members receive adequate mental health services, including medication.
- The Lodge enhances members' employability by developing social and work-related skills.

*For more information call:*

**814-314-9950**

*Visit us at [www.StairwaysBH.org](http://www.StairwaysBH.org)*

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



Stairways is accredited by the Joint Commission for Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), the gold seal of the US health care industry.

