

Marshfield Clinic Health System AmeriCorps Recovery Corps

AmeriCorps Program of the Year

Marshfield Clinic Health System (MCHS) AmeriCorps Recovery Corps was started in 2017 with the goal of selecting individuals in recovery themselves, or who were impacted by substance abuse, to be trained and become recovery coaches to address the growing opioid and other substance abuse crisis head on. The AmeriCorps members in the program receive extensive training in the Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery Model, providing them with the skills needed to guide, mentor and support anyone who would like to enter into or sustain long-term recovery from an addiction to alcohol or drugs. Following their training, Recovery Corps members provide educational presentations with local substance abuse organizations, operate a warm line that was set up for referrals and open calls from individuals in the community seeking help, and serve as recovery coaches with individuals struggling with substance abuse to create and follow wellness plans to guide their efforts.



In the most recent service year, Recovery Corps has provided 23,000 hours of service and has 221 clients enrolled into the program, of which, 78% are making progress in their wellness plans and showing health improvement. Over 6,500 pieces of educational material were distributed across the area to help promote the program and reduce stigma related to substance abuse. Additionally 104 community volunteers were recruited and provided 1,000 hours of support to educational programs and recoverees.

Each member has their own Wellness Plan to help them continue to grow and stay focused. In addition to the initial CCAR training, MCHS also hosts monthly team webinars and encourages personal development through educational and development opportunities and conferences. This unique and targeted approach gives members the tools they need to progress throughout the year and maintain their personal development as well. One member commented on her term of service stating "Recovery Corps is the best thing I have ever given myself."

Recovery Corps is currently serving in five counties (Oneida, Vilas, Price, Iron, and Forest) and three tribal nations (Potawatomi, Lac Du Flambeau, Sokaogon Chippewa) in northern Wisconsin as part of the HOPE Consortium. It is estimated that each individual that stays in recovery saves the state of Wisconsin about \$40,000 per year, although the even greater result is the meaningful impact recovery has on the communities and families that have been affected.