We cannot express our gratitude enough to the dedicated & committed volunteers that serve on the Center's Board of Directors and our Foundation Board, The Marie A. Russo Neighborhood Center Institute.

The Neighborhood Center, Inc.
2018 Board of Directors

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The Marie A. Russo Neighborhood Center Institute
2018 Board of Directors

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The Marie A. Russo Neighborhood Center Institute Board is a foundation whose mission is to “solicit, receive, hold and administer gifts, manage investments and resources generated by the Institute and to do such other lawful acts and undertake such other enterprises for the sole purpose of support and benefit of The Neighborhood Center, Inc.”

BHCCs will use data to manage quality and risk while committing to continuous quality and performance improvement through integrated care (behavioral and physical) with attention to the social determinants of health and community prevention.

Our purchase of 3 Parkside Court in South Utica will allow us not only to derive rental income but also as we are exploring new partnership opportunities with Mohawk Valley Perinatal Network, their offices will be relocated there in 2018.

Since early 2017 we began working with another of our community partners, the Center for Family Life and Recovery to determine the level of synergy and complimentary programming that we share. This is certainly creating exciting possibilities and we look forward to working closely with them in 2018.

In the fund development arena, we added two new special events in 2017 – the Gala Di Mistero, a themed masquerade ball that enjoyed tremendous inaugural year success, and a summertime event – Bites, Brews and Tunes, which features specialty food truck fare, craft beverages and great local music. Both events have also provided a significant support and marketing boost to the services at the Neighborhood Center.

Last, but not least with the backdrop of the opioid epidemic crisis impacting nearly every community in America including the Mohawk Valley and upstate New York, in 2017 we purchased a former nursing home in Herkimer County, for which we will remodel for the Soularium Addictions Treatment Center in 2019, the facility will have fifty treatment beds for persons in need of addictions treatment. In December the Center was awarded a 1.75 million dollar New York State Economic Development Zone grant for the facility.

We continue to look forward to the next phase of the Neighborhood Center and making a positive Impact! An impact that we could not have without the dedication and services provided by our staff, our board and all those who support what we do! - Thank-you!
Our Mission

is to enrich the lives of individuals and families through cooperative opportunities, resources, and advocacy which embrace diversity, promote empowerment, and foster responsible citizenship.

www.neighborhoodctr.org

Our Divisions of Service: Total Impacted 44,303

Behavioral Health Care Services
The Neighborhood Center, Inc. provides professional, state-of-the-art mental health clinical and crisis services for children, youth, adults and their families as well as psycho-social and care management services for adults.

Mobile Crisis Assessment Team
MCAT is available to anyone seeking crisis intervention services in Oneida, Herkimer, Schoharie, Otsego, Delaware and Chenango counties. MCAT has the ability to respond to crises where they occur and provide 24 Hour, 7 Days/Week Intervention, Mental Health Assessment and Crisis De-Escalation

Childcare & Family Services
Programs provide an array of child care and preventative services for youth and families. Our programs promote the social well-being of children and families by helping to build connections to home, school and community. Given the right tools and supports, families can help themselves to achieve a better future.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We are so grateful to those that support us in so many ways each year and we look forward to continuing partnerships and sharing stories about our growth as an organization and success stories from the people we serve and support for 2018. A stronger community is only possible because of the support of our many friends in the communities we serve. Thank you again for your continued support.

Every Penny Matters

2018 brings a new realm of tax laws, and with that, many questions on how they will impact charitable giving. One thing that will remain consistent is the rule for Qualified Charitable distributions from individual retirement accounts (IRAs). People older than 70 ½ can transfer up to $100,000 from their IRA to a charity. It will not be added to their adjusted gross income and will also count as the annual required minimum deduction from their IRA. This is good news for those that have relied on the tax benefit, while giving them the ability to support causes they value.

Volunteer and Help Make a Difference

There are so many ways to get involved, whether is be through charitable gifts, supporting specific events or programs and even volunteering for anyone of our many programs. Specifically volunteers/mentors are greatly needed for our Circles program. For more information on how to get involved, please contact Kerr Flanders, Director of Development & Public Relations at 315.272.2622 and together we can build a stronger community.

To make a donation towards any of programs you can go to our website www.neighborhoodctr.org or mail a check to: 624 Elizabeth St., Utica, NY 13501 or use the enclosed envelope.
Empowering Individuals

An MCAT Crisis Case Manager assisted in filling out an application for Temporary Assistance and recertification for SNAP (Food Stamps) at the County Social Service Department. The Crisis Case Manager helped him feel at ease with the County Social Services case worker. An appointment to meet with his Temporary Assistance Examiner was scheduled for the following week.

John was very distraught and in his meeting with our MCAT staff, he described what had happened during his relationship and cried openly. The Crisis Case Manager immediately connected John with counseling through our outpatient behavioral health clinic, as well as our Adult Recovery Services for social supports. John is also beginning to meet with staff in our Employment Services program and is now eager to begin a job search.

The Neighborhood Center has helped John in many ways. Our programs are interrelated which allows us to provide a full array of supports and services. We empowered John by helping him to build confidence and skills which will impact his life in many positive ways in the future.

"I love working for the Neighborhood Center, because I believe there isn't a more important job you can do than helping people. When I met this individual he was very lost and fearful. He is now receiving the support and assistance he needs. He now has friends and is adjusting well. You get a sense of satisfaction when you see someone go from the depths of despair to a well functioning individual with hopes and dreams."

Deb Lein, MCAT Crisis Case Manager
Strengthening Families

Memphis joined our Circles Oneida County initiative in 2016 as a referral from the Utica Municipal Housing Authority. She struggled with budgeting skills, resulting in her living above her means. She was working part time in a job she didn’t like to help make ends meet. That meant she was away from home at night, often leaving her teenage daughter home alone or with alternate care as the job would not allow her to switch shifts. Her debt was much greater than her income and she was unhappy with her situation.

Circles helps motivated, low income individuals and families reach greater economic stability by helping them identify their own resources and goals, learn how to take social action in their communities, and build beneficial relationships with others.

While in Circles, Memphis participated in a 16 week Circle Leader training program learning skills such as budgeting, hidden class rules, interviewing and more. Memphis has decreased her debt to income ratio dramatically. This was made possible by refinancing car loans, paying off credit cards, and making payment arrangements on credit card debt. She has built stronger relationships and support systems with others in the group, staff members, and community members. She has obtained technical training and was able to get a computer for her home. She has re-enrolled in college to obtain her Associate’s Degree.

While in the group, it was discovered that her teen daughter was struggling with adapting into a new school, socialization with peers, developing a sense of purpose, and positive self-esteem. Our staff referred this young woman to Project AIM. She joined in 2017 and within a month she enrolled and has expanded her social circle by being cast as a main role in a school play and joining the art club.

In 2018, Memphis will begin learning a new role as a Circles Volunteer and will become a facilitator. She has joined AmeriCorps and has found a new passion working the in the Human Services Field, which encouraged her return to school.

“I am so grateful to be a part of the Circles program. I have been able to learn more about my strengths and not focus on my weaknesses. I have learned skills that help me set and reach goals and build relationships with people I never would have spoken to otherwise. While participating in Circles I was able to get connected to Project AIM for my daughter. She has really come out of her shell and have been developing her own strengths. Both of these programs have given us support that we would of otherwise gone without.”

SPECIAL EVENTS

Thank you to our guests, volunteers and sponsors of our 2017 events:

- Gala Di Mistero held on June 9th 2017 at @171.
- Bites, Brew & Tunes held on July 16th 2017 at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds,
- 15th Annual Dinner & Auction held on November 17, 2017 at Harts Hill Inn.

Gala Di Mistero Sponsors
- Excellus BlueCross BlueShield Utica Region
- Strategic Development Specialists
- Jeffery W Gornick of M. Griffith Investment Services, Inc.
- Scalzo, Zogby & Wittig, Inc.
- Northland Communications
- Strategic Financial Services, Inc.
- C. Lewis Tomaseelli Architects

15th Annual Dinner & Auction
- Abdoo Security & Automation
- Americu Credit Union
- Arlott Office Products
- Ascent Wealth Partners
- Avalon Document Services
- Bagg’s Square Cafe
- C. Lewis Tomaseelli Architects
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- The Added Touch Drapery Shop
- Utica First Insurance Co.
- Utica Spray & Chemical

Bites, Brews & Tunes Sponsors
- NBT Bank
- Paradigm Consulting, Inc.
- New Hartford Rotary
- Americu Credit Union
- First Choice Staffing
- Lincoln Davies
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- Bank of Utica
- Jeff Gornick / M. Griffith Investment Services, Inc.
- New York State Tool
2017 donors cont.

Section 5

UNIVERSAL CALL

After battling unforeseen forces that just aren't there, My mind was left tortured, promised to me by a hard hitting preacher, who said this is my future for me a non-believer. OH! for crying out loud, why don't you stop all your nonsense? It's bogus. Freedom from religion, free thinker left in the joy and wonderment of nature, and an universe that calls out to me to ask questions, because it knows I don't have all the answers.

Poem by Anna Tears

Anna has been a client of the Neighborhood Center since 2012. She first reached out to our Mobile Crisis Assistance Team after having thoughts of suicide. Our crisis counselors worked with her and assigned her to a crisis care manager who helped her to divert her negative thoughts and energy into more productive outcomes. She was also referred to our behavioral health clinic where clinicians further helped her focus on positive directions. They also inspired her to vocalize against the abuse she'd been experiencing.

A recurrence of life stress – facing eviction and joblessness, led Anna back to our Care Management program in 2015. We helped her find an affordable apartment and prepared her for job interviews. Anna also joined our Adult Recovery Services program and our Assisted Competitive Employment program to enhance her abilities to gain and keep employment. She learned coping skills and was able to again begin to manage her wellness.

In 2017, along with ARS and ACE she began to work on her lifelong goal of becoming a published poet. Staff took the time to work with Anna to compile all of her poetry and send her work titled, “My Life in Poetry” to the Library of Congress to be copyrighted. The member received a certificate a few weeks ago informing her that her poetry is officially copyrighted and has a place on the shelves of the Library of Congress.

Anna's poetry now can be in the hands of others who are struggling with mental health, and who may be helped or inspired by these words. As for what the Neighborhood Center has done for Anna is best captured by her, “The Neighborhood Center has empowered me to protect my own well-being by taking care of myself, and has helped me to protect my family's well-being as well.”
2017 donors cont.

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THANK YOU

A big thank you to our friends and benefactors in 2017!

A generous community helps makes our mission possible every day. Your gifts to The Neighborhood Center helps us to continue our mission each day. We are extremely grateful for your support.

While we appreciate all gifts of any denomination, because of space constraints, we are listing gifts of $50 and above. We make every effort to properly recognize our benefactors. Please call us at 315.262.2622 if we have made an error or omission.

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Child Care & Family Services Division
Total Impacted in 2017: 16,842

Child Care-Infant, Toddler, Preschool
615 Mary Street
Utica, NY 13501
315.272.2760
Served 375

Kinship Care Management
612 Elizabeth Street
Utica, NY 13501
315.272.2630
Served 59 Families (77 Adults & 105 Youth)

Rome Court Children's Center
301 W. Dominick Street
Utica, NY 13501
315.266.4532
Served 1,137 (Children), 763 Families (Adults)

Universal Pre-Kindergarten
624 Elizabeth Street
Utica, NY 13501
315.272.2600
Served 215

Day Care Registration & CACFP
612 Elizabeth Street
Utica, NY 13501
315.272.2630
DCR Served 109 providers
CACFP Served 92 providers, 8400 Children

Community Health Workers
628 Mary Street
Utica, NY 13501
315.801.5010
Served 199 Women

PINS Reduction & Elimination Program
800 Charlotte Street
Utica, NY 13501
315.798.8906
Served 800 Children & their Families

Outreach & Prevention
624 Elizabeth Street
Utica, NY 13501
315.272.2600
Served 27 Youth, 15 Teens

SOHO Regional Permanency Resource Center
628 Mary Street
Utica, NY 13501
315.272.2698
Served 6 Families, 10 Children, 9 Caregivers

Transitional Living Skills
624 Elizabeth Street
Utica, NY 13501
315.272.2600
Served 12 Youth

Operation Sunshine
624 Elizabeth Street
Utica, NY 13501
315.272.2600
Served 345 Adults, 607 Children, 952 Individuals

School Aged Child Care
624 Elizabeth Street
Utica, NY 13501
315.272.2600
Served 250

Community Health Workers
628 Mary Street
Utica, NY 13501
315.801.5010
Served 199 Women

Project AIM
624 Elizabeth Street
Utica, NY 13501
315.272.2600
Served 30 Youth-YB Aim, 14 Youth, DSS Al M, 50 Youth Crossroads Al M, 14 Youth Central Valley Aim

Circles
624 Elizabeth Street
Utica, NY 13501
315.272.2600
24 participants
Behavioral Healthcare Division

Total Impacted in 2017: 27,461

Our Mobile Crisis Assessment Team (MCAT)-Serving Oneida, Herkimer, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties

MCAT Oneida-Herkimer County
516 Mary Street
Utica, NY 13501
315.732.6228
Services provided 16,865
Services provided 1553

MCAT Chenango County
5 Court Street, Suite 42
Norwich, NY 13815
1.844.732.6228
Services provided 1794

MCAT Otsego County
242 Main Street
Oneonta, NY 13820
1.844.732.6228
Services provided 1194

MCAT Delaware County
56 Shepard Street
Walton, NY 13856
1.844.732.6228
Services provided 1555

MCAT Schoharie County
113 Park Place
Schoharie, NY 12157
1.844.732.6228
Services provided 1341

Utica Child Guidance & Adult Behavioral Health Clinics
628 Mary Street
Utica, NY 13501
315.272.2700/315.272.2723
Served 1046 Individuals

Rome Child & Adult Behavioral Health Clinics
195-199 W. Dominick Street
Rome, NY 13440
315.272.2730/315.272.2748
Served 1555 Individuals

Rome ARS, Employment Services & ACE
15-17 Hopper Street
Utica, NY 13501
315.272.2660
Served 312 Individuals

Utica ARS, Employment Services & ACE
15-17 Hopper Street
Utica, NY 13501
315.272.2661
Served 312 Individuals

Rome ARS, Employment Services & ACE
195-199 W. Dominick Street
Rome, NY 13440
315.272.2736
Served 258 Individuals

Utica/ Rome Care Management
800 Charlotte Street, Utica
212 W. Liberty Street, Rome
315.624.9540/315.337-5262
Served 1291 Adults, 42 Children
Served 210 Individuals

Family Ties
15-17 Hopper Street
Utica, NY 13501
315.272.2661
Served 210 Individuals
Served 210 Individuals

Utica/Rome Care Management
800 Charlotte Street, Utica
212 W. Liberty Street, Rome
315.624.9540/315.337-5262
Served 1291 Adults, 42 Children
Served 210 Individuals

FISCAL MANAGEMENT

The Neighborhood Center, Inc. once again had a successful year in 2017. The year ended with a net income of $732,865 which was partly due to a good year with investments.

The Neighborhood Center’s end of year fiscal report shows the agency maintained a positive growth with a net increase. While the net increase is due to a positive investment return, the agency continues to manage resources and mission to ensure funds are utilized to build programs and enhance services needed in the community. Eighty-Nine percent (89%) of the Neighborhood Center, Inc.’s total expenditures went directly to supporting the 25 programs that are offered to Utica and the surrounding communities. The remaining 11% is utilized to maintain the necessary infrastructure to support and ensure programming is delivered with the necessary support to ensure quality programming.

The Agency continues to grow with a number of great opportunities on the horizon.
What do more than 200 caring and dedicated employees at the Neighborhood Center do at their job?

Answer: They make an impact! An impact for individuals! An impact for families! An impact for the community!

By definition the services provided by the Neighborhood Center’s staff have a direct effect on someone or something. Many who seek our services are looking to make a change or to ensure their family or loved ones can get their needs met. That is what our services do for over 44,300 individuals and their families throughout the Mohawk Valley annually.

As is our legacy dating back to 1905 we continue to make an impact on meeting the unmet needs of our neighbors and fellow community members. 2017 was no different than what we have done for the last 113 years, but it certainly proved to be an extraordinary one for the Neighborhood Center! From new programs and new buildings, to new events and new partnerships, the agency experienced a transformational year and we look forward to the great things we will do with these new opportunities!

In 2017 we received funding to launch a new regional adoption permanency program in Schoharie, Otsego, Herkimer and Oneida Counties. We also expanded our AIM (Achieve Inspire Motivate) program for at-risk youth, as well as our Mobile Crisis Assessment (MCAT) program. These programs touch the lives of families and individuals by providing critical guidance and support.

We also said goodbye to our former administrative offices at 293 Genesee Street where they had been for the last 18 years. We sold the building to the Rescue Mission, who we know will be putting it good use!

**What We Value**

We celebrate the diversity of our community and seek to foster understanding, acceptance and cooperation; We advocate for human needs at the federal, state and local levels; We work in cooperation with other service agencies and refer clients with special concerns to agencies that can best meet their needs; We encourage independence and self-help; We affirm our heritage as an agency related to the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church.