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Hope Clubhouse of Southwest Florida, Inc. (HOPE Clubhouse) is one of more than 350 Clubhouse programs worldwide based on the principle that meaningful work is critical in bringing positive change to the lives of those living with mental illness. There are 10 Clubhouse in the state of Florida.

There is a significant gap in services for women and men living with mental illnesses in Southwest Florida. HOPE Clubhouse is filling that need to help them recover through work, support and education. **HOPE CLUBHOUSE HAS MET WITH GREAT SUCCESS HERE IN LEE COUNTY THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY AND PRIVATE DONORS.** As a matter of fact, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) included the Clubhouse model in their National Registry of Evidenced-Based programs.

Our official mission is to “offer people living with mental illness in Southwest Florida opportunities for meaningful work, education, friendships, and access to housing in a supportive, caring, dignified, and respectful community setting. **We have served 152 people since we opened the Clubhouse in March of 2010. 40% are women and 60% are men from ages 19 to 65. 25% have had a dual diagnosis of mental illness and substance abuse. As we are considered a new Clubhouse, part of our long strategic plan will be to offer housing to our members. We also are applying to become an accredited Clubhouse this year.**

Our focus is to provide individuals (who we call members) ages 18 and older who are living with a severe mental illness, including Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Major Depression, Anxiety Disorders, Obsessive Compulsion Disorders, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders, with the skills that will help them gain meaningful employment and to live independently. Recovery starts when members and staff become “colleagues” when they work side-by-side on the same work; when they work on different aspects of the same project and when they eat alongside one another sharing their everyday lives and stories with each other. The central ingredient of HOPE Clubhouse is that it is a “normalized” environment.

HOPE Clubhouse offers jobs to members through our Transitional or Supported Employment Programs which is very important to their recovery as we reintegrate them into the community. The success of the Clubhouse model of psychiatric rehabilitation is in its utter simplicity of developing relations and trust between staff and members. Staff then assesses the strengths of the members first and then seeks employment opportunities that best meet their skills. **To date, we have placed 51 members in jobs helping them to transition to independence and good quality of life.**

Part of our Strategic Plan is to develop partnerships that we can provide housing for people living with mental illness.

Changing Lives through Hope™
Healing Opportunities Purpose Empowerment
www.hopeclubhouse.org