



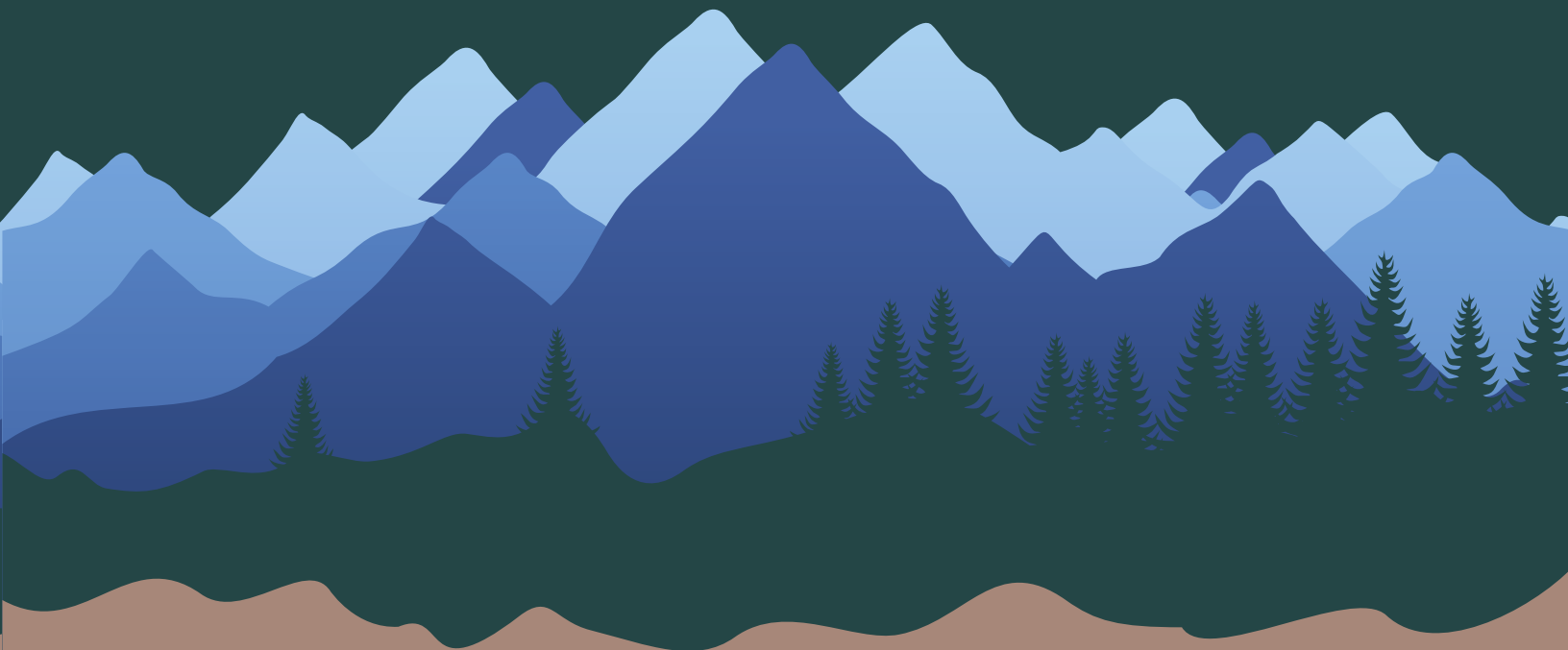
# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

POWERED BY THE MEDIATION & RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CENTER



# Table of Contents

1. *LETTER FROM CENTER DIRECTOR*
2. *ACKNOWLEDGMENTS*
3. *WHO WE ARE*
4. *MEET OUR STAFF*
5. *WATAUGA LEAD*
6. *RECOVERY ON THE INSIDE*
7. *STATISTICS*
8. *GIVE BACK!*
9. *PROJECTS OF THE YEAR*
10. *2022 EVENTS*
11. *GOING FORWARD*
12. *FUNDING*



## MRJC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



SGT. CASEY MILLER, BOARD CHAIR

DALE KIRKLEY

ERIC JONES

JOCELYNE BOND

MELANIE ELLIS

SUSAN BLEVINS

TYLER HITE

## HOMESTEAD ADVISORY COUNCIL

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DALE CORNETT

GENTRY JONES

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JONATHON PLEASANT

MIKE TANNER



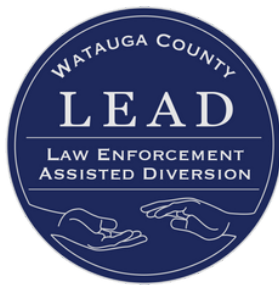
# WHO WE ARE



*We are the Peer Led programs of  
The Mediation & Restorative Justice Center, a 501(c)3 nonprofit.*

*Our vision is a unified voice and access point for peer led recovery in  
Watauga County through welcoming, inclusive and supportive spaces  
where all community members can participate in recovery.*

*Our mission is to create a community where  
all people affected by substance use and other mental health  
challenges can improve their health and wellness,  
live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential.*



THE OPPOSITE OF ADDICTION IS NOT ABSTINENCE,  
THE OPPOSITE OF ADDICTION IS CONNECTION. - JOHANN HARI

# MEET OUR STAFF!



## **Mackenzie Laney, MSW**

Community & Programs Specialist  
Project Director for MRJC ARC  
INSPIRE Initiatives



## **Tripp Taylor, BS, NCCPSS**

Recovery on the Inside  
Peer Support Specialist



## **Sydney Styron, LCSWA**

Recovery on the Inside  
Clinical Case Manager



## **Lianna Epps, BS, NCCPSS,** Peer Services Coordinator



## **Marisa Cornell, EdD** MRJC Executive Director



## **Mollie Bolick, MSW** Homestead Recovery Center Director



## **Dale Hudler, LCSWA, NCCPSS** LEAD Clinical Case Manager





Watauga LEAD's mission is to reduce harm, empower individuals, and improve public safety by connecting community members at risk of justice system involvement with services, support, and compassion, and to provide local law enforcement, stakeholders, and individuals with tools, training, and resources as alternatives to arrest and/or incarceration.

Watauga LEAD is a pre-arrest diversion program serving community members at-risk of justice system involvement through peer support, case management, clinical services, financial sponsorship for supportive housing, transportation, and harm reduction supplies.

*UNIQUE  
INDIVIDUALS SERVED*

**1161**



*NARCAN  
DISTRIBUTED*

**517**

UNIQUE  
INDIVIDUALS  
SERVED

189



NARCAN KITS  
DISTRIBUTED

67

# Recovery on the Inside



**ROI offers support and resources free of charge and judgement to anyone experiencing a substance use or mental health challenges while incarcerated at the Watauga County Detention Center. Our services are client-led and client-driven. We help clients identify their own goals and work towards achieving them together.**

*Peer Support*

*Case Management*

*Clinical Services*

*Linkage to Care*

# PROGRAM STATS

"HELPING PEOPLE TAP INTO THE RESOURCES THEY NEED  
TO BE SUCCESSFUL IS WHAT WE DO BEST"

RECOVERY  
SUPPORT

589 REFERRALS

SUBSTANCE USE  
TREATMENT

849 REFERRALS

SOCIAL SERVICE  
AGENCIES

203 REFERRALS

PUBLIC  
HEALTH

330 REFERRALS

MEDICATION FOR  
OPIOID USE  
DISORDER

270 REFERRALS

"OTHER" SERVICES

692 REFERRALS

RECIDIVISM RATE AMONG  
CLIENTS ENGAGED WITH  
CASE MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAMS

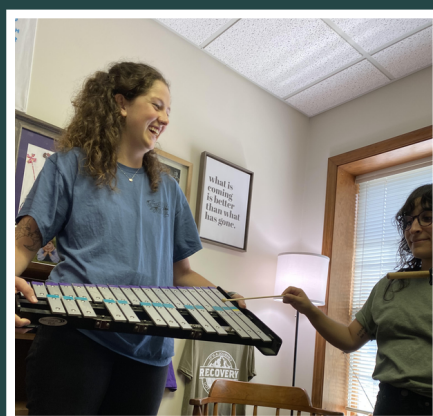
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NUMBER OF  
PEOPLE TRAINED

435

# GIVE BACK 2022

## OUR INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERS



**NEW  
SPACE!**



2022 WAS A YEAR OF BIG DREAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES ALIGNING. AS OUR PEER LED PROGRAMS GREW WE BEGAN TO ENVISION SOMETHING "BIGGER" TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE VISION OF HOMESTEAD WAS BORN.

THIS SPACE CREATES A PLACE FOR EVERYONE AND ALLOW US TO CONTINUE TO GROW!

## VEHICLE FUNDRAISING

Our work has shown that in rural areas transportation is a lifeline to any forward mobility. Watauga County lacks any detox facilities, inpatient treatment options or supportive housing. This lack of options often means many residents must leave Watauga County in order to access these types of recovery support.

In 2022 we drove over 15,000 miles to connect people with recovery resources. This is near the equivalent of driving across the United States coast to coast six times. Transportation has and continues to be one of the largest bridges to connect for people trying to access recovery supports in our rural area.

Thanks to our community we were able to raise over \$40,000 to purchase our own vehicle!



QUILT RAFFLE TO SUPPORT  
VEHICLE PURCHASE



## OUR GROUPS!

**SMART Recovery:** Science-based addiction recovery support group- where participants learn self-empowering techniques to aid their recovery by overcoming addictive behavior. Coed. Led by Giovanni Llibre, NCCPSS.

**I Love You But Not Your Addiction:** A support group for any person struggling with the challenges of a family member or friend with substance use disorder. Coed. Led by Dale Hudler, LEAD Case Manager.

NARCAN AND OVERDOSE  
REVERSAL TRAINING

## F.A.R.M. CAFE OUTREACH

Food and harm reduction  
supplies distributed mobily



## HOLIDAY EVENTS

We provided a space on Christmas and Thanksgiving for clients and the community to gather and celebrate the holidays.

## RE-ENTRY SIMULATION

Hosted Watauga County's first Reentry Simulation, simulating the first month post release from incarceration and the importance of peer and community support.

OVERDOSE AWARENESS  
DAY EVENTS



# WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2023

## PEER SERVICES

In January 2023 we launched our Peer Services within Homestead Recovery Center. These services are available to anyone, regardless if enrolled in case management and including the peer living room, shower & Laundry, harm reduction supplies and support groups

## REENTRY SERVICE STATION

Workforce readiness and reentry support.  
Critical documentation and identification support.  
Transportation

## SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROJECT

Continue planning and development to establish recovery housing in Watauga County beneath Homestead Recovery.

## RECOVERY COURT ADVOCACY

Advocacy and community capacity building across the 24th Judicial District Recovery Courts (Drug Treatment Courts). Peer and Recovery Court Team Support.



## SEEKING STRENGTH GROUP



*SEEKING STRENGTH IS A THERAPEUTIC GROUP FOR WOMEN WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED TRAUMA, SUBSTANCE USE AND/OR POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER. THIS GROUP FOCUSES ON TEACHING SAFE COPING SKILLS IN THE PRESENT FOR GENERAL WELLBEING AND DEVELOPMENT OF COPING SKILLS WHILE CONNECTING WITH OTHER WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY.*

*SEEKING STRENGTH IS A FREE THERAPEUTIC GROUP FOR WOMEN, LED WEEKLY BY OUR RECOVERY ON THE INSIDE CLINICAL CASE MANAGER, SYDNEY STYRON, LCSW-A, BEGINNING MARCH 3RD, 2023 AT 11:00 AM.*



**COSSAP, Bureau of Justice Assistance**

**Supporting Justice Involved Individuals with Substance Use Disorder  
During COVID, NCDHHS**

**RCC Funding, Sunrise Community for Recovery & Wellness**

**INSPIRE Initiative, Appalachian Regional Commission**

**McKinsey Opioid Settlement Funding, NCDHHS**

**Recovery Housing Supports, VAYA Health**

## 2022 SPECIAL MENTION DONORS

**ECRS**

**Boone United Methodist Church**

**Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church**

**St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church- Blowing Rock Tour of Homes**



