



A Note From Our CEO



The trauma, labels and systems we have experienced do not define us. We do and we heal and lead change for ourselves and others.

Dear PRN Family,

Leading through this past year has been an unprecedented experience. The lives of our families and communities have been forever impacted with the rise of new physical, financial, emotional and social challenges that we never anticipated and the visible surge of historical racial tensions that are demanding self-reflection and evolution.

As a survivor-led non-profit organization that operates at the crosswalk between emotional well-being, trauma and healing, social determinants of health, and social justice, Promise Resource Network (PRN) has been challenged to elevate our presence, lead while embracing unpredictability, and serve our community in ways that are experienced as helpful, healing, validating, and authentic. We witness the struggle, and simultaneously create space for our own PRN team to confront their personal and professional triumphs and tragedies. Through it all, we remain grateful for the trust that you and our community have in our ability to be agents of change and healing and we thank you for that honor.

As a result of our impact, new funding opportunities have allowed PRN to expand our reach

and we are now operating 8 recovery-based initiatives with 4 more coming soon. PRN is excited to announce that planning has begun for the start-up of our community's first peer-operated respite to serve as an alternative to emergency department, in-patient and involuntary commitment for people experiencing mental health related emotional distress. This resource will be realized by the start of the new year and we thank all of our community partners that have supported us in making this innovative option available in Mecklenburg County!

Due to the generosity and support from Mecklenburg County, Women's Impact Fund, Arts and Science Council, SAMHSA, United Way/Foundation for the Carolinas, Small Business Association and the numerous partners that gift us with their time, expertise and support, PRN has launched new ways of serving our community this year.

In response to COVID-19, PRN started a 24/7 Warm-Line, established Virtual Individual Tele-Peer Support, and designed a Virtual Recovery Hub to help people to continue to

RE-IMAGINE their lives, transcend labels, and build a life and identity that goes beyond surviving to thriving.

As we continue to charter new territories, PRN's goal is to support people with dignity, continue to challenge the status quo, create alternatives to fill existing gaps, and inspire people to reclaim their narrative of their life, their history, their story and their future. The trauma, labels and systems we have experienced do not define us. We do and we heal and lead change for ourselves and others.

In gratitude, love and well-being,

Chief Executive Officer,
Promise Resource Network



PRN is a grassroots non-profit agency established in 2006 to ignite social change, inspire hope and serve as a catalyst for personal greatness.



For the third year, PRN is ranked nationally in the top 10 Best Non-Profits to Work For!

Peer Support serves as the foundation for all initiatives. Our goal is to help people to RE-IMAGINE their lives, transcend labels and build a life and identity that goes beyond surviving to thriving.

It utilizes the voice, experience and resilience of people in recovery from trauma, mental health and substance use, to help others discover their unique path to wellness.



Year In Review

24/7 WARM-LINE

PRN started a 24/7 peer-operated Warm-Line to support people through emotional distress, minimize isolation, and provide information and resources.

560 WARM-LINE CALLS

Support offered through the peer-operated Warm-Line reduced emotional distress and substance use crises related to COVID-19.

1,150 TELE-PEER SUPPORT

Virtual individual Tele-Peer Support connections benefited 1,150 Charlotteans between March and June of 2020.

95 ONLINE CLASSES PER MONTH

Our Virtual Recovery Hub has provided 95 monthly classes, groups and opportunities, balanced by the 8 Dimensions of Wellness, for people to focus on their Wellness and Recovery from home.

46,000+ VIEWS

Virtual classes by PRN have been viewed 46,000 times and counting and are offered to support people to balance their physical, emotional, financial, spiritual, social and vocational wellness.

7 STATEWIDE COALITIONS

PRN received federal funding to establish the framework for Peer Voice NC (PVNC) and its 7 topic-based coalitions that mobilize people directly impacted by labels of mental illness and/or co-occurring substance use disorders to organize and create social change through legislative, policy and system change efforts.

1st NC RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOL

PRN has supported the first Recovery High School in NC, Emerald School of Excellence, as an incubator, offering mentoring and administrative support as they started their first school year with students in recovery from substance use challenges.

#MY5NC

PRN, through support of Peer Voice NC, launched a statewide public connection and inclusion campaign called MY5NC to decrease isolation during COVID.

Social Change

In response to racial inequity, discrimination, disenfranchisement, and violence, PRN created a weekly platform for open dialogue, strategy, awareness, and partnerships to continue our commitment to social justice.

837 ANNUAL CLASSES

PRN provided 837 in-person Recovery Classes in the last fiscal year.

1,922 MONTHLY VISITORS

The Recovery Hub averages 1,922 visitors each month who participate in Hub activities, individual peer support and recovery classes.

158 MONTHLY SHOWERS

PRN provided an average 158 showers every month in the last fiscal year.

1,200 BUS PASSES

PRN provided over 1,200 bus passes in the last fiscal year.

75 OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT

75 people obtained employment with the support of our IPS Supported Employment.

94% COURT GRADUATES

94% of people who received peer support graduated from Mecklenburg County Wellness and Recovery Courts (68 of 73).

758 MONTHLY MEALS

PRN distributed an average of 758 meals every month in the last fiscal year.

100% INDIVIDUALS SECURED HOUSING

29 individuals secured housing and were able to maintain their home with support from the PRN team after experiencing homelessness.





Stories of Inspiration:

Lawrence O. Davis Jr.

I arrived in Charlotte, NC . July 9th 2018, and entered the salvation army rehab center to deal with my addiction. One of the guys that was born and raised here took me to PRN.

There, I was introduced to the staff, and the program that unknowingly was going to help groom and guide me to this clean and sober life that I now live. After a relapse, I was released and had nowhere to go. I went back to PRN, where, I would shower, have a meal, and go to the classes and workshops they offered. I would go there everyday but stayed to myself. Trying to stay under the radar, I would help clean up behind myself and others because that's the only way I could give back and show appreciation. Little did I know in doing that that made me stand out, but that's just how I was raised and just who I am as a person.

At this time I was still struggling with addiction, not sure if they could tell, I tried to go unnoticed. Like really that's how my addiction had me thinking like "they're not paying me any attention... yeah right." had moments of clarity in class and started to want to get my act together and stop playing the victim and allow PRN to help me like I saw them supporting others.

I was feeling left behind because people that had come to PRN after me were sitting in the classes and healing, becoming productive, getting jobs smiling, and truly happy and I felt stagnant. I decided I was going to pick someone out to open up to and I choose a staff member by the name of Lisa. And guess what she said... "the staff and I have been waiting for you to ask for help." All this time I thought I was low key. That's when life began to change. Once I opened up, and began to trust more staff members the miracles began to show up in my life.

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But I knew it was gonna take a village to get me on point. Each of the staff members had their own separate talent and energy that I was able to pull from and grow. It was like each level I got to there was a staff member to help guide me to the next level in which I needed grow, be it preparing a resume or talking my relationship with my son. They either had similar experiences with their children or had been in my son's shoes, trying to build a relationship with a parent who had failed them due to addiction.

They helped me process my feelings, keep me grounded and not push my son away. I later found out why they were able to overstand me, and be patient with me... I came to find out they had all over come things in their lives, which allowed them to help others. I now have this whole team of people that rally around me everyday. I could sometimes tell they had their own stuff going on like every human being, but they would smile through it and cheer on the people they support. That's when I fell in Love with PRN and all the staff members. Their not just staff to me, their my family!!!

Here comes the amazing parts. So now that they've coached me back to health, I'm able to ask positive questions and receive feed back. When I would go into one of the peer support staff members offices, I'd sit down with a situation, but was afraid to make my own choices. I was hoping they would make a choice for me.

This is where they trick you, or should I say where their skills come in, they would never tell me what I should do!! They'd do this thing where they would share their experience in that area, and before you even know what happened, you're talking it through and processing the whole thing. Then they'd look at me and say "see how you just processed that!!!" And that gave me confidence in myself, and the courage to deal with feelings and how to make healthy choices.

I recently began searching for a car and found one of Facebook Marketplace for \$2800. The seller was willing to accept the \$2000 I had saved. After sharing my recovery journey with the seller, he sold me the car for \$1!! The seller

said it was a gift to celebrate my graduation from Recovery Court and my recovery journey. Today the car is registered, insured, and and I am officially driving!

I was afraid to go into recovery, because as I said earlier I had relapsed previously and didn't want to fail again. However, PRN staff continue to check on me regularly. They have helped me reconnect with my son, get a job and have coached me back to health.

PRN IS SIMPLY THE BEST!

Sincerely,
Lawrence O. Davis Jr.



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