

**THE LIVING MIRACLES PEER  
EMPOWERMENT CENTER  
FISCAL YEAR 2017  
ANNUAL REPORT**



**OUR MISSION: To promote the mental health recovery process by offering hope and motivation through peer support and education.**

**MEMBERSHIP FOR FY 2017:**

Total members through June 30, 2017: **508**

Average Daily Attendance: **31 people**

Increase in Membership since last fiscal year: **65 members**

**Membership Demographics:**

Male: **49.5%**      Female: **50.5%**

Cleveland: **58.6%**      Lakewood: **28.4%**

**Remaining 13%** - Scattered throughout Cuyahoga County

**“Only the development of compassion and understanding for others can bring us the tranquility and happiness we all seek.” ~ Dalai Lama XIV**



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** , Alberto Martir, CPS—MH, President  
Terri Miller, Vice President Lee Ann Gramuglia, Director  
Cheryl Lydston, LISW-S , Director

*There is nothing more beautiful than someone who goes out of their way to make life more beautiful for others.” ~ Mandy Hale*

**LIVING MIRACLES STAFF:** Jennifer Kruse, Executive Director  
Bill Hebble, Program Coordinator Peer Support Staff: Darlene Baker, Betty Gradiski,  
Marc Mannheimer, Christina Podolski and Catherine Rains

## SERVICES PROVIDED IN FY 2017

### ADVOCACY

The Living Miracles advocates on behalf of mental health issues and to eliminate stigma and discrimination surrounding mental illness. We are involved with various advocacy campaigns such as letter writing, radio and television broadcast opportunities, sharing personal stories and utilizing our Speaker’s Bureau. We offer various activities, groups and trainings to promote advocacy skills among our members. These skills help our members in many areas of their lives.

**UNITS OF SERVICE IN FY 2017: 239**

# UNITY



### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Members and staff of Living Miracles offer presentations throughout the community to increase awareness about our services, recruit and link new members to peer support services, and to reach many underserved populations in Cuyahoga County. Presentations are made at different venues such as churches, group homes and shelters.

**UNITS OF SERVICE IN FY 2017: 283**

### MENTORING

Trained staff and group members visit people throughout Cuyahoga County in various mental health and addiction settings to provide peer mentoring, education & support services, and a connection to Living Miracles as a community support. Current sites include: Frontline’s Striklin Stabilization Unit. and West Side Community House

**Number of People Served: 1,205**

# HEALING



**PEER EDUCATION** The Living Miracles Peer Empowerment Center offers a variety of education for group members to learn ways to improve their lives, in addition to developing self help and coping skills. We strive to offer educational groups that are reflective of our participants' interest. We base and plan these offerings on members input, outcome surveys and trends in the community. Some examples include: CALM Group, Relationships group, Dual Recovery, Wellness Management, Symptom Management, Assertiveness skills, Employment Skills and Life skills. Peer Education is also offered to the community through various presentations throughout the year.

**UNITS OF SERVICE IN FY 2017: 792**

*“Having a mental illness is not the end of the world, just a different beginning.”*

*I’ve learned so much coming to Living Miracles these past few years. Not just about how to take better care of myself, but about my peers and what they’ve gone through. I am so grateful for everything I’ve learned here .”*

**PEER SUPPORT** Peer support groups allow members to discuss aspects of their mental illness, struggles they are facing in their recovery, and get support from others in similar situations. Our peer support groups also offer members opportunities to learn about community resources, develop support networks and learn self help techniques from each other.

**UNITS OF SERVICE IN FY 2017: 478**

*“Having the support and understanding of my peers makes a world of difference in my recovery. They know, they’ve been there.”*

*“Whenever I’m feeling isolated and alone I know I can come here and feel acceptance from my peers.”*



**SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL** We plan activities to help members learn and become engaged in a variety of leisure and socialization skills both in the community and at our site. Some of our activities include: Bowling, crafting, playing games, going to the movies, sporting events, nature walks, baseball, volleyball, field trips, local talent nights featuring karaoke, and more. These activities build social connectedness, supportive friendships and helps our members engage in meaningful activities. Activities are developed directly from members' input at our monthly membership meetings and through various surveys and planning sessions throughout the year.

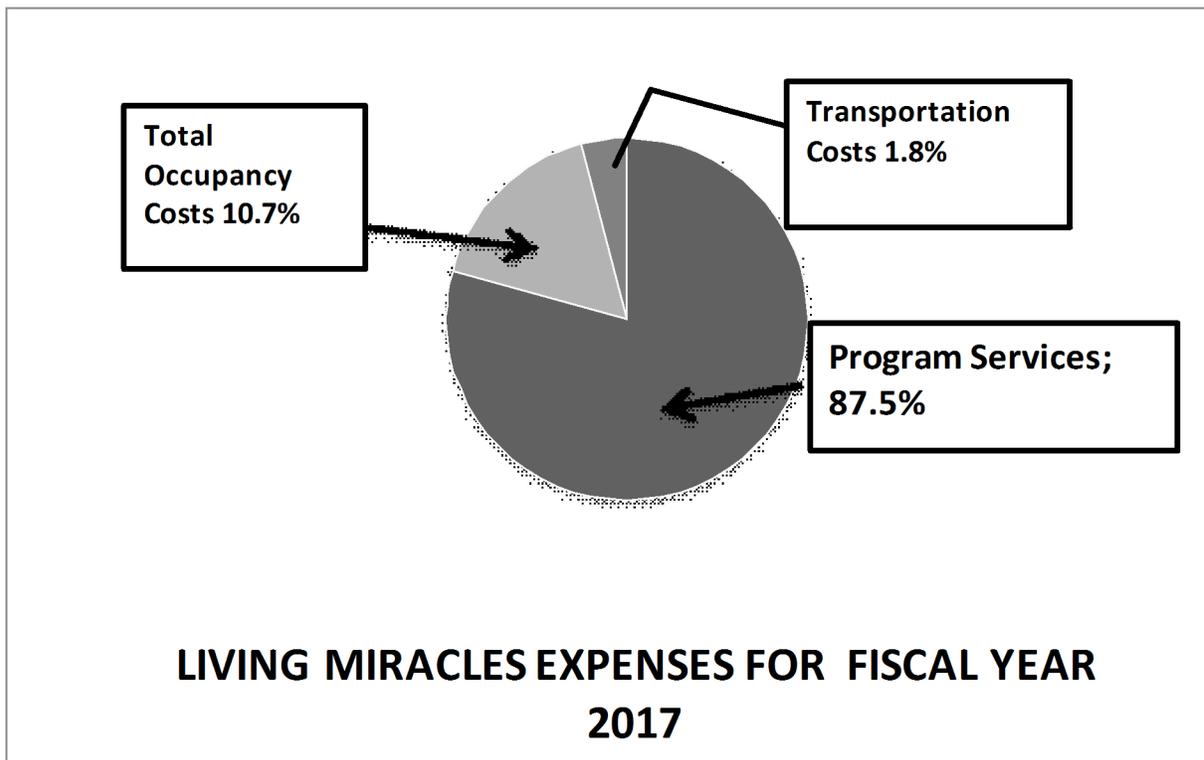
**UNITS OF SERVICE IN FY 2017: 524**

*“I have never been able to enjoy recreational activities with my peers like I do here at The Living Miracles! We have so much fun and I’ve made many friends!”*



# FY 2017 FISCAL MANAGEMENT

<b>LIVING MIRACLES BUDGET FY 2017</b>		<b>FISCAL YEAR 2017 FUNDERS:</b>
<b>FISCAL YEAR 2017 BUDGET</b>	<b>\$281,900.00</b>	<b>ADAMHS BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY—Major Community West Foundation</b>
<b>PROGRAM SERVICES</b>	<b>\$246,535.00</b>	<b>The Ginn Foundation</b>
<b>OCCUPANCY COSTS</b>	<b>\$30,208.00</b>	<b>Pfizer Healthcare Charitables</b>
<b>TRANSPORTATION COSTS</b>	<b>\$5,157.00</b>	<b>S.K. Wellman Foundation</b>
<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>	<b>\$281,900.00</b>	<b>West Side Community House</b>
		<b>Woodruff Foundation</b>



**OUR OUTCOMES:** Based on our most recent member outcome surveys, from May 2017, 95% of our members who attend Living Miracles group at least twice a week have had no psychiatric hospitalizations or involvement with the criminal justice system within the last year.

**“Wherever a person turns they can find someone who needs them.”**  
 ~ Albert Schweitzer