thrive

moving people from surviving to thriving

2020-2021

ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am grateful! Thrive has survived in the midst of almost 2 years of Executive Orders, Pandemic Response, and constantly changing healthcare directives and policies. Many small businesses and nonprofits were forced to close.

I am grateful for an amazing staff that have put others' needs above their own, have distributed PPE, have been flexible when policies and protocols change frequently, and who always serve clients with compassion. I am grateful for a Board of Directors that give constant support of their time, expertise, and funds to ensure that Thrive's mission is achieved in our community.

I am grateful for our donors! No gift is too small or too large; all help us achieve our mission. I am grateful for those we serve who constantly make our work so very worthwhile.

We have a long way to go to end the stigma surrounding mental illness and homelessness. Ending the stigma will allow us to obtain access to needed services, more affordable housing options, and greater quality of life for all we serve.

What are you willing to contribute this year? Do you have rental property, access to policy makers, a group of friends that like to do service projects or collect needed household items? We need each and every one of you to help us move people from surviving a crisis to thriving in the community!

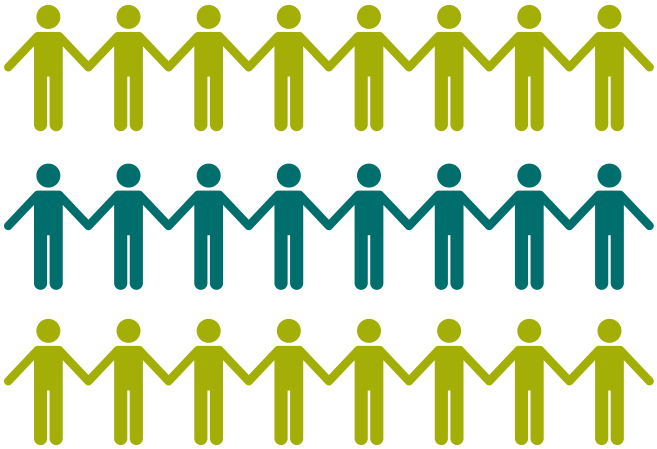
Gratefully,

Kristen M. Martin

Kristen Martin, MSW, LCSW
Executive Director

CLUBHOUSE

The Clubhouse was able to remain open for in-person services throughout the entire fiscal year. Staff also provided virtual services to members who were unable to attend because of COVID. **40 members** were served both in-person and virtually this year.



HOUSING

Thrive has added two additional Case Managers to the Housing Program this year because of additional COVID-related federal funding. Even though finding housing is a challenge, Thrive staff housed **52 households** and served **300 waitlisted households** this year.

REP PAYEE

The Representative Payee Program was projected to grow this year, but progress was stalled due to slowdowns at the Social Security office. Staff were still able to serve **42 clients** in this program and help make ends meet during the pandemic.

CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING

Thrive provides Crisis Intervention Training 1-2 times per year. CIT is a 40-hour intensive training for first responders. The training teaches better ways to respond to crises in mental health, substance use, and developmental disabilities. Trainees participate in lecture, agency site visits, and role-play scenarios throughout the training.

13 first responders completed Crisis Intervention Training in May, 2021.

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100 Percent Board Giving This Year

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Kristen Martin, MSW, LCSW
Executive Director

Carrington Cosby, MSW
Operations Director

Kristin Dunn (started June, 2021)
Operations Director

Teresa Drevar
Administrative Services Manager

Tracey Gruver, MA
Development and Communications Director

FINANCES

$973,131

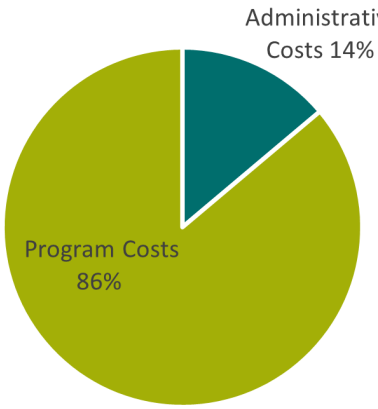
DONATIONS/GRANTS/EVENTS

With our fundraising efforts, Thrive has raised $973,131 this year through grants, individual funders, and special events. *This number also includes PPP loan forgiveness.

$1,169,821

EXPENSES

Thrive spent 86% of the budget on program costs for this fiscal year and just 14% on Administrative costs.



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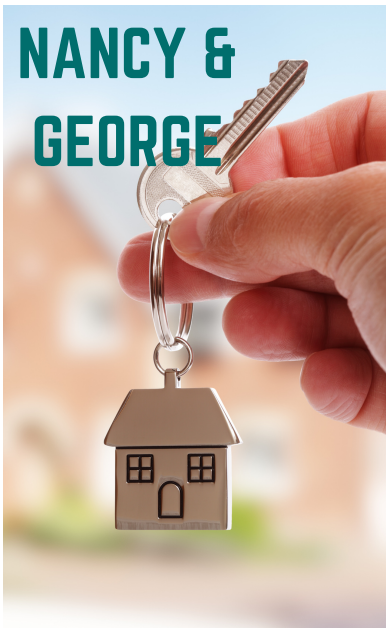
WNC Bridge Foundation – A Partnership for Health
St James Episcopal Church

COVID changed many things for Clubhouse member, Paula, but she used the skills from the Clubhouse to make the best of it. Paula lived in a group home when N.C. shut down for quarantine in March, 2020. She couldn't leave the group home for 6 months, so she couldn't attend the Clubhouse. Even though Paula was stuck at home, she says she would still rate that time in her life as 9/10, because her medication and Clubhouse staff helped her significantly.

Clubhouse staff served Paula virtually through phone calls several times a week, and Paula asked if someone would come to her home once a week to walk with her for exercise. Paula also asked Clubhouse staff to connect her with her peers by phone. Once she was in regular contact with her Clubhouse friends, Paula says **"That really helped me a lot. I can either call them or text with them. They really helped me because I just couldn't get out."** Paula also advocated for herself to move into a more independent living situation.

Paula is now learning to cook different meals for herself at her new house. Her new living situation allowed her to get back to the Clubhouse for in-person services, and to have more independence. Paula and her Clubhouse peers are still texting and calling each other even though she is now back at the Clubhouse. What a gift that a stronger bond between friends has come out of such a difficult situation! Paula was able to use all the skills she learned at the Clubhouse to take care of herself and advocate for herself throughout the pandemic. Before the Clubhouse, Paula did not possess many of these skills, nor did she have the confidence in herself to advocate for what she needed. **We are so proud of Paula's growth and for how she was able to communicate her needs and be her own best advocate!**



Nancy moved from N.C. to Georgia to live with her partner and things went well for a while. Then Nancy discovered her partner had been seeing someone else, and she had to move out. With no support system in Georgia, Nancy returned to Asheville, N.C.

Nancy is disabled and receives monthly disability income, but due to the high cost of rental units in our region, the amount was not enough for her to live on her own in Asheville. Nancy moved in with her daughter for a while, but eventually, she ended up homeless. Nancy says the 10 months she was homeless in Asheville were scary, especially at night.

Eventually, Nancy got into a shelter in Brevard, where the director recommended Nancy call Thrive. Nancy spent about 3 months on the housing waitlist before it was her turn to be housed. Nancy's Case Manager tried to find a 1-bedroom unit for Nancy that was available at the Fair Market Rate (a HUD requirement), but was unsuccessful. They finally found a 2-bedroom unit, which opened up an interesting opportunity: to move Nancy into housing with a roommate. Thrive had never tried housing unrelated roommates in the housing program before, but Nancy was willing to give it a try.

Nancy moved into housing with George, whom she met at a shelter several months before. Nancy really enjoys living with a roommate; she says she and George help each other out and it's nice to have company, especially with the isolation of COVID. Nancy appreciates how much her Thrive Case Manager helps her out. She was especially grateful when they delivered a welcome home gift with dishes, towels, and toiletries. Nancy says she would recommend Thrive to anyone who is struggling, that they will do their best to get you what you need. **We are so glad that Nancy has a safe and warm place to live and that she is enjoying the companionship of having a roommate. Now Nancy and George have the chance to thrive!**

Keith hasn't been able to work for years due to a chronic illness. After a lengthy and difficult application process, Keith finally started receiving disability income. Because of the long wait, Keith received a lot of backpay all at once, and some people near and dear to him took advantage. Keith never wanted to say no to loved ones, but he knew he shouldn't give away the money he needed.

Once Keith became a Thrive client, he could relax and not worry so much about money. His monthly disability checks are direct-deposited into an account just for him. Thrive's Representative Payee Services staff pays all the necessary bills for Keith each month and then they come up with a budget for the leftover funds. Keith no longer has to worry about not having the money to pay rent or forgetting to pay an important bill – the staff takes care of all that for him, and **Keith can focus on what's important: taking care of himself and his family and living his best life.**

Keith says one of the best things about this program, is that they don't just pay the bills for him. The staff makes sure his needs are always met. They deliver food boxes from local food pantries when money is tight, and they even helped Keith find a nice place to stay. Keith is thankful to know he can call Thrive when he needs something. When I asked Keith what changed the most when he became a Thrive client, he became emotional and had some trouble answering. After a few moments of silence, he took a deep breath and said, **"My bills are always paid. That's all that matters." Keith isn't just surviving anymore; he is on his way to thriving.**

THANK YOU, DONORS!

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thrive
moving people from surviving to thriving
DREAMBUILDERS

DreamBuilders are donors who give to Thrive each and every month. They provide much needed consistent funding for Thrive's programs.

Thank you, DreamBuilders!

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Bryan Byrd

Jolie Casoria

Gary Cyphers

Susan Dobson

Tracey Gruver

Kristen Martin

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