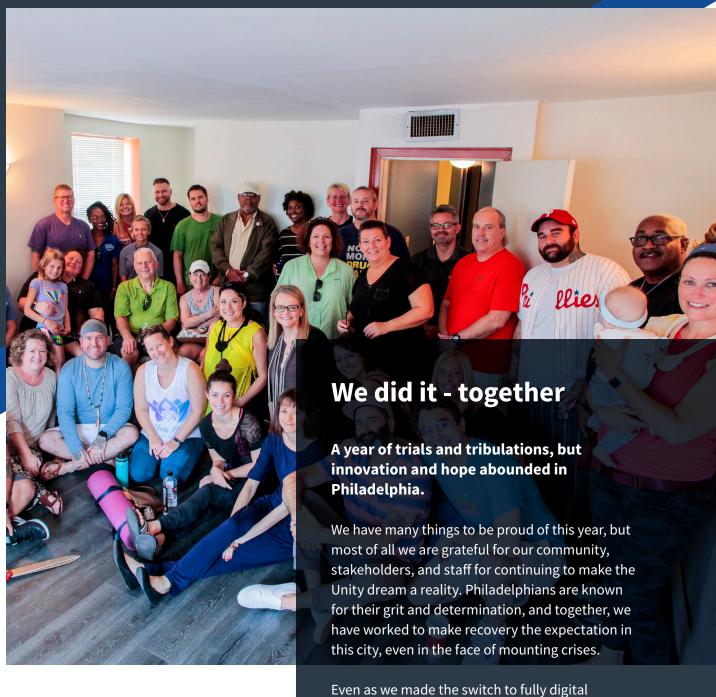


# Recovery is the expectation, not the exception.

Unity Recovery is a recovery community organization (RCO) serving the Philadelphia community and beyond.



### 2020 Annual Report

in the early part of the year, we have come together to expand our staff, serve hundreds of Philadelphians, and bring authentic community-based recovery supports to everyone who wants them - all at no cost. We look forward to continuing this work in 2021 in partnership with each of you. Together, we will ensure that recovery remains the expectation, never the exception.



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Investing in recovery isn't optional, it's required.



#### **Unity Recovery**

4363 Main Street, Floor 3 Philadelphia, PA, 19127



267-748-2454



contact@unityrecovery.org www.unityrecovery.org



### **About Unity**

Unity Recovery is a recovery community organization (RCO) serving the Philadelphia community. We believe recovery is an individualized and dynamic process, and support those with mental health or substance use disorders, no matter the pathway they use.



Recovery is a reality for over 22 million Americans with substance use disorders, over 40 million in mental health recovery, and countless more millions across the globe. We truly believe that recovery is individual, dynamic, and ultimately, best directed by the individual with support from their community. With this philosophy in mind, Unity Recovery was founded to be an inclusive recovery community organization and drop-in center for everyone.

Philadelphia is home to one of the most vibrant and diverse recovery communities in the United States. At Unity, we partner with the entire community to bring comprehensive community-based recovery supports to those that need them – including recovery meetings, peer recovery support services, recovery-focused education, and vocational training.

#### **Our Mission**

To provide inclusive community-based recovery support services and education for all individuals in or seeking recovery.

- Recovery is a dynamic process in which the individual is the expert in their own lives
- All pathways, programs, and modalities of recovery are valuable and legitimate
- The ability to pay should not impact the availability of quality recovery support services

"I am so thankful for Unity and my peer specialist - the naloxone they provided me helped save a friends life. I don't know where we would be without these supports!"

- Unity Participant



#### **Our Values**

At Unity, we are guided by a core set of principles and beliefs that inform everything we do. Whether it is how we engage with our community or how we provide one-on-one services, our core values drive us.

# UNITY RECOVERY RECOVERY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

#### **COMMUNITY PRINCIPLES**

- Recovery is a dynamic process in which the individual is the expert in their own lives
- All pathways, programs, and modalities of recovery are **valuable** and **legitimate**
- Individuals who use substances or live with mental illness are worthy, loved, and deserve dignity
- Saving lives is always #1; you can't recover if you are no longer living
- Harm reduction is both a pathway and program of recovery, as well as a life saving set of services
- The community is the **best** source of information in addressing substance use, mental health, and other quality of life concerns
- Stigma, bias, and discrimination have no place
- Tough love approaches to initiating recovery dehumanize and harm individuals living with substance use or mental health disorders
- The ability to pay should **never** impact the availability of quality recovery support services

#### **Our vision**

We envision a world where recovery is no longer hidden in the shadows and the millions of Americans with mental health and substance use disorders are celebrated and supported.







#### **Executive Director's Statement**

2020 has been a transformative year for our community and our organization - thanks to all of you.



Robert D. Ashford, PhD, MSW

**Executive Director** 



Through a year of unknown, we emerged as a beacon of innovation and hope for the community.

Thanks to our community, our staff, our supporters, and our Board of Directors - we were able to continue serving even more individuals this year throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. As the pandemic has raged on, the Unity community has come together to ensure that recovery is always available, even digitally.

While this year has certainly looked different than we all expected, we are nothing if not resilient. We have said goodbye to loved ones, to community members, and to colleagues, but through it all we have remained connected even as we were physically distant. This past year has been difficult for all, but we have made it through stronger than ever before due to the tireless work of our staff and partners.

We are excited to continue growing and impacting our community in 2021, and with your help, we know that we will thrive beyond our wildest expectations once again.

"

We have said goodbye to loved ones, to community members, and to colleagues, but through it all we have remained connected even as we were physically distant

### Organization History



# Commitment to service, connection to community

"It feels great to be seen as a whole person each time I am at the center - I am not sure if that happens anywhere else I go where they know I am in recovery"

- Unity Participant

#### **Our Journey**

2020 Lease signed on our second recovery center, featuring over 4,000 square feet of space.

Over 400,000 individuals served with recovery supports during the COVID19 pandemic.

Launch of national partnership to provide digital all recovery meetings to anyone in the world.

**2019** Launched Recovery Friendly Workplaces initiative across Pennsylvania

Staff expands to include our first recovery support services director and lead peer support specialist.

Grand opening of the first Unity recovery community center in Manayunk on Main Street.

2019 Unity granted 501(c)3 designation from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

2018 Unity begins search for first physical location In Philadelphia.

The original board of directors is established.

The idea for Unity originates in West Philadelphia after Arielle attends a recovery yoga class.

### **Board of Directors**

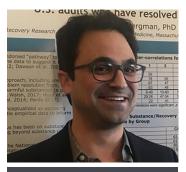
Experienced, effective, and diverse leadership



"

Unity is a national leader in the recovery field, and it is an honor to help lead the way.

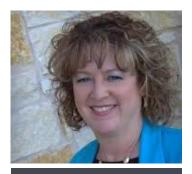
- Brent Canode, MPA
Board President



**Dr. Brandon Bergman**Board Member



Daniela Luzi Tudor Board Secretary



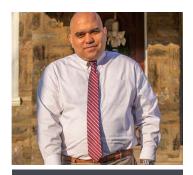
Melisa Simmons
Board Treasurer



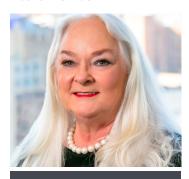
**Dr. Ricky Bluthenthal**Board Member



**Dr. Jennifer Potter**Board Member



**Evan Vargas**Board Member



Melinda Johnston Board Member



**Lauryn Wicks Board Member** 



**Shelly Young**Board Member



**Arielle Ashford**Board Member



**Rebecca Bonner**Board Member

# Our Team

Peer-led. Peer-driven.



**Robert D. Ashford Executive Director** 



Adam Sledd Recovery Support Director

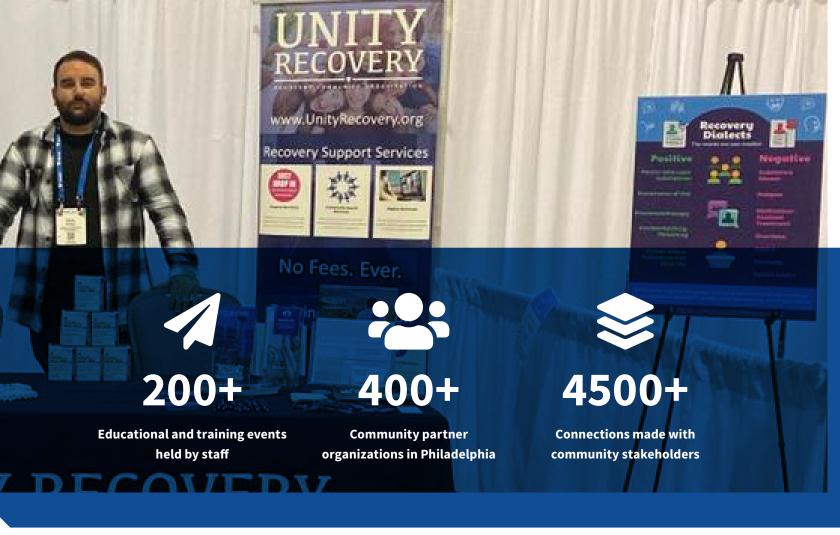


Kim Friel
Project Coordinator



Trauma-informed & Recovery-centric

**Chris Golding Project Director** 





Jewel PRSS



**Desiree** PRSS



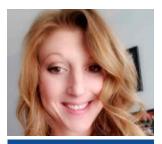
Donna PRSS



**Greg** PRSS



Rasheetta PRSS



Chelsea PRSS



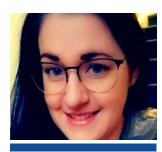
Gio PRSS



Annette PRSS



John PRSS

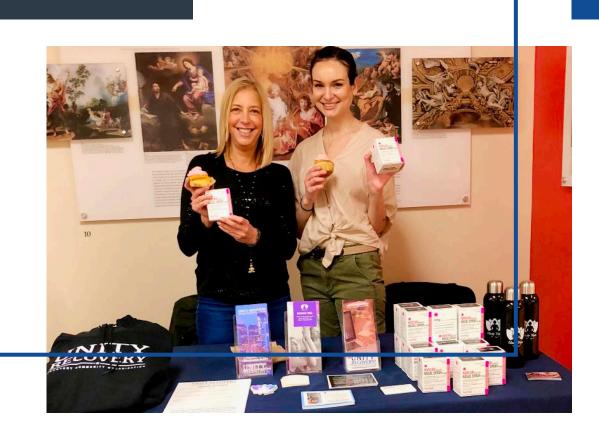


Lesley PRSS



We offer a range of recovery support services in our center and in the community

# Recovery Services







#### Peer Recovery Support

We take a recovery management and support approach to individual recovery support services. Participants partner with a peer to develop a recovery plan that fits their personal recovery goals with a focus on social determinants of recovery.



#### Mutual Aid Meetings

Supporting all pathways to recovery isn't just a slogan.
We offer All Recovery, SMART,
Recovery Dharma, AA/NA,
MARS, Harm Reduction
Support, and Grieve Out Loud
recovery meetings every month.
No matter the pathway, we
support individual recovery.



#### Pro-social Events

Having fun in recovery is critical to living the life desired, and not everything we do is a direct support service. From bowling and movie nights to recovery kickball and softball leagues, participants can fill their day with great hobbies in no time.



#### Community Outreach and Education

Creating recovery ready communities is one of our primary goals. We outreach every day to help create supports across Philadelphia so that recovery is supported no matter where a participant lives and works.



#### **Advocacy Activities**

Building healthy communities starts with policy designed to support individuals in recovery. We train individuals in recovery to find their voice and advocate for recovery-informed policy in Pennsylvania.



#### Recovery Yoga

Physical health is just as important as mental health and we provide 4 weekly recovery yoga classes to anyone with an interest. These classes follow the TYP recovery yoga curriculum and are pathway agnostic.



# Peer Recovery Support

# Providing peer-based recovery support to individuals is our primary area of service.

Our peer staff partner with individuals to craft recovery plans that are focused on primary social determinant domains in an effort to increase recovery capital.



#### **Initial Engagement**

Individuals can drop-in to the Unity
Recovery center, be referred by
one of our community partners, or
outreach to us through the website
or peer text line.

#### **Build Rapport**

Each of our peer specialists works to build connection and trust with individuals who reach out. We start with shared experiences and move to recovery support engagement.

#### **Establish Recovery Plan**

All of our one-on-one peer services rely on a comprehensive recovery plan to guide the process. Recovery plans are fully self-directed and only include items important to the recoveree.

#### **Ongoing Engagement**

Whether it is for 6 weeks or 6
months, ongoing engagement is
never time limited nor constrained
by the ability to pay. Recoverees
can engage as long as they wish.





### RecoveryLink™

While mutual aid and clinical programs remain important recovery tools, research shows people need more—more options, more personalized support, and more connections—for health and happiness in recovery.

Unity's RecoveryLink™ is an holistic approach to wellness that concentrates on social determinants of recovery - things like housing, education, finances, health, life skills, and relationships.

At its core, Unity's RecoveryLink™ is about empowering you to identify and use your existing strengths to create a recovery plan that's right for you at this stage in your life. We partner with you to navigate a complex process so that you can focus on your recovery capital.

#### **Dedicated Peers**

Unity Recovery peer recovery support specialists are your dedicated support team that will be with you every step of the way.

## Comprehensive Support

Peers will work with you to develop a recovery plan that makes sense for your strengths, goals, and priorities. We take a recovery capital approach to recovery planning and we know that you're the expert in your own life.

#### Flexible Engagement

From full recovery planning to regular text check-ins, you are in charge of how often you want to receive support from your peer.

Unity was there for my brother when we had no where else to turn. Thank you!

- Unity Family Participant



# Recent Campaigns





#### **Recovery is... Campaign**

Recovery is many things, and for 22 million Americans it is their daily reality. At it's core, Recovery is...humanity. Join us in celebrating the recovery communities differences, similarities, and existence in our 2020 campaign. Together, we can let the world know that recovery is the expectation.

**Launch Date: December 2019** 



# Recovery Friendly Workplaces

Recovery Friendly Workplaces helps employers and organizations achieve recovery friendly status through training, technical assistance, and employee recovery support services.

For individuals in or seeking recovery, who are seeking gainful employment, we also offer employment readiness services and peer-based recovery support services to help in the process.

Launch Date: July 2020

#### Pregnant & Postpartum Recovery Supports

Unity's pregnancy and postpartum recovery support services and care coordination (PPR) project offers a dedicated pregnancy and postpartum support services option for those women with opioid use disorder or stimulant use disorder who are currently pregnant or recently postpartum (within the last year).

**Launch Date: December 2020** 





# 2020 Financial Overview

We finished the year with committed and awarded funding to see us through 2021.

Thanks to successful grant applications and the generosity of our Board of Directors and community stakeholders, we are well positioned for future success.



**Grant Awards** 

\$718,000

Unrestricted Gifts

\$38,138

Community Donations

\$10,304

# **Financial Report**

|                |                               | 2020      | 2021<br>Projection | 2022<br>Projection |  |
|----------------|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| Revenue        |                               |           |                    |                    |  |
| 1.             | Grants                        | \$619,300 | \$750,000          | \$900,000          |  |
| 2.             | Unrestricted Gifts            | \$38,138  | \$50,000           | \$60,000           |  |
| 3.             | Community Donations           | \$10,304  | \$20,000           | \$25,000           |  |
| Total Revenue  |                               | \$667,742 | \$820,000          | \$985,000          |  |
| Expenses       |                               |           |                    |                    |  |
| 7.             | Advertising & Marketing       | \$3,428   | \$10,000           | \$25,000           |  |
| 8.             | Insurance                     | \$6,814   | \$8,000            | \$12,000           |  |
| 9.             | Supplies & Equipment          | \$7,691   | \$10,000           | \$15,000           |  |
| 10.            | Legal & Professional Services | \$117,170 | \$125,000          | \$135,000          |  |
| 11.            | Lease & Utilities             | \$50,183  | \$60,000           | \$65,000           |  |
| 12.            | Salaries & Payroll Taxes      | \$353,231 | \$425,000          | \$500,000          |  |
| 13.            | All Other                     | \$6,941   | \$8,000            | \$10,000           |  |
| Total Expenses |                               | \$545,458 | \$646,000          | \$762,000          |  |
| 14.            | Total Assets                  | \$143,482 | \$174,000          | \$223,000          |  |
| 15.            | Liabilities                   | \$17,300  | \$0                | \$0                |  |
| Net Assets     |                               | \$126,182 | \$300,182          | \$523,182          |  |

# Service Delivery 2020 Numbers

We provided services to hundreds of community members in 2020 across Philadelphia.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we also provided digital recovery support to over 460,000 individuals across the US.





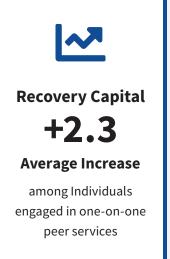
Recovery planning, digital mutual aid meetings, and lifeskill workshops were the most popular service type in 2020.



**340**Naloxone kits provided to individuals



activities.



# **UNITY RECOVERY**

#### RECOVERY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

2,500 digital recovery meetings

Weekly meetings include All Recovery, AA, NA, MARS, Grieve Out Loud, Recovery Dharma, Family Recovery, SMART, Meditation, and Y12SR





6,000

peer-to-peer engagement sessions including recovery planning, brief check-ins, and follow-ups.



143

average length
of engagement days
for participants
working 1-on-1 with
a peer recovery
support specialist.



139

warm hand-off referrals provided to participants for housing, treatment, employment, education, etc.



# We are proud to serve our community

"

Our community partnerships help us bring zero-cost recovery supports to Philadelphians across the city. Without them, we wouldn't enjoy the success we've had.

#### **Adam Sledd**

**Recovery Support Services Director** 

NATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY 2020

SAVING LIVES IS ALWAYS #1, YOU CAN'T RECOVER IF YOU'RE NO LONGER LIVING



If you are in need of Naloxone please reach





99

Unity really understands the community, what recovery can look like when it is supported, and how to involve all of us in the process at the ground level.

#### Kim Friel

**Project Coordinator** 

# The best way to predict recovery is to support it

#### **Our Key Partners in 2020**





















"

I wish I had something like Unity available to me when I first began my recovery - from the individual services to the focus on whole person health, we really do offer something special.

#### **Chris Golding**

**Project Director** 

