APPLIED BEHAVIORAL REHABILITATION INSTITUTE, INC.

Homes for the Brave 2016 Annual Report





Making an Impact



In FY 2016, ABRI/Homes for the Brave served its 1000th client and 164 others with services to help them overcome homelessness and achieve their program goals.



INCREASE INCOME

We are thrilled by our residents' dedication to seeking and securing dependable income sources. Over the past year, employment rates increased by 83% and the number of individuals with no income source decreased by 56%.



In Fiscal Year 2016, more than 50% of the men and women who graduated from our programs moved directly into permanent housing.



ACHIEVE GREATER SELF-DETERMINATION

We celebrate our residents' personal growth as they volunteer in the community, maintain abstinence from substance abuse, and enhance their mental and physical wellbeing.

MISSION STATEMENT

With an emphasis on Veterans, we provide the housing and services necessary to help homeless individuals return to a productive and meaningful life.

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to provide a model to enable homeless men, women and their families, especially those who have served our country, to attain safe, affordable housing, meaningful life activity and a livable income so that they may return to a productive and meaningful life.

VALUES STATEMENT

We believe:

- 1. It is essential to serve others with honesty, integrity, empathy, and patience;
- 2. Every individual deserves to be treated with respect and dignity;
- By providing a non-judgmental environment and access to a comprehensive array of services, we demonstrate our commitment to putting those we serve first;
- 4. Hard work and responsibility lead to independence; and
- 5. Innovation is essential to developing creative solutions that are responsive to the evolving needs of our residents.

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Dear Friends,

Since opening in 2002, ABRI/Homes for the Brave has embraced its mission to serve individuals — primarily Veterans — who are homeless, jobless, or struggling with issues that have inhibited them from reaching their potential. Due to the amazing support we received from you: our partner businesses, individuals, and organizations, we have helped more than 1050 men and women win their toughest battles and take strides on the path toward independent and productive lives.

Our outstanding staff drives the organization's success as they routinely go the extra mile, providing basic needs, expert case management and vocational services. Their tenacious efforts are individually tailored to assist each of the men and women we serve as they achieve their personal goals. In addition, our wonderful army of volunteers selflessly donates their time and energy, helping our residents attain success.

The individuals we care for continue to impress and inspire us. Not only have we seen incredible ability and talent in these men and women, but also tremendous examples of dogged determination in securing employment, housing, and stability. Additionally, this report features instances in which they have given back to others within our community.

We are so proud of the progress we have made in such challenging economic conditions, and plan to continue collaborating with other non-profit organizations to realize our mission. We are focused on the holistic well-being of our residents, and in 2016 we established a physical fitness partnership with the Greater Bridgeport YMCA.

It is our wish that you enjoy the 2016 Annual Report and are moved to support our organization with a tax-deductible contribution using the attached envelope. We thank you for partnering with us to guide and transform the lives of the men and women who served our country in the past and need our help now. Never forget that we are the land of the free *because* of the brave.

Very Truly Yours,

Michael Dolan Chairman, Board of Directors

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Vincent Santilli Chief Executive Officer



Applied Behavioral Rehabilitation Institute, Inc.

Applied Behavioral Rehabilitation Institute, Inc. (ABRI), doing business as *Homes for the Brave*, is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit agency based in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Our staff work with clients to create personalized goals to help them achieve stable income and housing, and increase their self-determination.

Homes for the Brave

ABRI's pilot program, *Homes for the Brave (HFTB)*, is a 42-bed transitional living program for homeless male Veterans and up to five non-Veterans.

Female Soldiers: Forgotten Heroes

Female Soldiers: Forgotten Heroes is the first and only transitional housing program for women Veterans in

Connecticut. At the PFC Nicholas A. Madaras Home, *FS:FH* hosts ten beds for female Veterans and five beds, when available, for overflow and their small children.

Waldorf House

The Waldorf Permanent Supportive Housing Program consists of nine furnished units and provides permanent housing and case management services to formerly homeless men, with priority given to Veterans and those with histories of chronic homelessness.

Veterans Service Center

The Homes for the Brave Veterans Service Center provides immediate basic assistance and resources to Veterans in need. Our staff assists individuals by offering referrals to emergency and permanent housing resources, vocational counseling, assistance with benefits, and other supportive services.

Ode to Joy

In February 2016, Joy Kiss retired from ABRI after a 14-year tenure as its CEO and Executive Director.

In 2002, after more than 20 years in the medical field, Joy arrived at *Homes for the Brave* as the Program Manager. The agency looked very different from today: no money for payroll, no furnishings, no grass in the ground. To ensure the program's successful launch, Joy aggressively applied for grants and raised awareness for the organization by reaching out to civic groups, women's clubs, Veterans organizations, and anyone who would lend their ear. She authored policies and procedures and even assembled furniture in time for the first Veterans to arrive.

Joy maintained her indomitable spirit throughout her tenure and was a driving force in achieving ABRI's greatest accomplishments: saving funds to purchase *Waldorf House*, our permanent-supportive housing program and the unrelenting battle to open *Female Soldiers: Forgotten Heroes,* Connecticut's first transitional housing program for homeless female veterans and their children.

Joy extends her eternal gratitude to our supporters for making the organization what it is today. Time after time, she has been touched by the generosity you have shown to individuals that you don't even know because you believe so deeply in our mission and their futures.

And to our residents, Joy thanks you for teaching her something new every day. She admires your strength and respect for one another and believes that "no matter what obstacles you face in life, you can overcome them; it just takes work, perseverance, and the ability to ask for help."

We at ABRI thank Joy for 14 years of service in which she paved the way for our organization and the clients we serve.



CLIENT PROFILES: Success Stories

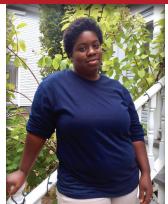
After 9/11 Carmen felt a duty to serve her country and joined the military in 2003. She was deployed to Iraq the following year, where she was responsible for guarding the village, sweeping for bombs, checking the perimeter and more. After 18 months she was discharged, yet continued to serve in the National Guard.

By January 2015 Carmen was a single mother working two back-to-back jobs as a Certified Nursing Assistant but was unable to make ends meet. When she received an eviction

notice she moved to Connecticut to be closer to family, but they could not accommodate Carmen and her threeyear-old daughter on a long-term basis. After visiting and calling what seemed like an endless list of shelters that were not appropriate for a young girl, Carmen found *Female Soldiers: Forgotten Heroes.*

Carmen remembers her first day at the *PFC Nicholas A*. *Madaras House*. "You walk in here and it's a house. You have your own space, and people are willing to talk to you like you're a real person." In addition to the trust and

CARMEN



guidance she received from ABRI staff, Carmen built lasting friendships with the other residents. "Talking to other women most of whom have children — made me feel less alone and ashamed to be in my situation."

Carmen developed a personal service plan with her case manager and returned to school while her daughter enjoyed a safe place surrounded by positive female role models and other children.

Today, Carmen is working toward a respiratory therapy degree at Norwalk Community College and pursuing a medical assistant certificate. Thanks to the stipend she receives through the G.I. Bill, she is able to maintain a home for herself and her daughter while focusing on coursework.

To any woman facing life's hardships, Carmen recommends allowing yourself to be vulnerable and asking for help before you hit rock bottom. "At the end of the day this is your fight and your struggle, but the more people and support you have behind you, the more likely you are to win the battle."

In 1977, at age 19, Perry joined the National Guard and later transferred to the Marines, believing that serving in the military would allow him to properly support his wife and daughter.

Perry trained to be a Military Police Officer and Sniper, and after his discharge in the 80s, ultimately found his calling as a security guard. In this position, he was able to utilize many of the skills he learned in the military while making a comfortable living.

When Perry was laid off, he moved in with his mother, providing 24/7 care as her illness progressed. When she passed away, Perry was shocked to learn that she had cashed in her life insurance policy, spent the majority of her remaining funds, and never officially added Perry to her lease. Perry was given 30 days to vacate the home he thought he could occupy until he returned to work.

Perry found *Homes for the Brave*, which he credits with providing the support and stability he needed to regain



his independence. Alongside his vocational specialist and case manager, Perry prepared to reenter the workforce.

After an extensive job search and several coaching sessions, Perry secured a full-time position as an armed security guard. He now trains new associates and is encouraged by the potential to advance within a growing company.

Today Perry lives in an apartment in Bridgeport and is actively saving to own a

property of his own. Perry is proud of himself for adjusting to the challenging, regimented lifestyle at *Homes for the Brave* and accepting help from the staff that genuinely believes in him.

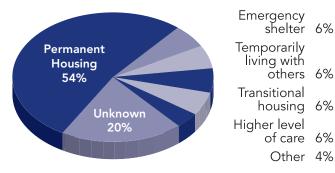
"My advice to others is to follow the rules and give the program a chance. If you fight against it, it will come back to bite you. But if you embrace it, it will provide the stability and support you need to overcome your personal obstacles."

FINANCIALS

REVENUE & SUPPORT

Federal Grants	\$819,181
State Grants	\$354,465
Special Events less: direct costs	\$112,252 (\$11,415)
Contributions & Small Grants	\$243,332
Client Fees	\$92,019
Other Income	\$4,546
Total Revenues	\$1,614,380

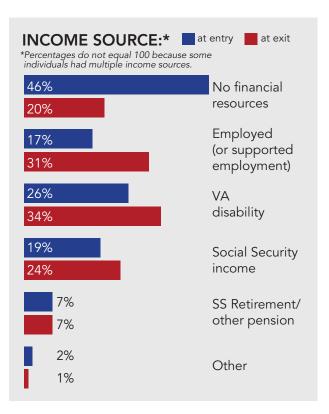
HOUSING STATUS AT DISCHARGE



YEAR OVER YEAR:

83% increase in residents who were employed between entry and exit

56% decrease in residents who had no income between entry and exit



EXPENSES

Program	\$1,398,759
Management & General	\$342,644
Total Expenses	\$1,741,403
ASSETS	

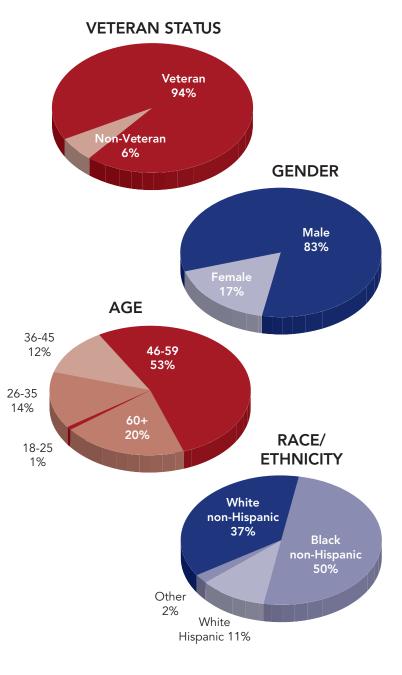
Total Liabilities & Net Assets \$4,172,540

NOTE: Approval of the fiscal year 2016 financial data was pending an official vote by the ABRI Board of Directors at the time of printing.

WHO WE SERVE

Summary of Housing and Employment Outcomes for FY 2016 Total number served: 165

Out of the 165 individuals served this year, 108 were discharged and 57 remained in the three ABRI programs beyond June 30, 2016.



Year In Review Throughout the year, we have the opportunity to celebrate special occasions that support the men and women we serve. Following are some highlights from this year:



"Sometimes we just need to get out of the house," said resident Brian M. "The YMCA is a healthy outlet that gets us out of the house and into a positive place where we don't have to spend any money. Since joining, my stress level has reduced and the strength I'm gaining is translating into more confidence." Thanks to the Exchange Club of Shelton and the Bridgeport YMCA, Homes for the Brave is now able to offer health club memberships to our clients.

Working Hard & Having Fun

Ladies' Night Fundraiser, by St. Ann Club Ladies Auxiliary

Long-Term Affiliation with Connecticut Junior Women

- "Plant a Tree: Help a Hero" Armed Forces Day Celebration hosted by **Northeast Tree Service, LLC**
- Salute to Female Soldiers: Our Forgotten Heroes, hosted by **Rua Insurance**

Ladies' Night Out, hosted by Dames for Soldiers

- Homes for the Brave Car Show, hosted by Raymour & Flanigan Waterbury & Brass City Cruisers
- Homerun for Heroes Baseball Game, hosted by Sikorsky Aircraft & Teamsters Local 1150

Step Up for the Brave Stadium Stair Climb

Have a Ball Cocktail Party, hosted by AWARE CT

Pancakes for Vets, hosted by Fairfield Rotary

Day of Service by **People's United Bank Internal** Audit Department YMCA Fitness Partnership

- Art Therapy Program by Westport Arts Center
- buildOn Game Nights & Resident-Prepared Luncheon
- Veterans Brunch, hosted by **Congregation B'nai Israel**
- Nielsen Global Impact Day
- **Prudential** Workforce Readiness Workshop and Teambuilding BBQ
- Female Soldiers: Forgotten Heroes Tour & Veterans Panel at **Sikorsky Aircraft**
- 2015 National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day
- Superbowl Party, hosted by Weston Kiwanis

Homes for the Brave Holiday Party

- National Night Out
- "Housewarming Basket" Eagle Scout Project & Dinner by **Zack Brand** and **Boy Scout Troop 25 Shelton**

"When I came in on Saturday morning, the hallway was lined with coats, clothes, and personal care items along with four cases of canned goods. Our residents gave away a lot of their personal belongings that morning, including their holiday gifts." – Georgianna Bradley, HFTB Case Manager on residents donating goods to local fire victims

Sharing Meals with Friends Old and New

Anthony's Army
AWARE CT
Ben's Lighthouse
Boy Scouts
Troop 25 Shelton
Bridgeport Elks Lodge 36
buildOn
Chi Upsilon Sigma
Christel Truglia & Friends
Congregation B'nai Israel
David Dubinsky & DAV Milford Ladies Auxiliary

Easton Methodist Church Erin McBurney Golier Family Holly Heaven Homes for the Brave Residents & Graduates Jim Miele Exchange Club of Shelton Kmar Educational Services Knights of Columbus Msgr. James F. Murphy Council 4716

Dorett Thomas & Friends

- Knights of Columbus St. Matthew 14360 Knights of Columbus St. Theresa Council 8031 Legg Mason Moriarty Family Notre Dame High School O'Connor Family Orange Community Women Prudential Quinnipiac Pathologist Assistants
- Quinnipiac University Shalini Madaras St. Ann Club Susie Richards & Friends Synchrony Financial Transitional Employment Unlimited Trumbull Rotary Club Trumbull Women's Club Valley Boys VITAS

"The reciprocal appreciation and love that is shown between our students and the veterans at Homes for the Brave is amazing and keeps kids wanting to come back and continue leading lives of service." –Justin Zeigler, Service Learning Program Manager for buildOn, a service organization that breaks the cycle of poverty, illiteracy and low expectations through service and education.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of donors who have contributed to ABRI's mission from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

These contributions support housing operations, health and human services, and vocational and life skills training at three unique facilities. Our programs provide the foundation to help individuals achieve their goals. Generous support creates positive change and inspires our residents to begin their life-transforming journey.

GIFTS AND GRANTS

\$20,000+

Crane Fund for Widows and Children Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust Newman's Own Foundation

\$10,000 - \$19,999

Anonymous Dominion Foundation Fairfield County's Community Foundation Irwin & Dorothy Nessel Foundation Joseph P. and Colleen M. Brandon Family Foundation People's United Community Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Bank of America Charitable Foundation Fairfield Half Marathon, Inc. Fairfield Rotary Club First Congregational Church of Greenwich The Huntington Foundation Laura J. Niles Foundation, Inc. Melville Charitable Trust The Prudential Foundation Samourkas Foundation of NY Synchrony Financial TD Charitable Foundation

\$2,500 - \$4,999

T. Scott Coleman Connecticut Junior Women Connecticut Military Corvette Club Matthew Gachi The Greenfield Hill Congregational Church Mark and Anne Ryan Saint Ann Society of Norwalk Sikorsky Community Giving Campaign Valley Container, Inc. Sidney and Alma Wilson

\$1,000 - \$2,499

AFSCME Council 4 American Legion Auxiliary Sippin-Winspur Unit 176 John P. Bozzi Brooklawn Country Club Byer Family Foundation Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (CVMA) CT 31-1 Connecticut Women's Alliance The Delaney Foundation Dooney & Bourke Jeanne & Arthur Dsouza General Reinsurance Corporation Huntington VFW Post 10466 The K Foundation Dee Lippman, PhD Diane Lowman Master of Disaster Mellen Foundation Inc. Marie Morgan Lawrence and Diana Osborne Michael Ouellette Steven & Linda Paquette Saint Ann Club of Norwalk Ladies Auxiliary Saint Stephen Church Shelton Exchange Club Foundation Sikorsky Aircraft Spadaccino Realty Team LLC Teamsters Veteran Caucus Connecticut Chapter 1 The Bridgeport Rotary Club Foundation Inc. The United Illuminating Company Atul Vashistha Walmart Lincoln & Dorothy Williams

\$500 - \$999

Joan Andros Blessed Pope John XXIII Auxiliary Columbiettes CompuLedger CT Sun Foundation Michael and Michele Dolan Easton Lions Club Jonathan and Suzanne Ellenthal Fairfield County Labor Council Kelly Farmer Eileen & Guy Ferro Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund Frontier Communications Gateway Community Services Fund Pat and Janienne Hackett Lynwood and Elaine Hammers Bill and Mary Ellen Hass Lisa Sheffield and James Lillie Robert & Joan MacDonald Henry E. Marx Thomas and Elizabeth McDevitt The Meredith Corporation Foundation Olanders Inc. James Packer

Eric & Mary Kate Parker Gloria Paul Reynolds Family Charitable Fund Helga Richards Sacred Heart Sunday Community Greg and Janet Sinnott Jennifer Toll United Methodist Women Venman & Co. LLC Greg and Pam Wertz

\$250 - \$499

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Nicholas and Claire Weiler John & Lucille Wisted

\$100 - \$249

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\$50 - \$99

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Janet Gangaway Leroy T. Glover Chris Gombos Eunice B. Gourley Greater Bridgeport Medical Association Tonv Guida Daniel & Judith Hall Steven Hall Herve Hamon Alice & Vance Hancock Janet Hanson Deena Hastings Joshua Hawks-Ladds Ed Heavey Sharon Hecklev Jeri Hepworth Rosemary Hokanson Hopkinson Family Bruce E. Humiston IBM Employee Charitable Contribution Campaign Howard Jack Rosie Jones-Clarke Elva Karpenko Alan Katz Katelyn Kawejsza Thomas Keenan Mike & Cathi Kellett Cheryl Kendall Kick for Nick Foundation Peter Kirby Susan C. Klein Robert Kopasz Ann Koth Paula LaJoie Law Offices of George R. Koteas John Lenard Lesko & Polke Funeral Home LLC Gina Limbrick Carol Lisi Joel London Denise Lucarelli Suse & Art Marciano Kaitlin Marinelli Margaret McCabe McEvoy-Dempsey VFW Post 10585 Kate McNeil Middlesex County Blue Star Mothers Mike & Donna Moray-Breese New Canaan Mounted Troop Eric and Patricia Nietsch Catherine Nogas Nancy O'Flinn Arthur Ozzi Harold & Lorraine Panciera Marilvn Parker Mr. & Mrs. Roger Peckham James and Dawn Perkins Peter Perrault Peter Perroni, Jr. Suzanne Phillip Nancy Pite Daniel T. Pompa Jacqueline A. Porto Mary Pura Margaret Sapir & Mitchell

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Under \$50

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& Urban Development U.S. Department of Labor Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Grant & Per Diem Program Connecticut Department of Housing Connecticut Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services

MATCHING GIFTS

GE Foundation General Reinsurance Corporation The Meredith Corporation Foundation United Illuminating Company

IN-KIND DONORS

AARP Plainville

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