Grateful for Pro Bono Counseling and Its Supporters

“I feel so fortunate to have found this service.”

“I am so thankful to have been matched with a counselor.”

“Meeting with a therapist has been so helpful and I am beyond thankful.”

These statements were made by Marylanders who have contacted Pro Bono Counseling (PBC), expressing their gratitude for the services they have received. They appreciate that the organization exists to connect them with mental health resources and are treated with care and kindness from their first phone call.

“From the moment someone contacts PBC, the team ensures that each caller’s circumstances are respected and gathers essential information, like background and preferences, to make the best match with a therapist,” explained PBC Clinical Director Sherri Bloom. “Once that connection is made, clients report back to us about how the counseling sessions have positively transformed their lives.”

That transformation is achieved through the efforts of PBC’s partners. To provide access to counseling at no cost to Marylanders requires the commitment and dedication of volunteer licensed mental health professionals. We appreciate our volunteers who selflessly offer their time, talents, skills, and knowledge to improve the lives of people throughout Maryland. So far this year, volunteers have donated more than 8,800 hours to 1,262 people in therapy.

PBC would also not be able to accomplish its mission without all of our supporters. The organization relies heavily on your generous contributions to continue to provide services to Marylanders in need. We are grateful to all of the donors who choose to make a mental health connection to individuals who would otherwise not have access to the mental health resources they deserve. Additionally, PBC recognizes the invaluable support public and private foundations provide by funding initiatives and other organizational operations.

“The need for mental health services is at an all-time high,” stated PBC Executive Director Amy Greensfelder. “We are appreciative and honored that so many individuals, foundations, and organizations are able to support our vital mission.”

Diverse Talent Meets Needs

Pro Bono Counseling strives to provide mental health support that is the best fit between the individual or family members and the therapist with whom they are matched. In addition to the background questions staff members ask when someone calls for assistance, they also inquire about the type of clinician they are looking for as well as the type of therapy they may want. PBC is fortunate to have over 800 licensed mental health professionals who volunteer with the organization, each with diverse backgrounds as well as diverse areas of expertise, skills, and specialties.

When a clinician enrolls as a volunteer, they indicate the types of cases they would like to assist with.

“PBC volunteers collectively represent a vast array of experiences, from the populations they assist with, to the topic areas they specialize in, to the approaches they use, so we really are able to provide the most appropriate connections between the client and the clinician,” stated PBC Clinical Director Sherri Bloom.

A few months ago, a woman in her 30’s contacted PBC who was interested in therapy to help her process past traumas and stress in addition to coping with the lasting impacts of COVID. During the interview process, it was determined that an art therapist would be the best fit for what she was seeking.

Since PBC has many volunteers who specialize in art therapy, she was connected with a clinician and so far has met with seven counseling sessions.

Upcoming CEU Workshops

Register today to attend an upcoming online continuing education workshop:

November 28
Introduction to Problem Gambling and Screening Tools for Gambling Disorder
2 CE Credits, Presenters - Kristen Beall, LCSW-C, ICGC-I, CAC-AD, and Heather Eshleman, MPH

December 1
Early Psychosis in Transition-Age Youth: Assessment and Treatment Approaches from the Maryland Early Intervention Program
1.5 CE Credits, Presenter - Pamela Rakshan Rouhakhtar, PhD

December 6
Providing Counseling Pro Bono: Clinical Applications for Volunteers - 1 CE Credit
Presenters - Amy Greensfelder, LMSW, Sherri Bloom, LCSW-C, and Yolonda Nelson-Swain, MAHS, VASIL

For more information and to register, visit PBC’s Events and Workshop page.

Welcome PBC Volunteers

Please join us in welcoming the following mental health clinicians who joined our team as PBC volunteers last month:

- Nicole Hughes
- Barbara Rossman
- Sai Peterson
- Si Meng

Have you considered volunteering with PBC? If you’re a licensed counselor, social worker, psychologist, or therapist, please join us! Click HERE for more info.

Give on GIVING TUESDAY

You can double your impact on GIVING TUESDAY. All gifts to Pro Bono Counseling (PBC) made through December 2 will be matched by PBC’s Board of Directors.

Thousands of people in Maryland are currently experiencing unprecedented mental health challenges. Your generous gift to PBC will help provide quality mental health care for all those in need throughout Maryland.

Make a mental health connection – click HERE to make your gift today.