

From the President's Corner



I want to extend thanks to all of the people from New York to California and all of our International associates who have been so inspirational to me in my first year as President and as we celebrate our 80th anniversary.

As I reflect over the past year, Recovery has been supported by funders, members, volunteers, Board members, participants and staff who generously stepped up to the plate to bring Recovery forward to support a new generation of people. I am extremely grateful for the efforts of all. My hope is that in the next year, Recovery can expect the same level of commitment and support as we continue to move in a direction to reach the many people who can benefit from the services offered by the organization, giving us the tools to live more peaceful lives.

In order to monitor, protect and oversee Recovery, I am pleased to report the following accomplishments made this past year:

• Adding four new members to our Board of Directors

 Overseeing a restructuring of spending and accounting practices

• Initiating new policies and procedures for all aspects of the organization, a work in progress

• Establishing new task forces to oversee new and old programs

• Establishing a request for proposal process for all new programs

- Appointing new officers
- · Participating in fund raising projects

• Starting a new program of compliance with our Policy and Procedures

• Working closely with our CEO, accountants and auditors to develop a new banking system for the organization, a work in progress

• Hiring our new CEO Sandra Wilcoxon, with a high level of experience and professionalism, which has proven to be a great asset to Recovery.

It has been my honor to be your President this past year and I look forward to helping Recovery achieve the growth, prosperity and stability that it so deserves.

To our next 80 years,

Janne Tampey

Joanne Lampey Board President

RI RECOVERY INTERNATIONAL

The mission of Recovery International is to use the cognitive-behavioral peer-to-peer self-help training system developed by Abraham Low, MD, to help people facing mental and behavioral health issues gain skills for leading more peaceful and productive lives.

"RI has improved communication between family members and myself."

Nate's Story

Something truly great happened to me today...

When my symptoms overwhelmed me six months ago, I could not leave the house; I lost my voice and I was not able to engage with people.

Last night I thought of the many possibilities I now have thanks to my RI training and decided to get up and work on my resume. I ended up posting it on a few job-searching apps and went to bed feeling I had taken another step to gaining back my people skills. My passion truly is customer service.

This morning I found an email from someone requesting an interview, as she had seen my resume and had an opening. I got into so many symptoms, and had to stop and re-read the email to make sure my reply was objective. Satisfied that it was, I pressed send and got a call within the following ten minutes to schedule a phone interview.

Two things: First, I did well in the interview—I paced myself to make sure my racing thoughts didn't get ahead of answering the questions. Second—I felt so good speaking about myself to a stranger for something I *know* I am good at, that I don't even care if I get the job. The fact that I was brave enough to put myself out there and go through the experience with a smile on my face was something too refreshing and positive not to share.

Headquarters

2016 was an active year for everyone at Recovery International. At headquarters, changing staff, adjusting to our new location, and improving our internal policies and procedures have kept us busy and productive.

Our small staff managed all the administrative and operational components of the organization, which includes maintaining relationships with vendors, funders, and partners; conducting major outreach and fundraising efforts; conducting trainings; maintaining grants and contracts; managing RI's finances and accounts; operating RI's website and database; producing most of RI's internal and external communications; managing product inventory; complying with all legal, governmental, and professional regulations; responding to several thousand phone and email inquiries; assisting our community members with memberships, donations, and product orders; and—most important—supporting RI's amazing leaders and all of RI's meetings.

This work sustains our organization and will expand the impact of our mission and values for years to come.

"RI has helped me with my anger, and I no longer want to explode."



Community Meetings

Recovery International leaders are the heart and soul of our organization. They demonstrate the RI Method and keep Dr. Low's 80-year-old vision alive by offering community meetings in the original faceto-face format. In 2016, 530 group leaders provided mental health support to approximately 78,000 participants in 374 weekly meetings throughout the United States. The free-will model used in these meetings generated more than \$150,000 in contributions in 2016, while still providing services to anyone regardless of their ability to donate.

These figures reflect the hard work of our enormous volunteer leadership base. Our leaders dedicate countless hours to promoting their meetings and managing our 40 geographical areas. Often, the size of these areas – covering two or more states – requires collective leadership. In such areas, leaders may divide responsibilities and make joint decisions about training, collecting funds, and submitting paperwork to help their area grow. In other cases, one leader takes on the responsibility of running an entire area. All of these highly skilled leaders, whether working alone or together, demonstrate their commitment to RI on a daily basis.

To support our community meetings, we are implementing new strategies to reach out to people who may need our services, revamping our leadership training methods, and working with area leaders to provide public relations tools. Additionally, RI continues to provide low-cost mental health services through new avenues and technologies such as telephone meetings, online meetings, and social media outlets. These measures have extended RI's services to people throughout the United States and abroad, and reflect the continued interest in the RI method.

"RI has given me more self-respect and the ability to express myself in a cultured manner."

Online Meetings

Recovery International offers several options for people seeking online meetings and interactions: Chat Rooms, Facebook, and Web Meetings.

Web Meetings

These online meetings are similar to face-to-face meetings and offer members from around the world the opportunity to participate in a virtual space. Web meetings follow the same structure as other RI meeting formats. We discuss temper and environment, complete a reading each week, support attendees with the structured four-part example, and offer mutual aid.

In 2016, we increased the number of web meetings offered each week from one to three, and this year we plan to expand further. We have prepared 23 power point presentations with excerpts from the readings, and participants can follow along on their screens as well as ask questions and offer comments.



Now serving 150 people per month, RI web meetings have drawn participants from as far away as Japan, Saudi Arabia, and Great Britain. We've also had teens participate along with their parents. We believe that their comfort level with technology and the anonymity of this format is conducive to youth participation. If you would like to participate in an online meeting from the comfort of your own home, please register and log in on the Meetings tab on our website. Steve Ferradino will assist newcomers as they become accustomed to this format.

Facebook

We created two new Facebook pages in 2016. The first, the open page—available for anyone to see— is for announcements, events, promotions, the newsletter, and Weekly Wisdoms. More important, though, is the closed page—intended to offer some of the features of a "meeting", where people can post examples and get feedback. Irene L., one of our dedicated volunteers from the San Diego area, monitors the closed page.

Chat Rooms

In 2016, Gus O. and his team have facilitated chat room meetings for about 70 participants each week, totaling about 3,300 mental health service hours per year. Gus and

Telephone Groups

The first telephone pilot meeting was launched in July of 2004. Through the hard work and dedication of our excellent leaders, phone meetings have expanded and attendance continues to grow.

The phone groups presently hold 19 meetings per week, with 983 meetings held in 2016 serving 15,120 participants. Via these phone groups, our 19 leaders, 18 assistant leaders, 2 apprentice leaders, and 2 part-time staff, introduce individuals to the Recovery International method and provide daily meetings to those who do not live near community meetings, cannot attend in person or who simply find phone meetings better suited to their schedule.

The Introduction to Recovery meetings were restructured in January 2017. Our new system provides newcomers a weekly training meeting designed to help people learn and practice the RI method. Once newcomers have successfully completed six consecutive training sessions, the meeting leader will determine if they are ready to advance to supplemental meetings. After his team also regularly monitor the chat rooms, with the aim of helping those with immediate needs. To join in, go to the Meetings tab on the website and login at the chat room page.



continued practice, participants may advance to assigned meetings.

We also have a system in place to assist those already familiar with the RI method who would like to transition to phone meetings. Several types of phone meetings are currently offered: Traditional Assigned, Supplemental, Literature, Introduction, and Special Focus for those with chronic health problems.

To learn more, please visit our website www.recoveryinternational.org or contact staff members Gilda Marconi or Camille Rizzo.

"RI helps me to manage my daily life and the feelings I experience in each day."

Community Partnerships

Building relationships in local communities is important to Recovery International's success. Whether making use of a local facility to hold meetings, partnering with another mental health organization to augment their programs, or securing funding for promotional efforts and expansion, our Area and Group Leaders network with others to introduce RI to multiple communities.

For example, two key partnerships formed in San Diego have enabled us to serve the truly needy. The first, a collaboration with Mental Health Systems, introduced RI to the Serial Inebriate Program (SIP), which serves those who have been repeatedly arrested for public intoxication and who suffer from chronic alcoholism, drug addiction, homelessness, and mental illness. These people are given the choice of going to jail or being in the program, and those who choose SIP learn the RI method to manage their anger and fears.

In a second Mental Health Systems collaboration, RI facilitates meetings at Harmony Women's Rehabilitation Program, assisting young mothers who are trying to regain custody of their children by addressing their mental health, addiction, and anger management issues.

In addition, through a long-time collaboration with San Diego's Community Research Foundation, RI offers 10 meetings at various community centers and clinics, providing tools for participants to manage their mental and behavioral health issues. These key partnerships allow RI to offer 14 meetings serving more than 100 people per month who would not be reached through our regular meetings.

In Los Angeles, Recovery International has partnered with a local self-help center, SHARE!, to add to the other programs offered there. This enables us to reach and serve people with a broad range of diagnoses.

We are grateful to our community partners in southern California, and to all those throughout the country who support RI programs, host meetings, and refer people to our services:

Arbor Vista Clubhouse Library Arcadia Mental Health Center **Beth El Synagogue** Biblioteca Municipal de Bayamon **Boca Raton Community Center** Bourne Memorial Community Center Brecksville Community Center **Brentwood Public Library** Brookdale Senior Living Bryden Place Nursing Home **Burke Center Conference Room Burns Community Center** California Men's Center California Pacific Medical Center CAHM Forum (Community Alliance Healthy Minds) **Campus Office Park Carlsbad Senior Center** Casa Del Sol Clubhouse **Centerville Library** Centro de Bellas Artes Guayama **CHEC Centre Chevy Chase Community Center** City Island Library **Clarence Public Library Cleveland Clinic Beachwood** Community Center of La Canada Flintridge **Community Counseling Center Community Miracles Center**

Community Research Foundation Clubhouses and Clinics Community Resource Center Community Service Building Corner Club House DePaul City Center Deptford Free Public Library Douglas Park Clubhouse East Corner Club House **Ecumenical Center for Religion** and Health Elant of Newburgh **Employment Services Advisory Board Exodus Recovery Admin Offices FDR VA Hospital** Forest Hills Public Library Fourteen Holy Helpers School **Greenwich House Guardian Angels School** Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center Hampton Hospital Harbor UCLA Medical Center Heritage Oaks Office Bldg Hollywood Mental Health Center Horizon Club Horner Park Field House Incarnate Word Retirement Community James J. Peters VA Medical Center Jeff Industries

John Merlo Public Library Kaiser Permanente **Kearns Library** Maimonides Medical Center Mapleton Clinic Mar Vista - Culver City Marks Street Senior Center Memorial Hospital Rebel Drop-in Center Mental Health America Mental Health and Addiction Network Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester Mental Health Systems: Harmony Women's Rehabilitation Serial Inebriate Program Mariposa Clubhouse **Employment Services** Advisory Board Methodist Richardson Hospital Metro Hospital Mid-Coast Regional Recovery Center Missoula Public Library Montana State Hospital Mountain View Clubhouse -Desert Palm NAMI (various state and city chapters) Neveh Shalom Synagogue **Old Northwood Community Center** Olewine Memorial Library

Orange County Mental Health Assn. **Orange County Wellness Center Oregon State Hospital** Peer Place - Park Plaza Plainview Beth Page Public Library **PNC Bank Prospect Park Yeshiva** Putnam Independent Living Service **Rancho Penasquitos Library** Rancho San Diego Library **Recovery Academy Richford Fire House Ridgestone Condos Ring Seven Building Rite Self Help Support Center River Oak Center Rose Hill Center** Sacramento County Mental Health **Treatment Center** Sacred Heart University Salina Public Library San Diego Mental Health Coalition Senior Service Center SHARE! Silicon Valley Community

Foundation South Bay Mental Health Center Southern Adirondack Center for Independent Living Southfield Civic Center St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center St. Paul's School St. Pius School **Starting Point** Suicide Prevention Council Sunshine Group at Mardel Christian Temple Emmanuel Mental Health Committee Thibodaux Public Library Thurnher House, Lacy Park University City Library V.A. Community Center Waccamaw Mental Health Clinic Webster Community Center West Islip Library Wheatfield Towers Wilson Epstein Building Wolverine Area Senior Center Woodland Memorial Hospital Woodland West Library

Youth Group Building Zion Lutheran School

Plus more than 165 churches of many denominations across the country that open their facilities to our meetings.

2016 Highlights

- 530 U.S. area and group leaders
- 416 Web and chat meetings
- 852 Affiliate meetings in Canada
- 983 Phone meetings
- 1,275 Affiliate meetings in Ireland
- 19,448 Peer-led meetings in U.S.
- 132,900 People attending meetings

Recovery the Family Way

I was introduced to Recovery International at Rose Hill (a mental health treatment facility in Michigan). When I came home after nine months, I told mom and dad about RI. We eventually went to a meeting in Dallas, and were blown away.

In 2011, the three of us decided to learn enough to bring RI to Denton, Texas, where we lived. As we taught the RI method to others, they grew alongside us.

One person started out needing to be in her apartment all the time, then became able to drive, and now is functioning fine in doing daily chores and activities. Another person got a job while using the RI method. A third person got a sales job, became a boss, and was sent overseas to start an office there. Another person in our group moved from working in a job that wasn't a good fit for him to finding a job he really liked where his employer also likes him. These are only a few of the successes we have had. My own successes include finding a friend at RI, and working the program myself so that mom and dad had the confidence that they could take a vacation without worrying about me. While mom and dad were on their trip, I found ways to stay busy. My sister took me out to eat and took me along while she did errands.

My growth in the RI program has been slow, but I have matured. Before RI, after every step I took in growing mentally, I slid backwards. RI has supported my steady growth forward, with no slips back.

I remember a long time ago when I was scary to others because of my outbursts. Now, for five or six years, I have stayed out of the hospital. With the RI tools and spots, I can decide to stay calm for my benefit as well as the benefit of family and friends.

Thomas Fidler

Denton, Texas



2016 Donor Honor Roll

We are grateful to all our donors for their support of RI's mission this past year. These gifts enable us to serve those who cannot contribute and to expand programs to serve new populations in need.

Platinum Patrons

Anonymous Phyllis Low Berning Dolores Bihun Estate Moyra Curran Estate Marian Fox Estate Dolores Fuhrman Estate Charlotte Smith Marcella Welch Anne Will Trust

Gold Patrons

Judith Bakke Thomas Burt Gary Collier B.P., Lester and Regina Johnson Foundation Dale Lombardo Rudolph Pruden Marilyn Low Schmitt Hector Solivan Mark Zausmer

Silver Patrons

Judith Bassette Caroline Callery Helen Carniglia Lisa Garcia Emily Gross Barbara Gustafson PJ McCormick Alice Megna John Pendergrass

Bronze Patrons

Michael Agin Robert Cleary Marilyn Dziadzio Lorraine Fassett Steve Hicks Larry Kipperman David Lisowski Crispin Nestler Sheila Rabel Janice Ritland Rebecca Wightman Sandra Wilcoxon David Wood

Patrons

Stephen Allen Sharon Alverson Kendelyn Beck Geraldine Beer Cliff Bennett Susan Chapman **Paul Chevalier** Margot Conard Ian Cullen Tammy D'Aloia Dina & James Dubrow Katherine Elicks Nanci Evans Mary Ann Fastook Cynthia Fogg Mary Gage Carol Garibaldi Marjorie Geisler Rose Marie Goodnough Philip & Bonnie Gorelick Lisa Hadler Geraldine Halland Anna Hower Leo Hull Peter Jardine Vivian Kline Joanne Lampey John Lane Sharon Levine Sheldon Levy

Wayne Mecca Mary Nelson Joan Nobiling Mike Polizzi Christy Ray Harry Reynolds Joan Richardson Jack & Linda Shepard Eve Sommerich Lloyd Spangen Sidney Thorum Richard Urey Frederic Weller David Wiesner Jan Zausmer

Donors

Carol Abram Mamie Adair Patricia Aglietti Rosalie Alexander Cynthia Allyn Lynne Altwerger **Elaine Anderson** Lorraine Andrews John Andrews Anonymous Raymond & Janice Arenofsky Marilyn Badurina Michelle Barker David Bartlett Jeanette Bennett Keene Benson Christine Bergensten Maryka Bhattacharyya Chinda Blaschczyk Joyce Blum Mary Brawley Joyce Bryant

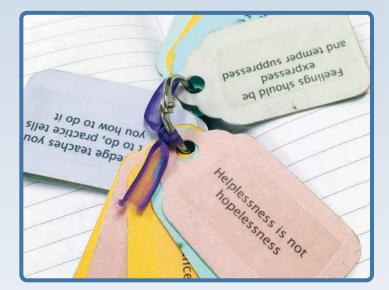
Conrad Cafritz June Calamia Antonio Carvalho Hal Casey Frances Check John Christiansen Jim Cranston Tom Creed Linda Darga Jodi Davis **Thomas DeAngelis** Charles Donovan Elizabeth Doran Joaquin Duenas Cheryl Dyer Katie Elsila Donna Eyman Madeline Farley Brian Farguharson August Filipi J. David & Anita Foreman Sherry Foyer Tesni Freed Michael Gabriele Mary Jo Gaffney Joseph Galati Laura Gammon Paul Geiger Robert George Phillip & Lynne Gerard Ann Gould Wynne Gragg Dermod Grennan Monika Grozinger David Guth Judy Haglin Joyce Hall Jim & Cathy Hanlon Janice Hannemann Joe Hansford

Thomas & Karen Harte Nancy Heaton **George Hebaus** Edward Helmrich Thelma Himbaugh John Hoefen Ruth Hollman Christopher Holmes Paul & Grace Ingwalson Larry Jacobs Lynn & Michael Jennings Charles Johnson Ralph Jungheim Dennis & Diana Keenan Jim Kerr **Eleanor Kirby** Judy Kislik Sam Kosc Edward Kovach Shelley Kurtz Michael Larson **Ellen Lentz** Julie Lichtstein Linda Lindenbaum Rod Lipp Barbara Lipp Philip & Jane Locascio Mike Loeffelholz David Lubas **Muriel Lutes** Harriett Lyle Kathy Majka Tara Marcus Wendy Matthews Roger Mattioli Audrey Messing Peter Miller Erin Mills Meta Moder Charlotte Moran William Mulloy **Delores Munoz** Elizabeth Murphy Barbara Nochumson Shelley Noyce Laurie Olszewski Sandra Painter Ann & Charles Parker Tara Pibel John Pletz Adele Plotkin Nick & Andrea Polizzi Kathleen Ouinlan Michael Radelow Gerald & Gladys Ravenscroft Jeanne Reddington Linda Reese Paula Reisman Joan Rice **Catherine Richey** Lucy Rossi

Susan Rowles Randall Royfe **Diane Russell** Laurie Ruzicka **Robin Schoen** Maria Secor **Dorothy Shipko Robert Silver** Micaela Simon Mary Ann Singlaub Jerome Smith Linda Stanton Jean Steele **Nancy Steeves** Marilyn Stringer Antoinette Suba Marie Svokos Philip Tarullo David Thomas Henry "Hank" Tiffany Lynn Verger Gary Wachtel Leonard Weeks Linda Weintraub Joan Wernick John Wheatley Jim Williams **Barry Winiker** Isabel Winsberg Heidi Zanelli Martha Zausmer Joyce Zimmerman James Zubulake

Due to space constraints, we are not able to list names of those who contributed less than \$100—but every gift is important to us and our mission. Please contact us if we have made a spelling error or have inadvertently left your name of the list.

The "RI quotes" throughout this report are from the Harmony Women's Program in San Diego.



Tribute Gifts

It is always heartwarming to receive gifts in honor of or in memory of people who have touched the lives of others. In 2016 we received tribute gifts for the following:

In Honor Of...

David & Jean Covington Steven Farradino Ian Gold Harold Gorelick Mary Hills Sandra Hofferth Barry Hopper Celinda Jungheim Tom Kane George Klanica Kim Klaus Lois M. Lauy Gene LeFort Sharon Levine Philip Mancuso Gilda Marconi Tricia Mendoza Hubert Mosschella Kathy Nies Joyce Oliver **Elaine Vosit** Martha Zausmer

In Memory Of...

Lorraine Badurina George Bliss Antoinette Cesaranno Olene (Wilke) Chard Rosemary Clark Phil & Maxine Crane Jolene Elconin's Father Mary K. Fenlon S. Gavern F. Gendler

Rabbi J. Godfrey Sylvia Gold Jack Goldfarb Gloria Heller Joyce Hohn Dorothea Hunt **Denise Johnston** Susan K. **Ralph Kluter** Marge Limprecht Virginia Mamola Mary Eileen McCora-Nestler Carolyn McDaniels Robert McIntyre Alvin E. Neumeyer **Bob Nies** Nancy Pillar Anne-Marie Polley-Kane I& M Richman Susan Tossetti Josh Wagner Lou Walsh Matthew Wilson Mary Zena Mom and Dad Wilma

Our list is undoubtedly incomplete. We sometimes receive tribute gifts with no name designated. Please accept our apologies if we have inadvertently omitted your loved one's name, and contact us so that we may correct our records.



Society of Dear Ones

The Society of Dear Ones recognizes people who have provided for the future of Recovery International by including RI in their wills or estate plans. We are deeply grateful to the following for letting us know of their intentions, and we honor those who have made bequests:

Marcia Ashby Elaine Barber David Becker Stella Benkel Phyllis Low Berning Sue Beyerlin Cliff Brown **Thomas Burt** Donna Cable Edith Campbell Hal Casey Jeanne Clawson Gary Collier Robert Coleman Darlene Dav Nancy Downes Margaret Doyle Ann Dunbar John Durkin Mary Ann Fastook **Theresa Fistere Phyllis Greenberg** Donna Gunnison Mary Haicken Geraldine Halland Robert Holcomb **Denise Holmes** Susan Holt Peter Jardine Celinda Jungheim Steven Kunze Everett LeCompte Gloria Lippmann Mike Loeffelholz Marilyn Low Schmitt Robert MacIntyre Nancy Maier Kathy Majka

Dale Marxen William McGinn Meta Moder Floretta Morris Sherwin Newman Phyllis Orr **Diane Peskin Randall Petersen** Sheila Rabel Jane Razza Linda Reese **Ruth Reynolds** Isadore Richman Harry Rubin Joyce Smith John Soderstrom Hector Solivan Nellie Taylor Mollie Torgenson Linda Weintraub Anne Welsh David Wood James Zubulake

Estate Gifts Received:

April Barthelmes Joseph Bartz David Becker Gayle Berlin Dolores Bihun Sydney Bryan Eleanor Butcher Esther Cicero Jeanne & Rodger Clawson Virginia Cline John Cobn Frieda Cohen Jeanne Contazzo Moyra Curran George Davis Robert Dey Ethel Doherty Nancy Duffy J. Taylor & Dorothy Elliott Margaret Ferry **Miriam Fischer** Kay Fischer-Lewicky James Flynn, Jr. Marian Fox **Dolores Fuhrman Robert Frantz** Llovd Glasier Evelyn Harriman Stanley Harris Elvira Hines Sophia Holbrook Barbara Johnson **Betty Keniston Elaine Kingsfield** Virginia Kline Keith Lane Lois Levitt Douglas Light Imogene Lomanto Geoge Markeloff Coleen Marshall **Cynda Overton Mast** Sophie Mazer Marvin Meyer William Miller **Robert Nies** Helwig Odlivak Russel Oleson Mary Plehn Edward Polainer Margaret Rau

Doris Ressler Nancy Roberts Leo Sands Millie Scanlan Ruth Schaitz Irene Scheffler Lila Schenk Helen Schwartz **Clara Sieger Robert Simmler** Anita Singer Edwin Spiegel **Robert Steigner** Garnet Stricklin Harold Van Deest Anne Welsh **Celeste West** Anne Will Lilyann & Edward Yokel Mary Zena Leonora Zinn

If you wish to join the Society of Dear Ones, simply notify us of your intention to include RI in your estate plans. You do not need to tell us the amount of the planned gift—every contribution is precious to us. For assistance with language to use in your will, contact Sandra Wilcoxon at 312-962-5991.

2016 Financial Statements

Balance Sheet as of Dec. 31, 2016

Current Assets	\$691,851		
Fixed Assets	\$15,908		
Other Assets (Area Accounts)	\$143,320		
Total Assets	\$851,079		
Current Liabilities	\$33,838		
Equity	\$817,242		
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$851,080		

Budget Performance	2016 Actual	2017 Budget
Revenues		
Contributions	\$294,614	\$331,250
Grants	\$140,888	\$142,800
Sales & Earned Revenues	\$34,789	\$36,740
Membership	\$24,212	\$30,000
Volunteer Services & Misc.	\$1,085,348	\$1,047,130
Total Revenues	\$1,579,851	\$1,587,920
Expenses		
Program	\$377,218	\$282,496
General & Administration	\$259,548	\$203,100
Fundraising	\$72,959	\$77,320
Volunteer Services & Misc.	\$1,025,745	\$1,025,000
Total Expenses	\$1,735,470	\$1,587,920
Net	-\$155,619	- 0 -

Financial Notes

I was hired in September 2016 to address a financial situation that had gone on too long. Recovery International had—with the best of intentions—operated a deficit budget for several years in anticipation of new grants and revenues that did not materialize. Clearly, this was not a sustainable model, and it whittled away at cash reserves built up from the sale of the building downtown.

The good news is that RI has no debt. And by cutting back on many expenses and slowly building up new revenues and funding sources, I believe we will be operating in the black soon. I have included the 2017 budget here so that you may see the plan to reach a balanced budget.

In my short time here, I have come to realize how important this organization and the Recovery method is to so many people. I have been impressed with the number of people who have used this method for 20-30-40 years! I can see the value RI has had and can continue to have for younger people, and I believe we must become more visible in the mental health community to attract more people to our program. We must also train new leaders and assistant leaders, and be willing to pass the mantle to the next generation. With everyone's support, we can help RI become stronger and survive its current financial challenges.

Sincerely,

Sandra E. Wilcoxen

Sandra K. Wilcoxon Chief Executive Officer



1415 W. 22nd St., Tower Floor Oak Brook, IL 60523 recoveryinternational.org Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 6784 Palatine, IL

Recovery with Faith

Since RI began, the organization has had a prohibition against discussing religion, sex, and politics at meetings. This was considered a practical rule, designed to avoid sensitive topics that might provoke temper, nervousness, or embarrassment in a group setting. However, recently, we have had the opportunity to present the RI method in the context of a spiritual community, in a way that is not antithetical to our mission.

In the wake of grief following several teen suicides in San Diego, a psychotherapist, social worker and pastoral counselor at Saint Mary Magdalene's Catholic Church recommended Recovery International to church staff. This endorsement helped us secure funding for training, allowed for advertising in church bulletins, and enabled them to provide a training room. More than 50 people attended two training sessions over a six-week period, and RI received favorable comments on the final evaluations. The trainings were intended to give people the RI tools for dealing with their anger, anxiety, and depression over recent incidents, and to improve communication within families. RI staff and leaders also presented panel demonstrations at two other San Diego Parishes, and RI member Tricia M. published an article regarding the training in the Southern Cross, the official newspaper of the Diocese of San Diego.

These meetings were open to church members only, and held on church grounds. The meeting opened and closed with a simple prayer, but the RI Leader abstained from discussing religion as part of the demonstrations and trainings. Thus, staff followed the RI Method and philosophy, but since the presentation was made to a closed group, they were allowed latitude that would not have been permitted in a regular meeting that was open to the public.

Since then, representatives of a Jewish Synagogue have approached the San Diego office with a request to hold RI trainings for their members, and this faithbased link may prove to be a positive way to reach new people in need. Religious staff are often the first to be approached by family members regarding mental and behavioral health issues. Partnering with faith-based organizations will give staff and members the resources they need to help congregants deal with mental and behavioral health issues in their families, to refer people to RI, and to perhaps host an RI meeting for their members.

> "RI gives me more humor when it comes to my trivialities."

Leadership

Executive Committee

Joanne Lampey, President New York

Joan Nobiling, Vice President New York

Nicole Cilento, Second Vice President New York

Michelle Barker, Secretary New York

Hal Casey, Treasurer New Jersey

Sandra Wilcoxon, CEO Illinois

Board Members

Judith Bakke California

Phyllis Berning Illinois

Brendan Minnock Ireland

Marilyn Schmitt

Linda Stanton Minnesota

Rob Winike Oregon

Staff

Sandra Wilcoxon, Chief Executive Officer

Hiran Bhatt, Program Director

Everlean Pelt, Office Administrator

Lisa Garcia, Project Manager San Diego

Sharon Levine, Administrative Assistant San Diego

Camille Rizzo, Telephone Groups Manager

Gilda Marconi, Telephone Groups Assistant

Steven Ferradino, LPC, Online Meetings Manager

Professional Services

Chicago Transom Partners, Accounting, IT & HR