

# IMPACT

Summer 2023



Clifford Beers  
Community Care Center

A Clifford Beers Community Health Partner



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Clifford Beers Community Care Center  
41 Marne Street  
Hamden, CT 06514  
(203) 772-1270

[www.cliffordbeersccc.org](http://www.cliffordbeersccc.org)





## A Note From Melanie

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all enjoying your summer season! As we look forward to this next fiscal year, we look toward our

strategic planning process. The focus of the planning will be to define what it means to be a true Community Care Center. We are engaging in a process that will be inclusive of our staff, our stakeholders and our community.

Next, there is much great work happening at CBCCC. Programming at Farnam Neighborhood House continues to thrive. The Saturday Success Academy had 400 New Haven Public Schools students go through the program successfully. Farnam also houses a Fencing team (they recently won 7 of 8 medals at the Candlewood Fencing Club competition in June!), Martial Arts, and basketball, which are all at full capacity. Additionally, our school readiness program has expanded by two more classrooms as of July 1st! The Lifeguard Training program certified 40 lifeguards and have all been placed in jobs for the summer. Camp Farnam is currently in full swing through July. Lastly, we will have a week dedicated to our ASD campers the first week of August. Camp counselors have been trained on Autism and Behavior Management and our outpatient ASD and psychology teams will be providing clinical support and leadership during camp activities. This is all possible thanks to YOU, our donors, who helped us make this first ever ASD Camp come to life! As you'll learn in this newsletter, all of these evolving resources for our ASD community will only be strengthened by our new partnership with Autism Services and Resources Connecticut (ASRC).

We have excitedly reinstituted Open Access. Open Access allows us to see walk-ins and offer quicker appointments to families to better meet their needs. We are also working diligently to reduce wait lists in our clinical outpatient services, psychology, and psychiatry. We are actively working on this internally (two new clinicians have been hired) and continue to highlight this systemic issue with state funders. Much system advocacy is needed in this area.

Finally, CBCCC is participating in the Horizon Grant program with Southern Connecticut State University. This includes an internship to job pipeline with the goal of increasing diversity of the student body at the MSW program. We are honored to have been chosen for this program.

I am so proud of all that is being done every day by the amazing staff at Clifford Beers. I can't wait to share more with you in the winter.

All my best,

*Melanie D. Rosacci*

## A Day On the Green: UNITAS Golf Tournament!

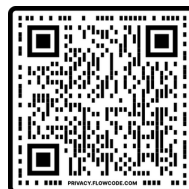


Our biggest Thank You to everyone who made it out to the Wallingford Country Club for the UNITAS Golf Tournament on July 10th!

This year Clifford Beers Community Care Center was proud to be selected as the beneficiary of the UNITAS Club's Annual Memorial Golf Tournament. For over forty years the UNITAS Club has been helping children and families heal through their work, and we can't thank them enough for their generosity.

Thanks to your generosity and theirs, we raised much needed funds to support recreational programming for children on the autism spectrum!

## It's Almost Back-to-School!



Join us for our annual Backpack Drive happening in mid-August! This year we are raising funds so that we can purchase notebooks, folders, pens, and other essential school supplies for the children we serve. If you'd like to support, scan this QR code or email Deb Cheerman at [dcheerman@cliffordbeers.org](mailto:dcheerman@cliffordbeers.org).



**Scan to donate now!**

## ASRC Joins the CBCHP Family!

We are excited to announce that Autism Services and Resources Connecticut (ASRC) has joined our affiliate organization Clifford Beers Community Health Partners (CBCHP) as of July 1, 2023. For years, ASRC has played a lead role in providing resources, advocacy and support to those with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families. ASRC will continue to operate as ASRC at CBCHP with no interruption in the services they provide to the ASD community, including: their Warm Line, recreational programs, summer camp, trainings, social skills groups, support groups, the annual Walk for Autism, the Job Fair and Transitions Workshops, and Resource Guide.

As we look forward to the future of autism and the needs of those with ASD here in Connecticut, transitioning to Clifford Beers Community Health Partners and the affiliated network of behavioral healthcare and social services nonprofit organizations will broaden services like case management, evaluations, social skills groups, and therapy for individuals and families, many of which are already offered here at Clifford Beers Community Care Center. We are so happy to work together to pool our resources so we can better serve our incredible autism community!

This transition will also allow for the development of new services, as well as open new doors for grants and special projects like an ASD focused summer camp, increasing availability of state funding, and plans for increased housing options in the future. More importantly, it will enable ASRC to remain available to assist families and individuals for years to come.

To our new friends at ASRC - welcome! We are so grateful to have them become a part of the Clifford Beers Community Health Partners Family.

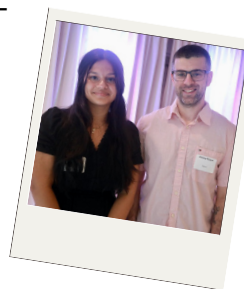


*CBCCC staff and their families had a blast at the ASRC Walk for Autism on May 21st!*

## Thank You to Our Builders of Hope!

Thank you to everyone who attended our 19th annual Builders of Hope Breakfast on June 8th! Our keynote speaker Steve Pemberton left an inspiring impact as he shared his story of growing up in the foster care system. Through the support of others, Steve recognized how he was able to not only heal, but thrive. His story is a testament to how-- much like with the families we serve--when people show up with compassion and care, it can make all the difference. It will always remain our mission to ensure that every family who comes to CBCCC has the opportunity to feel supported in all the ways they need.

We are forever grateful to our loyal supporters and friends who recognize just how much your generosity change the lives of our children and communities.





## Staff Spotlight: Alicia Brown

Alicia Brown joined CBCCC in April 2023 as an Intensive Care Coordinator for our new program, Project Longevity. In many ways, her role has seemed like fate. Find out how in her profile below.



### What brought you to Clifford Beers?

I'm from Hartford but almost 8 years ago, I felt God calling me to move to New Haven. It felt like if I moved here, things would fall into place, and both in my personal and professional life, it did. After some years of being here, I met our VP of Community Support Services and Engagement Tirzah Kemp out in the community. I had been talking with her and CSF Program Manager Charles Dawkins for months on possible positions. Finally, the ICC role at Project Longevity came up, I applied, and got the position. It felt like the perfect fit.

### What inspired you to do this work?

Everything I've been through in my life. Project Longevity is a program that I can relate to because I've lived it. It's a program to help support people who are transitioning from incarceration or have been living with a criminal conviction for some time. We support these individuals by building their teams, so that they know where to turn to for support in every avenue of life. I can relate to this so much; as a former single mom with a conviction of my own, I've had many moments where it was tough for me to find work or even housing. We advocate for these men and women so they have their basic needs met and so they don't recidivate.

### What changes do you hope to see as a result of your work?

I hope to keep these men and women out of prison, and to reduce incarceration as a whole. I want to change the stigma around incarceration; we work with a variety of providers including housing, outreach, mental health professionals and more for that reason; to show them that these people are trying to change their lives for the better. I also hope to help all those who have former convictions to feel better about asking for help. Therapy and having a support system like Clifford Beers can help them get back on their feet in so many ways from mental health services to basic needs. There shouldn't be any shame in needing that. When you go to prison, more than anyone you need therapy, and I want our clients to know just how helpful it can be, so they can heal.

### What is a motto, phrase, or outlook on life that you like to live by?

I always put God first. And family is everything. On the weekends, we are always out and about, whether it's traveling or just doing an activity as a family. I try to always be optimistic and live life to the fullest, because life is what you make it. Every day is a different challenge, but it's up to us what we do with it. That's how I live my life, and how I hope to show other people who have struggled like me that they can live their life with this mindset, too.

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