

A note from Alice

Dear Friends,

Though we are still in a pandemic, summer has brought a fresh breath of optimism to us all. This is a very busy time for Clifford Beers with more changes on the horizon. Throughout the spring, we experienced a significant increase in intakes for mobile crisis, outpatient, and psychiatric services. Many of our programs such as Care Coordination are seeing “back to normal” increases in referrals.

We continue to stay hyper-present in our community by providing crisis intervention and mental health supports following community-wide traumatic events through our Community Response Team. You'll read more about this in one of our stories as we highlight A New Kind of First Responder. Over the last few months, we've partnered with other local organizations to canvas the community with information on vaccinations, leading to the successful vaccination of hundreds of Fair Haven residents. We also participated in the New Haven Public Schools Day of Hope and Healing by facilitating groups and workshops on self-care, grief, and loss for school staff, parents, and caregivers.

We are also incredibly lucky to have grown during this time and are proud to announce that as of July 1st, Farnam Neighborhood House has become a part of Clifford Beers. Located in Fair Haven, Farnam has a century-old history of providing community programs including school readiness, basketball, food distribution, and tutoring to people of all ages in New Haven. This partnership will leverage over 200+ years of service to the New Haven community.

While we have much to be thankful for, many of our families are still struggling to obtain basic resources such as food, shelter, and healthcare, which are critical to a healthy environment. Sadly, even as the pandemic winds down, its impact on the mental health of children and families in our community remains and will persist for years to come. Hope is in the air but only if we continue to adapt to this ever changing environment. We strongly believe that communities will thrive when the wellness needs of all individuals and families are accessible, coordinated, and efficiently fulfilled. Now more than ever, we need your help to ensure our families have the care and support they need.

Warmly,



**LEAVE A LASTING
LEGACY OF HOPE
TO CLIFFORD BEERS**



**Your Legacy of Hope gift can help
fund the important work we do for
children and families for another
100+ years.**

To learn about estate gifts, bequests and more, contact
our Director of Development
Jenn Cretella at jcretella@cliffordbeers.org



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*Please note our 5 Science Park office is
closed and all correspondence should
be directed to the address above.*

Summer 2021



IMPACT  **clifford
beers**

MOVING FORWARD

*"Hope is in the air but only if we continue to adapt to this ever changing
environment. We strongly believe that communities will thrive when the
wellness needs of all individuals and families are accessible, coordinated
and efficiently fulfilled." - Alice Forrester, CEO of Clifford Beers*

Donor Spotlight

Peggy MacMullen has been a long time member of the Clifford Beers community. Get to know her better below.

Where is Home?
New Haven for 30 years, Boston for 20 before that.

Missions/Causes closest to your heart?
Youth, particularly those dealing with difficult life circumstances. I was a high school English teacher and worked in the education system for a long time. Young people are the future.

Why do you give to CB?
The vast array of services Clifford Beers has. This puts you in a position to make a difference for a lot of kids in a lot of different ways.

What's your favorite thing about the CB community?
The fact that you are so present in the community, with your work in schools as an example. Being present in school, where kids spend so much of their time, makes a huge impact. Educators need our support now more than ever.

Is there a motto or quote you like to live by?
I am grateful for my ability to be able to step back and laugh at and enjoy the absurdities of life.

Peggy with her husband Ramsey

Matthew Rising

We partnered with playwright (and former CB staff!) Sharece M. Sellem to showcase her powerful story called Matthew Rising, a cautionary tale of substance misuse, the dark web and the effects of substance use on the home. Due to Covid we shifted the events to virtual screenings with 14 events of both Matthew Rising and jazzy, a collection of poems on substance use disorder, recidivism, incarceration, trauma, recovery, and healing by Carol Jones. During the pandemic, substance use has been at an all time high. Thanks to Sharece and Carol, we were able to reach 200+ people in Connecticut and beyond with these powerful stories of adversity, resilience, and to hold space for those who have or know someone who has struggled with substance use.

A New Kind of First Responder

Do you know of a community that has recently experienced a tragedy and is in need of support? Contact Vice President of Community Support Services and Engagement Tirzah Kemp at tkemp@cliffordbeers.org

Photo used with permission from the New Haven Independent

In the wake of a devastating loss of one of New Haven’s Firefighters, Clifford Beers has teamed up with retired fire Capt. Gary Tinney to bring resources and comfort to our city’s brave first responders. CB staff members Christine Montgomery, Jo Wilcox and Tirzah Kemp joined other community members at First Calgary Baptist Church on June 10th to offer emotional support to first responders and their families who are facing psychological trauma. They facilitated discussions concerning stress, the burden of the job, and how to seek help if they are struggling. Vice President of Community Support Services and Engagement, Tirzah Kemp notes that for those seeking mental health support, doing so on their own simply does not work. Instead, we strive to “meet people where they’re at” by being there when they are in need. Further meetings were held on June 14th at Bethel AME Church and June 28th at Beulah Heights First Pentecostal Church, respectively. Next, our staff plans to visit NHFD firehouses to meet with firefighters to provide further support. It is vital we allow first responders to guide their own healing. No matter what this healing process looks like, Clifford Beers will be there.

Our families need us now more than ever.
Join us to hear what is next for

BUILDERS OF HOPE

Wednesday, September 29, 2021
6:00 to 9:00 PM
Woodwinds in Branford

**A night of Hope,
Healing and Connection**