For people struggling with substance use issues, there is no “quick-fix” to put them on the road to recovery. The complexities of addiction, and of the mental illness that frequently accompanies it, lead many clients to cycle through detoxification programs again and again.

CHL’s PASSages program is designed to break that cycle and set our clients on a path to long-term recovery. PASSages helps to stabilize men and women who are in the beginning stages of recovery by providing clients with a therapeutic environment to engage in the recovery process and develop tools for long-term recovery. Clients at PASSages receive individual counseling, group therapy, and psycho-educational services along with nursing care. Staff also work with clients to establish comprehensive integrated service plans and after care plans to meet their long-term recovery needs.

With help from donors like you, we are able to admit over 1,000 people to PASSages each year. While that number alone suggests countless stories of lives changed, we’d rather let clients tell you about their life-changing experiences in their own words. In the words of Jonathan*, a former PASSages client:

“Simply put, I feel like I mattered no matter which staff member I talked to from Matt and Rachel [the program managers] to funny man Tim, Mark and Liz, to Louie who I owe a huge debt of gratitude for being who he is and his awesome [12] Step group, to Alissa with her listening ear, and with all honesty right down to the cleaning people who in their own way reminded me of what’s like to work and be happy. So to all I say thank you very much...”

Travis*, another former PASSages client, expresses his gratitude in a simple and profound way:

“Thank you for the best help I ever got. PASSages is the best thing that ever happened to me. It put me right back on track again. I was working with Tim. He put me back on track with his words and wisdom. He is the most positive person.”

*Names changed to protect client confidentiality.
Your Support + HOAP Health Fair = Success

This Summer, CHL’s Homeless Outreach and Advocacy Project (HOAP) held its annual Health Fair to provide hundreds of homeless clients with tools and services to help them live healthier lives. We couldn’t have done it without your support.

Above Left: Just some of the hundreds of clients who enjoyed the Health Fair, which included events and activities both inside and out of HOAP’s building. Above Right: Beacon Pharmacy generously donated over 100 personal care packages to be distributed to clients. Each package contained toothpaste, body wash, shampoo, medicated powder, and more.

Above Left: CHL President Nicole Gagne meets a client while demonstrating the importance of having blood pressure checked regularly. Above Right: Tammy Brisbois (left) and Xymara Rondon (right) helped to reduce the stigma surrounding opioid addiction and to demonstrate the importance of the concept of harm reduction by distributing Narcan kits to clients.

Above Left: Teams of grillers (David McCarthy, medical student (left) and David Goodrich (right) in the background, and Melissa Arrell (left) and Erik Garcia (right) in the foreground) served up donated food for clients. Above Right: Some of the health and wellness activities included alternative and complementary therapies such as yoga.
Art as Therapy to Help Victims Heal

Thanks to your support, children in CHL’s Victim Services program had an opportunity to express themselves through painting - and work towards healing.

Above Left: The group of children begin their paintings, led by Just Paint’s Susan Dunshee. Above Right: The children’s completed artwork - each one a slightly different interpretation of a serene beach scene.

Generous Grants Touch Children’s Lives

Our programs could not provide critical services to clients in need without the support of generous community partners like the United Way of Central Massachusetts and the DCU for Kids Foundation.

United Way of Central Massachusetts

CHL recently received generous support from the United Way of Central Massachusetts to support two of our critical programs for children: Together for Kids and Support For Success: School-Based Mental Health Services.

Together For Kids provides behavioral health evaluation of and therapy for preschool-age children facing developmental challenges with the goal of keeping them enrolled in school. Together For Kids also provides consultation and training to a number of preschool centers and teachers throughout the area.

In our Support For Success: School-Based Mental Health Services program, CHL clinicians provide evidence-based mental health services in schools throughout central Massachusetts to help students in need. The program’s clinicians also provide consultation, training, and support to school staff and parents as they learn to interact more effectively with children who are experiencing emotional and behavioral difficulties. Thanks to the support of the United Way of Central Massachusetts and donors like you, these programs will help hundreds of children face their challenges and succeed.

DCU for Kids

The DCU for Kids Foundation also recently provided funding to help children in need through a grant to our Early Intervention program, located in Leominster. Most of the families in our Early Intervention program have very low incomes and are not able to provide their children with the sorts of enrichment activities that can help expand their worlds.

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DCU for Kids recognized the importance of such activities in the lives of these children, and provided generous funding that includes allowing all EI clients to travel to Davis Farmland to experience life on a farm, and sponsoring the purchase of holiday gifts for the children in December. We’re grateful for their support!

Left: An Early Intervention client meets a cow for the first time.

Generous Grants Touch Children’s Lives

(Continued from p.3)

My Gift To Help Adults, Children, and Families Recover

YES! I want to assist Community Healthlink to help people recover from the effects of mental illness, addiction, and homelessness!

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Or donate online at: www.communityhealthlink.org

Thank you! Please return this form with your tax-deductible gift.