

Dear Friend:

On the eve of our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, I want to thank you.

By joining forces with Laurel House, you made new beginnings possible for people experiencing schizophrenia, depression, bipolar disorder, addictions and homelessness.

Since Laurel House opened its doors almost 25 years ago, we have accomplished a lot with the help of you and others. We have, for example:

- Assisted members in completing more than 700 college-level courses
- provided 322,660 days of affordable housing for formerly homeless people
- found jobs for more than 426 people
- served more than 235,000 meals
- been open for business 365 days a year, 8. 212 consecutive days

By making a contribution to Laurel House, you are investing in recovery programs that work. That's because they make economic sense and, most important, get results. Here are just two examples:

Laurel House continues to pioneer **Supported Housing** programs, to keep a roof over the heads of people with mental illness. This is critical because more than half of those members who arrive at our doors are, or risk becoming, homeless. We are, in fact, the largest, most successful provider of cost-effective supported housing for the mentally ill in Fairfield County. It costs Laurel House \$14,000 a year to provide housing and supportive services for one member. That might sound like a lot, and it is. But it's \$85,000 less than it costs the public to pay for emergency medical care, law enforcement and social services for a homeless person who lives on the street.

Half of those who will be diagnosed with a mental disorder show signs by age 14, three-quarters by age 25. In an effort to reach out to young adults before they fall into a pattern of lifelong disability, Laurel House is partnering with Central Connecticut State University to pioneer a **Supported Education** program that will eventually bring our successful program of recovery to high school and college campuses, expanding our membership well beyond the 400 people who are helped by the clubhouse each year.

Together, we are accomplishing all this during extremely difficult economic times-- something that is impacting both Laurel House and our members. The truth, however, is that our members **always** face economic hardship. They know the pain, suffering and anxiety of losing their jobs, homes and pensions, because living with mental illness often means living with those losses and much worse for years.

Our members are also vulnerable because they risk losing essential supportive services from Laurel House. State funds have decreased significantly, and as tax revenues decrease during these perilous economic times, state funds could further erode.

#### Having Your Contributions Go Further

To help solve the problem, the Laurel House Leadership Circle has devised an exciting and innovative plan. **They will now match new and increased contributions to the annual campaign with a proportional increase in their giving.**

**In other words, a 50% increase in donations from you and other donors will result in a 50% increase by the Leadership Circle.**

This will go a long way toward supporting Laurel House's most essential programs. Here are just a few examples:

- \$100 buys a new work wardrobe
- \$250 will furnish an apartment for one of our members
- \$1,000 buys 575 meals (of the 12,000 lunches and dinners we serve each year)
- \$2,500 will enable a member to enroll in college
- \$14,000 will subsidize housing for a homeless member for an entire year

These positive outcomes would not be possible without the support and encouragement of our community.

We can't, in other words, do it without you.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Parker,  
Chairman of the Board  
Laurel House

P.S. Motivation. Comfort. Hope. These are the words that come to mind for Laurel House members. Please join our Leadership Circle and send your gift today. Investing in a proven recovery program for the most disadvantaged among us makes good economic sense. Your gift will have lasting (and possibly 50% greater) impact.

**["Click here to donate now"](#)**