

# RCN 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



3400 1st St. N., Ste 302,  
St. Cloud, MN 56303



320-428-1887



[admin@rcnstcloud.org](mailto:admin@rcnstcloud.org)



[RecoveryCommunity  
Network.com](https://RecoveryCommunityNetwork.com)



EIN: 35-2679675



[www.recoverycommunitynetwork.com](http://www.recoverycommunitynetwork.com)

# Table of Contents

- 01 Letter from our E.D.
- 02 About Us
- 03 Our Impact in 2024
- 04 Our Impact in 2024
- 05 Our Community Partners
- 06 Rockin' Recovery in the Park
- 07 Banquet For Recovery
- 08 Recovering in the New Year
- 09 Financial Highlights
- 10 RCN Staff
- 11 RCN Board of Directors
- 12 Contact Us



---

# Letter from Our Executive Director

Katie Blue,  
PMP, CPRS

01

Executive Director,  
Recovery Community Network



**Dear Friends and Supporters,**

Reflecting on 2024, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for what we've accomplished at the Recovery Community Network (RCN) this past year. It has been a year of tremendous growth, impact, and change. **We have a new leadership team in place.** With the strong support of our team, partners, and community, we've expanded our services, increased outreach, and strengthened our commitment to every individual's recovery journey.

Our mission has always been to create a recovery-friendly community where everyone can access the resources, support, and opportunities needed to thrive. In 2024, we made this mission a reality in more ways than ever before. We increased our office hours to serve our peers better, expanded our staff to meet growing demands, and incorporated new funding strategies to enhance the sustainability of our services. These changes reflect our commitment to continuously improving the quality and availability of care.

Some of our key accomplishments this year include training 28 new Certified Peer Recovery Specialists (CPRS), growing our Telephonic Recovery Support to reach 284 peers each week, and providing over \$25,000 in critical financial support through Good Samaritan Grants and Peer Emergency Assistance. We also strengthened our presence in the community through outreach to treatment centers and law enforcement and expanded our harm reduction efforts, ensuring life-saving resources like Naloxone and Fentanyl test strips are readily available.

Additionally, our Justice-Involved Programs have seen remarkable growth, supporting veterans, engaging with transition fairs, and expanding our collaborations with local treatment courts. We are proud to have distributed 600 tickets through the Minnesota Twins Program this year, allowing more individuals and families to experience moments of joy and connection.

As we look ahead, our goal remains clear. The achievements outlined in this report are a testament to our community's strength, and we are excited to build on this foundation as we move into 2025. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our shared mission.

With gratitude,

*Katie Blue*

PMP, CPRS  
RCN Executive Director



## Our Mission

The Recovery Community Network (RCN) is a grassroots Recovery Community Organization (RCO) founded in 2014. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, our mission is to deliver peer support, education, outreach, advocacy, and prevention strategies to individuals and family members struggling with substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders. We support all pathways to recovery and aim to improve the lives of underserved populations in rural St. Cloud and central Minnesota, including BIPOC, criminal justice-involved individuals, veterans, and other at-risk groups while building stronger, more resilient communities.

## History & Impact

Since our founding in 2014, RCN has been dedicated to making a lasting impact in Central Minnesota. We leverage grassroots efforts, strategic partnerships, and community collaboration to support individuals and families in recovery.

### **How We Make A Difference In Our Community**

- Building Recovery Resources and Expanding Services
- Collaborations and Partnerships for Broader Impact
- Community-Centered Recovery Meetings and Events
- Strengthening Central Minnesota's Recovery Community

# Our Impact in 2024

03



As the 2024 fiscal year comes to a close, RCN proudly reflects on a year of significant growth and impact. By expanding our services, fostering strong partnerships, and enhancing outreach, we've supported more peers than ever before on their recovery journeys.

With a dedicated focus on diverse recovery pathways, harm reduction, education, and justice-involved programs, we have risen to meet the evolving needs of our community, advancing our mission to empower individuals and families in achieving lasting recovery.

## RCN Growth & Accomplishments

### Expanded Operations:

- Expanded office hours from 40 to 45 per week.
- Increased total staff hours from 192 to 272.
- Raised operational budget from \$339,349.50 to \$464,374.80.
- Increased staff salary from \$210,051.40 to \$278,712.00.

### Staffing & Volunteers:

- Hired 2 new grant-funded staff and 3 staff paid through Medicaid billing.
- Integrated 3 full-time Recovery Corps Volunteers.

### Recovery Support:

- Hosted 2 FREE Recovery Coach Academies (RCA), training 28 peers to become Certified Peer Recovery Specialists (CPRS).
- Joined the local Chamber of Commerce.
- Increased peers reached weekly via Telephonic Recovery Support (TRS) from 130 to 284.
- Provided 111 peers with 1-on-1 recovery coaching, totaling 1,564 coaching sessions.
- Awarded \$15,920 in Good Samaritan Grants.
- Provided \$10,000 in Peer Emergency Assistance.
- Facilitated 10 weekly recovery meetings, including one Spanish-speaking AA meeting.
- Continued to support all pathways to recovery.
- Offered peer volunteer opportunities addressing housing, employment, education, insurance, and basic needs.

# Our Impact in 2024

## Education & Outreach:

- 1,248 outreach efforts to DETOX centers (M/W/F).
- Conducted monthly treatment center visits (8 hours/month), reaching 1,575 peers.
- Partnered with Centracare, NuWay, CMMHC, Momentum Center, Bridge Recovery, Project Turnabout, Effective Living Center, Partners Behavioral Health, Overcomers International Fellowship (OIF).
- Worked with St. Cloud Police Department (150 officers) and Stearns County Sheriff (35 officers briefed).
- Provided 156 service hours at Stearns County Jail and 24 service hours at Benton County Jail.

## Agency Participation:

- Participated in Recovery Day on the Hill.
- Involved in Minnesota Recovery Connection (MRC) Walk for Recovery and Rockin' Recovery in the Park.
- Sean serves as a board member of MARCO.

## Harm Reduction & Prevention:

- Launched a grant-funded Naloxone Storage Box Project at SCSU.
- Sean provided Harm Reduction Training.
- Free materials provided in the meeting room: Naloxone IM/Narcan Overdose Kits, Fentanyl Test Strips, Xylazine Test Strips, and condoms.
- Hosted 44 events in 2024, up from 26 in 2023.

## Veteran & Justice Support:

- Participated in DOC Transition Fairs.
- Attended Mid-MN Transition Coalition Meetings.
- Supported 40 new veterans through the Veteran Program.
- Engaged with Veteran Treatment Court and hosted the 2nd Annual Veteran Retreat.
- Participated in MN Women Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Retreat and the Minnesota Twins Program (distributed 600 tickets, up by 250 from last year).



# Our Community Partners

## A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Sponsors

We extend our deepest gratitude to NuWay and CentraCare for their incredible support. Your generosity empowers us to continue building a stronger recovery community and providing vital resources to those on their journey to healing.

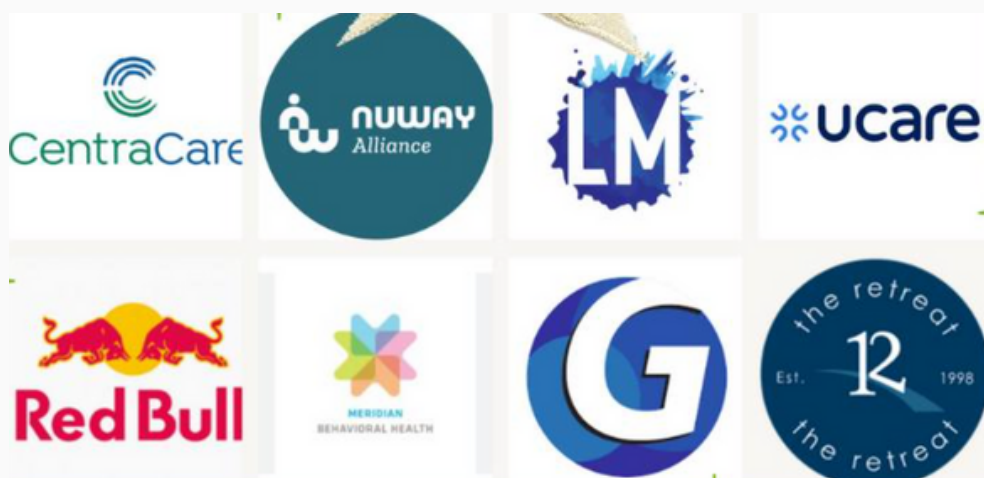
## Our Trusted Partnerships: Building a Stronger Recovery Community Together

At the Recovery Community Network (RCN), we are committed to building a strong and collaborative recovery community through strategic partnerships with local and national organizations. These alliances help us expand our reach, increase our impact, and provide essential resources and support to those affected by addiction and mental health challenges in Central Minnesota.

## Our Key Partnerships

- AmeriCorps Recovery Corps
- Alliance for Recovery Centered Organizations (ARCO)
- Minnesota Alliance for Recovery Community Organizations (MARCO)
- MN Alliance of Rural Addiction Treatment Programs (MARATP)
- Peer Recovery (PR) Center of Excellence (CoE)
- Central Region Health Equity Network Gathering
- Stearns County Opioid Community Advisory Committee (OCAC)
- Wright County Opioid Settlement Advisory Council
- Public Policy Forum
- Rural MN RCO Summit, Hosted by Opioid Response Network (ORN)
- Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Chemical Health (MARRCH)
- NAADAC - The Association for Addiction Professionals
- MN SUD Community of Practice
- Professional Networking Outreach Group (PONG)
- Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP)

Together with these partners, RCN tirelessly enhances recovery resources, advocates for effective policies, and creates a more inclusive and resilient recovery community. We are grateful for these alliances and the shared commitment to building pathways to recovery for all.



# First Annual Rockin' Recovery in the Park

06

On Friday, September 13, 2024, Recovery Community Network (RCN) proudly hosted its first annual Rockin' Recovery in the Park event at Lake George & Eastman Park in St. Cloud, MN.

This free, family-friendly celebration was held in honor of National Recovery Month, bringing the community together to raise awareness about recovery, support individuals and families affected by substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders, and celebrate the strength of recovery.

The event kicked off with a 5K Run/Walk for Recovery, inviting participants of all ages and abilities to show their support for recovery while promoting health and wellness. The run/walk set an uplifting tone for the day, with attendees uniting in shared purpose and camaraderie.

Throughout the day, attendees explored information booths highlighting local resources, visited craft and sales vendors, and enjoyed a variety of offerings from food vendors. Fun games and activities began at 2 PM, providing entertainment for all ages, while a live band energized the crowd with music starting at 6 PM.

This free event created a safe, welcoming environment where individuals in recovery, their families, and community supporters could connect, learn, and celebrate.





# 5th Annual Banquet for Recovery

07



October 18th, 2024

## RCN'S 5TH ANNUAL BANQUET FOR RECOVERY

Keynote Speaker  
**Donald Shelby**

**LOCATION:**  
River's Edge Convention Center  
Herbergers Suite (2nd Floor)

**TIME:**  
5-6 PM Social Hour | 6-8:30 PM Banquet

**EVENT SPONSORS:**  
Thank you to our generous sponsors for making this event possible:  
NuWay and CentraCare.



On October 18, 2024, Recovery Community Network (RCN) hosted its 5th Annual Banquet for Recovery, celebrating the strength and resilience of the Central Minnesota recovery community. Keynote speaker Don Shelby inspired a packed house with his powerful recovery story.

Honors included the Habighorst Award for Robert Burrow, the Talbot Award for Don Shelby and Mollie Brown, and Volunteer of the Year recognition for Kenny Booth. A moment of silence honored those still struggling, and a presentation highlighted RCN's growth and achievements in peer support, education, advocacy, and harm reduction.

The evening ended with gratitude to RCN's staff, volunteers, and sponsors, NuWay and CentraCare. This inspiring event reaffirmed the power of recovery and the importance of community support.

# Recovering In The New Year

08



On December 31, 2024, RCN hosted Recovering in the New Year at St. Anthony's Parish Center in St. Cloud. This event provided a positive, sober social environment for individuals in recovery to celebrate the New Year with connection and hope. With over 200 attendees, the evening featured a DJ, games, a pajama costume contest, and an all-recovery meeting. Guests embraced the spirit of community, making the event a memorable and impactful celebration of recovery.

Thanks to generous sponsors, Grede, Bernick's, and Matthew Noel Photography, the event remained free and accessible, ensuring all who wanted to celebrate could join the festivities. This gathering highlighted the power of community and recovery as attendees welcomed 2025 with joy and optimism.

# Financial Highlights

At RCN, we are committed to financial transparency and accountability. This year's financial highlights showcase how we effectively allocate resources to support recovery programs, expand services, and strengthen our impact in the community. Our dedication ensures that every dollar is used responsibly to empower individuals and families on their recovery journey.



**\$529,981.26**



Revenue

**\$455,115.25**



Expenses

**\$19,247.75**



Net Revenue

At Recovery Community Network (RCN), our team is the heart and soul of our organization. Each member brings unique skills, lived experiences, and a deep commitment to supporting individuals and families on their recovery journeys. Our team works tirelessly to provide compassionate peer support, comprehensive education, effective advocacy, and innovative prevention strategies.



**Katie Blue**

Executive Director



**Sean Partch**

Operations Manager, Justice Programs Coordinator



**Mollie Brown**

CPRS Supervisor, Administrative Assistant



**Peg Thielman**

Community Outreach & CPRS



**Rosalinda Miller**

Hispanic Community Outreach and PRS



**Robert Burrow**

Veteran Outreach and CPRS



**Ashley Schlichting**

Justice Outreach, CPRS



**Frank Whitesell**

Native American Outreach, CPRS



**Nicole Couch**

Executive Assistant



**Shawna Beckers**

LADC, Wright County



**Christine Stoner**

Wright County CPRS



**Peggy Murphy**

CPRS



**Tyler Stull**

AmeriCorps Program Coordinator



**Lisa Fujan**

AmeriCorps Navigator



**Cassie Nix**

AmeriCorps Navigator

# RCN Board of Directors

The Board of Directors at the Recovery Community Network is committed to advancing the organization's mission of empowering individuals in recovery. By fostering openness, connection, and community engagement, the board provides leadership and oversight of RCN's efforts to break down stigma, promote well-being, and support recovery for those affected by substance use disorders in Central Minnesota.



**Rik Lundgren**

Board Chairman



**Chad Weisser**

Vice Chairman



**Tim Keenan**

Board Treasurer



**Jen Matzke**

Board Secretary



**Ali Aden**

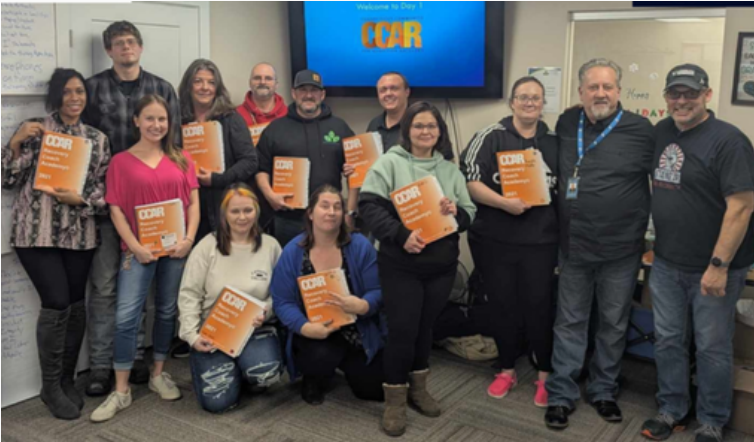
Board Member



**Scott Ampe**

Board Member





# Let's Connect



[www.recoverycommunitynetwork.com](http://www.recoverycommunitynetwork.com)

3400 1st St. N., Ste 302  
St. Cloud, MN 56303

(320) 342-2236

[admin@rcnstcloud.org](mailto:admin@rcnstcloud.org)