

HOWIE THE HARP PEER ADVOCACY AND TRAINING CENTER



OUR GRADUATES

Empowering people with psychiatric disabilities to transition to independent living by engaging them in housing, job training, mentoring, counseling and advocacy programs that inspire healthy, productive lives.

“ Graduation day from the Center was the most important day of my life. ”

Jacquelyne Segarra, Graduate, 2009



Overview

Established in 1995, the **Howie the Harp Peer Advocacy and Training Center (HTH)** is an award-winning model for job training and placement for individuals living with psychiatric disabilities who may also have histories of homelessness, substance abuse and incarceration. Located in Harlem, the Center provides classroom-based training, internships, job placement assistance and alumni programs that help people develop the skills and knowledge they need to find jobs for the first time or to re-enter the workforce.

The Center's programs focus on preparing individuals to build workforce ready skills and find meaningful jobs in health and social services where they can use their life experiences to help other people struggling with mental illness. The Center has revolutionized how our organization delivers job training opportunities for mental health consumers, and our peer-to-peer training model has also become a gold standard for mental health service providers nationally and internationally.

How it's Done



Our Classroom Programs

HTH programs focus on job skills training, life skills development, and workforce preparation. The training curriculum is delivered to 40 students per class, and encompasses over 600 hours of classroom instruction that incorporates exercises, group activities, role-playing, and counseling in 10 core learning areas:

- ✓ Career planning and goal-setting
- ✓ Resume writing and interview skills training
- ✓ Conflict resolution and crisis management
- ✓ Computer literacy training
- ✓ Basic office skills development
- ✓ Mentoring and counseling techniques
- ✓ Teamwork skills development
- ✓ Financial literacy training
- ✓ Workplace etiquette
- ✓ Mental health wellness planning

Our Impact

A priority for all HTH programs is to help people move out of poverty by preparing them to establish careers they find personally and professionally rewarding.

- Over 750 graduates have been placed in mainstream employment in hospitals, clinics, prisons, and other agencies across New York City.
- Over 250 participants receive services every year.
- Many of our graduates pursue higher education opportunities.
- We offer graduates lifetime access to job placement assistance services, volunteer activities, and professional networking.

How You Can Help

The Center's programs are free and open to people with psychiatric disabilities who want to transform their lives and make a difference in the community. Community Access relies on the support of caring individuals and forward-thinking companies and foundations in order to make these transformational opportunities possible.

To sponsor a participant, or make a contribution to the Howard "Howie T. Harp" Geld General Fund, please contact John Williams at 212-780-1400, ext. 7772, or email jwilliams@communityaccess.org.

To arrange a tour of the Center and see our program in action, contact Dwayne Mayes at 212-865-0775, ext. 2118, or email dmayes@communityaccess.org.

