

IMPACT REPORT

Sept/2019 –
Sept/2020



THE CONNECTION

Empowering **RECOVERY** in Forsyth County.

TheConnectionForsyth.org



Empowering **RECOVERY** in Forsyth County.



Bill Whitney
Executive Director
The Connection of Forsyth County

Wow, what a year!

Delivering on the promise of our founding mantra, “The opposite of addiction is not sobriety, it’s connection,” became a serious challenge in March, 2020 when in-person gatherings were suspended because of Covid-19. Knowing that our peers needed us more than ever, we mobilized with immediate and innovative solutions to keep our peer community engaged and connected digitally. In so doing, we were able to keep our peers connected and in community so they could keep working on their recovery.

I am so proud of the work we have done this year to empower recovery in Forsyth County and could not be more excited for what the future holds. You’ll learn more what we are doing--past, present and future--in this impact report.

Thank you for caring and joining us on this journey.
- Bill

Core Services



Recovery Meetings

All pathways

In person and
virtual
meetings



Sober Social Family Events

A safe, welcoming
place for fun
and meaningful
connection



Peer to Peer Coaching

In person and
virtual
meetings

As our very name implies, The Connection serves as a resource hub for the community, providing referrals for treatment, social services, sober housing, and other vital services.

VISION

To destigmatize addiction through sharing the hope of recovery. We envision a world where addiction is not seen as a moral failing, but a chronic, treatable illness. More than 25 million Americans are living in long-term recovery. We do get better. Connection helps us stay better.

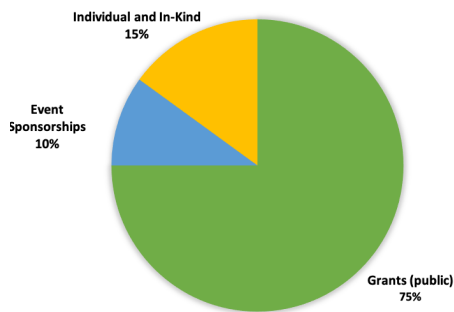
MISSION

To empower recovery in Forsyth County. Our community is made up of people in recovery, our family and friends, and our community partners and allies.

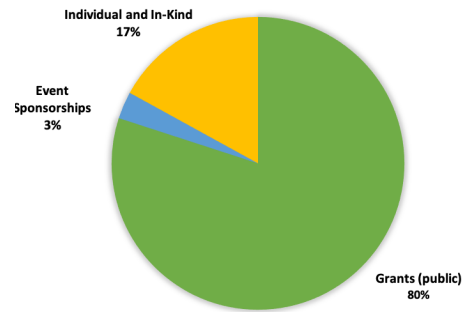
Funding

Using what we have so generously been given, with hearts of gratitude and service to the greater community!

Year One

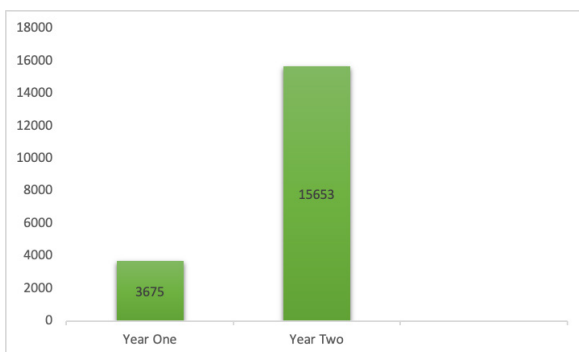


Year Two

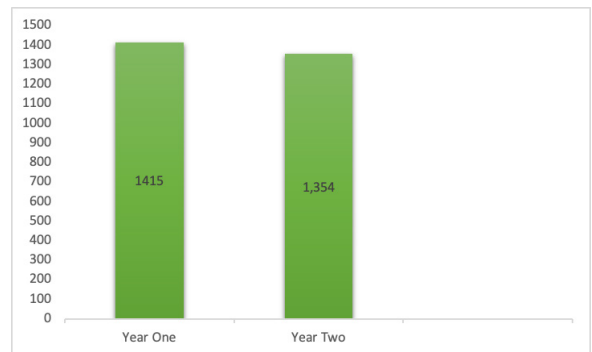


People

Peer-Led Relapse Prevention Hours



Volunteer Hours



Covid-19 restrictions halted volunteer opportunities at The Connection. We were on a trajectory to double volunteer hours before the virus hit.

A Year in Review

What we accomplished

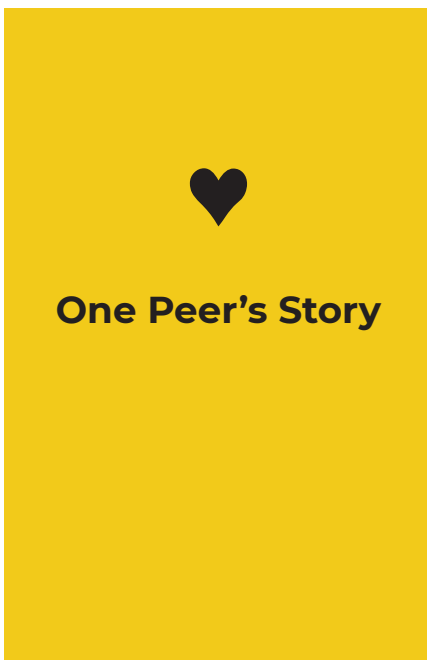
The Connection is committed to doing our part in improving the quality of life for all citizens in Forsyth County. We know that **HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS CREATE HEALTHY FAMILIES. HEALTHY FAMILIES CREATE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES.** Through sharing our personal experiences and successes as certified peer coaches, one person at a time, we can prevent relapse post-treatment, hospitalization, or incarceration. Connection with a recovery community is critical for those who choose the recovery lifestyle in maintaining sometimes hard-won recovery.

As our second year began to ramp up, COVID hit. While our yearly fundraiser and recovery awareness event, Recovery Rocks, was cancelled, we saw an increase in private donations and privately sponsored fundraisers.

COVID-19: We never missed a meeting! Since March, when our virtual doors opened, the number of free peer-led relapse prevention hours delivered rose 400%! We have been able to host live virtual events, virtual meetings online and some fun, stress relieving events like our first annual Boujee Beverage contest held community-wide. We continue to keep hope alive through staying connected virtually. Volunteers showed up for service projects to benefit essential workers and a blood drive was held at the Connection. We understand the value to our recovery of being of service.



Our Why
Healthy individuals create healthy families.
Healthy families create healthy communities.



“I would not be the person I am today if it was not for The Connection. In March 2019, I was going through a horrible divorce. By April 2020, I had lost my children, my home, my money, and my will. AA meetings were not open due to COVID. The day after I lost everything, I sat at my desk crying, feeling sorry for myself and pretty hopeless. I then remembered I was given information on The Connection a couple of months prior to. I looked up their website, clicked on schedule, downloaded Zoom and started my journey to recovery. Every day I would logon to whatever meetings they had. Sometimes I would listen, sometimes I would complain, and most days I would cry. The staff was there every single day and as the fog started to settle in my head, things began to sink in. September 30th was my 6 months sobriety date and I am a completely different person. Not only am I happy and back to being myself, but I have a whole different mindset on life. I owe a lot to The Connection and even though I did the work, I would not be here today without their dedication, compassion and support.”

Peer-Led Relapse Prevention in the Forsyth County Jail

We are excited and grateful to be partnering with Forsyth County, offering peer-led recovery supports and relapse prevention services in the first ever Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program inside the jail! During this 9-month intensive treatment program for men who are incarcerated, our staff and volunteers have the opportunity to serve five days/week as certified coaches and curriculum facilitators. In 2021, we look forward to continued partnership with an expanded men’s program and a new program for women.

Facility Needs



We have outgrown our current space! In order to provide more services for our peers and their families, we have plans to begin a fundraising campaign in 2021 for a new, multi-use facility to include a recreation and wellness area, a spacious classroom and indoor event area, an expanded meeting space, as well as a covered area for outdoor family events. In the meantime, since we anticipate being in our current space for the foreseeable future, we are planning interior updates to provide more functional and modern meeting spaces for peers and increased efficiencies for staff.

Programming Update

As programming is returning back face-to-face (as well as virtual) meetings, we have plans for a Wellness Month and a campaign for giving back to the community through the holidays, one of the most difficult and lonely times of year for some new to recovery. We are hopeful for the return of live events in 2021, including Recovery Rocks and more installments of Boujee Bev! Stay tuned to our social media channels for updates...

Building Brands for Recovery



A safe, welcoming place for recovery and connection.



A fundraising and advocacy event with live music and fun for people in recovery.



Promoting hand-crafted, alcohol free beverages everyone can enjoy.



THE CONNECTION

Empowering **RECOVERY** in Forsyth County.



@theconnectionforsyth
@connectionfoco (Twitter)

TheConnectionForsyth.org

608 Veterans Memorial Blvd.
Cumming, GA 30040
470-253-8564