



THE FERNS

PEER-RUN RESPITE

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

Hello Friends of the Ferns! We wanted to thank every one of you for your support and interest in our mission to bring a peer respite to Montgomery County. We have had quite an exciting year and are expecting more milestones to be reached in the near future. We hope you come along for the ride!

OUR MISSION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

OUR MISSION

To offer a welcoming environment for people experiencing distress in their lives that recognizes each individual as the expert on themselves while also providing time, space, and connections that support their self-determination, healing, and growth.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Genuine Connections
Voice and Choice
Mutuality
Potential for Change
Healing Environments
Respect for Yourself and Others

PROPERTY ACQUISITION

In 2023, we have worked hard to identify a permanent home for The Ferns in Montgomery County. We have been conducting a far-reaching and active property search and we recently made an offer on a warm and welcoming property. While the property market has been unpredictable, we are hopeful that The Ferns will open its doors to the public in 2024. We look forward to welcoming community members into our home!

SUSTAINABILITY

Donate to The Ferns and help make our vision for peer-led respite a reality

Visit the HopeWorx website to donate!

<https://www.hopeworxinc.org/how-to-help/donate.html>

In 2023 we finalized a legal agreement establishing HopeWorx Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit with 30 years of experience serving the Montgomery County community, as our fiscal sponsor.

Our director has joined a national coalition of peer respite advocates and supported the creation of a groundbreaking 50-state review of peer respite policies. Through the National Peer Respite Group, we are working to create a nationally recognized fidelity standard for peer respites while advocating for consistent funding streams to support the opening of future peer respites.

JOIN THE FERNS PEER RESPITE COUNCIL

Volunteer your time and make a difference! The Ferns Peer Respite Council is recruiting new members.

If you are interested in helping to bring peer respite to our community, please reach out to Sarah Spath, Peer Respite Council Chair, at sspath@theferns.org