



The Recovery Program Has Sparked a Movement of Giving

When Mark Swiecki joined the Alliance in June 2022 as the Recovery Support Specialist, he brought his own recovery experience as well as his expertise as a SMART Recovery facilitator. SMART Recovery, an international community of peer support groups, uses scientifically-proven tools to help people overcome addiction.

What sets it apart is its focus on building a future rather than dwelling on past struggles. As Mark explains: "We help you build a life you're happy living sober."

The program's impressive growth reflects its impact – in 2024 alone, the Alliance had attendance of 11,891 at their SMART Recovery meetings. Sessions averaged 55 participants each, already growing to 65 per session in 2025.

The transformative power of this work is evident through daily stories Mark witnesses. At each 10-week Recovery Class conclusion, participants write papers about their recovery experiences. Mark recalls moving moments when people who had never shared their trauma before opened up and began healing.

Mark shares, "People need support in a non-judgmental way. We help them focus on their strengths, not what's wrong. We offer them a safe space to explore emotions, understand their value and self-worth, and learn to be authentic."

What drives this work is the transformation. "I love seeing people willing to do the work, push through defense mechanisms without judging themselves, to change and grow. Then seeing the impact for them, their families, and their lives," Mark reflects.

This approach has inspired remarkable generosity from those Mark serves. Currently, 17 monthly donors support the SMART Recovery program while another 46 tribute donations have been made in Mark's honor.

These gifts are meaningful to Mark: "I got into this field to help people going through addiction. When I see this generosity, I know I'm connecting with people and making a difference."

Program participants who donate echo this sentiment: "Mark is inspirational, thanks for all you do," and "Mark Swiecki's SMART meetings are the ones that always make me come back." Others praise his facilitation skills and the Alliance team's incredible work.

For those considering tribute gifts to honor someone in recovery or show appreciation for someone who supported their recovery, Mark shares the impact these contributions can make: "It takes money to run programs. These donations allow us to keep programs free and available to anyone who needs them. What we're doing here isn't just recovering from addiction – we're recovering lives."

When you make a tribute gift in honor of someone who has supported your journey, or in celebration of someone's courageous recovery, you make these life-changing programs possible. To learn more about making your tribute gift, please visit [make a tribute gift](#) today.