



Greater Orlando TRN Efforts

When disaster strikes Trauma Recovery/HAP relies on local TRN membership to assess the need within their community. Then, contact our office to book training efforts, gain access to informational materials, spread the word online to build community outreach and when funds are available secure support for reduced cost services and scholarships. The Greater Orlando TRN, led by coordinator Cherilyn Rowland Petrie and Reg Morrow Robinson, did just that after the Pulse Nightclub Shooting. They immediately contacted Trauma Recovery/HAP which resulted in four reduced-cost training efforts. *This was possible due to donations made to the Francine Shapiro Fund for Disaster Recovery, which was recently renamed to honor Dr. Shapiro.* The members provided pro bono services, increased membership, found scholarship candidates and secured free space donated by Stetson University, Celebration Campus for the training efforts. Their swift call to action and coordination with the Trauma Recovery/HAP office has resulted in a significant increase in their community's capacity to provide treatment to those suffering from emotional trauma.

The first effort organized was a no-fee study group held just days after the shooting. It was led by Bill Brislin as a Recent Traumatic Episode Protocol (R-TEP) refresher. Participants reviewed the basics of early EMDR therapy intervention and the purpose and procedures of the R-TEP protocol before breaking into groups for practicum. This session emphasized the immediate need for an EMDR R-TEP and G-TEP training. The Trauma Recovery/HAP office worked quickly to schedule a Francine Shapiro Fund discounted training for July 8-9th. Bill Brislin and Larry Shrier held a successful training with 26 participants.

That same weekend the EMDR Therapy Basic Training efforts began with a Part 1. The team of Reg Morrow Robinson, Lynda Ruf, Cherilyn Rowland-Petrie and Lou Ann Baylock trained 38 local clinicians. These trainees have begun EMDR therapy with 57 clients. The Part 2 was held in August with Reg Morrow Robinson, Claire Mauer, Judy Cabecerias, Cherilyn Rowland-Petrie, Josie Juhasz and Wendy Kraus on the team. In the end, an additional 58 fully trained EMDR therapy clinicians were made available to the greater Orlando community. Several scholarships were provided and all clinicians were able to register at a significantly reduced rate through the Francine Shapiro Fund for Disaster Recovery. We were also fortunate to have fourteen EMDRIA-Approved Consultants volunteer to provide pro bono consultation to all participants.

Most recently, the Greater Orlando TRN members were invited to join a panel discussion during the viewing of the documentary Newtown at the Global Peace Film Festival. The eight members who attended shared TRN information and networked with other agencies serving Pulse survivors in one form or another. This resulted in being asked to have volunteers present for two additional documentary viewings and panel discussions, further raising awareness. It is important to note that these volunteers exposed themselves to emotionally taxing footage in order to be available in case any audience member was overwhelmed by the content. Their selflessness and generosity is truly an inspiration.

Training efforts will continue with the upcoming "Using the EMDR Recent Traumatic Episode Protocol with Homicide Survivors and Victims of other Violent Crimes" workshop presented by Donald deGraffenried on October 7th. The Greater Orlando TRN will continue their outreach and building Network membership. At this point, they have 24 new members. The Greater Orlando TRN will be providing an educational report of the lessons learned, which we look forward to sharing in the future.

We want to thank the generous individuals whose contributions to the Francine Shapiro Fund allowed these trainings to be provided at a reduced rate. We never know when or where disaster will strike, but your continued support will make it possible to quickly respond to the next tragedy.