

“Just do the Work”

CEO & Founder, Dee Quaranta



t's official! April is here! I can already smell spring. The birds are chirping and flowers are blooming. I can also feel the pollen on my face producing watery eyes. Bittersweet, but we learn in life that sometimes we must take the good with the not so pleasant.

I remember when our organization started out. There were no funds, no resources, and we weren't quite sure which direction we were going to go. It was rough, but we dug our heels in. Those first few years, we worked without pay just to help somebody. There were days someone would send us a \$50 check and we would run up and down the hallway shouting and rejoicing because it meant someone was thinking of us and believed in our work.

What people didn't know was that our personal finances were in trouble because we had little to no income to take care of our own obligations. Within the group, one person's home went into foreclosure, one lost their car, one was on the verge of bankruptcy, and others faced challenges they never spoke about. The work was important. I would not recommend anyone taking this route!

Eventually, we were able to get on our feet and secure funding. It wasn't a lot, but we no longer had to use our personal funds to support the organization, and we were able to pay ourselves a small stipend. In 2022, we finally received state funding. It was a "dancing in the streets" moment. Since that time, we have been able to prevent homelessness, suicide, and despair for the past 4 to 5 years.

This coming state fiscal year, we are looking at a step back in time because we will not be state-funded unless a miracle happens. We heavily depend on these funds to operate, so it will be devastating to the organization as well as the community we serve.

We are now counting on you to ensure our doors stay open, our staff can thrive, and our clients don't go without. We are open to your suggestions and your giving. It takes \$900k annually to be fully staffed and functional, so we ask that you remember us in your giving.

Help us help others.