



EVERYBODY MATTERS

PRESS RELEASE

Lowell Program for the Homeless Accepts Donation from Circle Health

Proceeds from annual gala will fund mental health services

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Presenting a check for \$50,000 to the Lowell Transitional Living Center (LTLC) for its new mental health support team are: (L-r) Circle Health Ball for Community Health Initiatives event co-chair Dr. Lija Joseph, Circle Health CEO Jody White, event co-chair Dr. Jeremy Moses and LTLC executive director Jayde Campbell.

LOWELL -- A check for \$50,000, representing proceeds from the 'Fund a Need Drive' held during last month's Circle Health Ball for Community Health Initiatives, was presented last week to the Lowell Transition Living Center (LTLC).

Since 1986 the LTLC, an affiliate of the South Middlesex Opportunity Council, has been serving the poor and homeless in Greater Lowell, operating a 90-bed shelter and providing case management and a variety of supportive services to help homeless adults get back on their feet. The LTLC operates an onsite healthcare program run by volunteer nurses, and a weekly drop in clinic staffed by a primary care physician from the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center's Healthcare for the Homeless program.

LTLC executive director Jayde Campbell explained that the money received from Circle Health's Fund a Need Drive will be used to create and implement a Mental Health Support team that will coordinate physical and mental healthcare as well as case management services for the city's homeless population. "Many of the people we work with come to us with multiple chronic medical conditions often complicated by serious and ongoing mental health issues," Campbell said. "In building healthcare into our programs, we recognized the need for mental health support for our clients and ongoing education for our staff. This money from Circle Health will provide us with resources to offer onsite mental health services and to coordinate care in the best way for our clients.

The funding from Circle Health will also provide the LTLC with resources to offer education and training to all staff and community providers regarding the unique and often unmet mental health needs of the homeless population, and address the urgent need to support shelter residents who may not have a diagnosed mental health condition but are exhibiting signs of stress, depression and anxiety due to homelessness. The money will also provide an opportunity for LTLC to explore partnerships with agencies that provide alternative therapies such as acupuncture, yoga, support groups and exercise programs.

Jody White, President and Chief Executive of Circle Health noted, "The LTLC will put these funds to great use in their vital work with our region's homeless. We are confident that the center's creation of a coordinated mental healthcare team to address the mental health needs of this population will make a powerful difference in our community. We were proud to present the proceeds from our 2017 Circle Health Ball for Community Health Initiatives 'Fund a Drive' drive to the LTLC."

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