

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - WORKING TOGETHER

Overview Working Together PA, Inc. (“Working Together” or “WT”) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is further classified as a public charity, that is qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devices, transfers or gifts (EIN # 20-8210915). They are an organization that was formed to provide a self-help community for adult individuals who have hit bottom and desire to turn their lives around. The philosophical underpinnings of the organization embody the concept of offering a “*hand up, not a hand out.*” The individuals served are those in need of structure, purpose, and emotional support so that they can recover and develop into self-sufficient, contributing members of society. An overwhelming majority of individuals will have experienced trauma from physical and/or sexual abuse as children. They will also be in recovery from drug and alcohol abuse. Many will have lived lives of generational poverty, and some will have experienced the vicious cycle of incarceration and homelessness. Once accepted to the program, there will be no cost to the student or their family. All of the costs of food, clothing, housing, psychotherapy, and medical & dental care are paid for by Working Together.

The Working Together Model All residents (that WT characterizes as students) will be required to make a minimum two-year commitment of residence. It is our firm belief that two years is the minimum time required to rehabilitate a life conditioned with environmental prejudice and self-destructive behaviors. The students will learn at least two job skills which will enable them to re-enter society better equipped to maintain financial and emotional independence.

The foundational pillars of The Working Together Model follow:

- There will be three primary rules: 1) no physical violence; 2) no threats of violence; and 3) no drugs or alcohol. Anyone who violates any of these rules will be asked to leave immediately without exception;
- All students will be required to work full-time in one of the WT social enterprises. WT anticipates that the revenue from these activities will fund the operating costs of the entire organization;
- The philosophical notion of “*each one - teach one*” will be initiated from day one. An individual with one year of tenure helps guide a student with three months; an individual with one month guides the new student in their first week,
- Students will learn to observe and correct destructive patterns, to live in community, and contribute to society at large;
- Most graduates will attain at least a high school GED and a minimum of 2 job skills.

Psychotherapy One component that WT will add to other existing time honored and evidence-based models is the opportunity that all students may choose to participate in both individual and group therapy once a week until it may be decided to cease this activity with their therapist. Psychoeducational groups will also be offered in specific areas like physical and sexual abuse, or recovery from other process addictions like gambling, sex, or eating disorders. Particular emphasis will be placed in supporting people with PTSD.

Social Enterprises Fund WT Operations. All the students, who will work full-time in one of the social enterprises (businesses) of Working Together, do not get paid. The revenues from these activities (from work done by the students) is what pays the operational expenses of

Working Together. It is an operating principle that builds integrity for the students; they are actually funding their own recovery. The first three social enterprises will be 1) an Automotive Repair Shop, 2) a Moving Company, and 3) Landscaping & Tree Service. In October of 2022, WT acquired a profitable 3 bay automotive repair business in Pottstown, PA and in 9 months, had doubled the sales (working with paid employees). In February of 2024, when WT' students will begin to work in the automotive shop, it should be become even more profitable as students will share in the work load without any additional expense as the sales increase.

Job and Career Training. Within 4-6 weeks of arrival, all new students will begin working full-time in one of the social enterprises where they will receive on-the-job training.

Education, Life Skills, and Hobbies. WT anticipates that there will be fundamental literacy deficits with some students, which will be addressed initially with volunteer teachers until longer term residents can begin volunteering in this area. All students will be encouraged to explore the rich traditions available to those who read. Before graduating, all students will participate in necessary life skills training in the areas of 1) food shopping and preparing healthy meals and 2) learning to live on a budget. All students will be also be encouraged to develop hobbies and healthy ways to have fun to which most have simply never been exposed to. Students will also have access to an exercise facility. All will be exposed to a *state-of-the-art* Ropes Challenge Course, which will help students to learn to support and trust one-another, while challenging their perceived limitations.

Spirituality. Although the founder and Executive Director is a seminary graduate and professes a Christian faith, WT will promote diversity and tolerance encouraging students to pursue their own chosen spiritual pathway. If they so choose, students will have the opportunity to participate in non-denominational church services or other faith traditions as may be called for. All students will be exposed to the basic practices of mindfulness and meditation.

Volunteerism and Community. All students will be encouraged to participate in community service, a tradition that brings enjoyment and growth to those who volunteer. There will be a number of volunteer opportunities available with a particular focus on serving the local community within which WT is located. All students will also be required to work at least one hour per week to maintain the grounds and buildings. With volunteer work, chores, working in one of the social enterprises, life and job skills training, and participation in therapy, students will be busy – and that is the goal.

Graduating from Working Together. When students graduate after two years, they will move into a fully furnished apartment (with funds provided by WT), will already be working in a full-time job, and will have a stable support system in place. All graduates will be encouraged to participate in the *after care program* where they will have the opportunity to stay connected to the WT community and continue with individual counseling at no cost. It is anticipated that graduates will also participate with mentoring and encouraging existing 'undergraduate' students.

Involvement with Working Together. If you'd like to be involved with our mission, whether as a volunteer, benefactor, or customer in one of our social enterprises, please allow us to add you to our mailing list and we'll update you on our progress.