

Hillsgrove House Receives Legislative Grant for Career Scope Software

April 10, 2015 – Rhode Island’s first Clubhouse, Hillsgrove House was awarded a legislative grant for \$1,000 that will be used to purchase computer software.

“I am proud to provide legislative support for the work that Hillsgrove House does in our community,” stated Senator William A. Walaska in his letter. Senator Walaska has a long history of supporting the Clubhouse’s efforts to provide a healthy and restorative environment for adults with mental illnesses who seek a fulfilling, rewarding, and productive lifestyle through a friendly and supportive community.

In the past, Hillsgrove House has used Legislative Grant funding to purchase a garden storage shed, task chairs, and a laptop for at its 70 Minnesota Avenue address in Warwick. This year, it will be used to purchase Career Scope software from the Vocational Research Institute.

Since 1963, Vocational Research Institute (VRI) has been developing solutions that enhance career and educational planning, improve employability, and result in better opportunities and more positive outcomes for individuals served in a full spectrum of human development settings. They offer a wide range of career assessment, development, and planning tools, as well as training products that are effective in schools, workforce development centers, correctional facilities, rehabilitation, allied health, and medical facilities, private industry, and agencies and organizations serving individuals living with physical, mental, social, or educational challenges.

Hillsgrove House’s staff will use this software to assist Members in discerning their aptitudes and interests for different jobs. The software will enable individuals to be placed in positions that best match their skills and passions. Engaging in meaningful and productive employment is an important goal for clubhouse members. Hillsgrove House provides members with vocational assessment; job training and development; and employment placement and support services.

Hillsgrove House is Rhode Island's first certified Clubhouse. The Clubhouse model strongly promotes the concept of membership, a sense of belonging, and the right to self-determination for its members. It is built on a work-ordered day, which means members and staff work side-by-side in all areas of the clubhouse to run the program. Through this, work relationships are formed in which members reconnect with themselves, their talents, abilities, and strengths, as well as other members. Most importantly, the work-ordered day provides pre-vocational skills to members and helps to prepare them for work in the community.