

Serenity Sistas

Annual Report 2021

Our mission is to provide the recovering addict and alcoholic with a healthy, safe and clean environment to reenter life, giving the support and structure of a sober environment, allowing the newly recovering addict a safe haven. While the addict or alcoholic works to maintain long-term recovery, our House mission is to bridge the gap into a positive daily living routine.

2021 was a challenging year for Serenity Sistas. We started out with the director being diagnosed with COVID (a mild case) and an employee who contracted a “breakthrough” case of COVID (not so mild) later the year. We are in the people business and take every precaution to remain virus free and, we are blessed that out of five full-time employees we only had two cases in the office. The recovery homes fared fairly well in 2021; we had to temporarily shut down three out of seven due to positive COVID-19 cases in the beginning of the year. To help ensure staff and residents were safe, we contracted with a company to do COVID sanitizing on a weekly basis.

COVID required social distancing or quarantining most of the year. Consequently, we were able to hold only two small events: The Recovery Walk and a Kickball Tournament. Both were held outside, and though smaller than normal, they were well attended. In early December we were able to hold a small holiday gathering for our current participants, some alumni and staff.

2021 saw some declining numbers largely in part to COVID-19 and the brief shutdowns of

formal treatment centers as we all faced positive cases and periods of quarantine. The consequence of this was a backup of clients discharging into standard recovery home beds.

We were able to help 196 individuals enter housing, showing them the possibility of living healthy, productive lives. As recovery is a personal journey each of our participants has individual needs, meaning they may need 6-24 (or more) months of housing to accomplish their personal goals. Proudly, 27 of our residents have achieved 12 months of recovery, 11 more have been in recovery for 18 months and an additional three residents have transitioned out into independent living with 23, 26 and 28 months of recovery respectively.



Our women and children’s location saw the success of four mothers and their combined six children move on to their own homes!

“Hoyle House,” our crisis stabilization location, saw over 162 individuals walk through our doors, most via Anne Arundel County’s Safe Station program, seeking to enter treatment for

substance use. We were successful in facilitating 62% of those men and women enter a formal treatment center, helping them to start their journey to recovery. The remaining 38% either went into an outpatient setting combined with recovery housing and sadly some chose to return to active addiction. We will gladly readmit them when they ask for help again.

Welcome Entrance
at Hoyle House



Many of you know Serenity Sistas' dream has been to open a recovery community center (RCC). This center would be a central location in Annapolis and would provide a place where the newly sober/clean person can go and meet peer support, be mentored in life skills, conduct job searches, write resumes, attend 12-Step meetings, and take part in sober social activities. That dream is becoming a reality. We have acquired a building and are moving forward with the City of Annapolis to obtain necessary permits and make it fully ADA-compliant. We anticipate announcing the opening in mid- 2022. It will be a wonderful asset to our community and our recovery homes – helping residents with needed resources to enhance their recovery process.



New Annapolis Recovery
Community Center

Our fabulous staff is the heart of operations. Throughout the year they received training in Leadership (Dolan Institute), and Mental Health, First Aid and ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) (each from Anne Arundel County Mental Health Agency).

In the “above and beyond” category, in the last few months of 2021, the staff moved five locations in a 60-day period. We were forced to vacate two of the four houses we rented from the same landlord when he announced his intent to sell all four houses. After much negotiation, we were only able to afford two houses, resulting in the need to move residents into other houses. We have also relocated our office to a larger, more comfortable space for our staff. As Director, I am eternally grateful to them for understanding the assignment and getting the job done quickly and well with minimal impact to our residents.



Tammy and Alisa with
founder Traynor

Serenity Sistas' properties now consist of the RCC, four residences (two rented; two owned), and our new office space on the lower level of a single-family home (owned). As of January 2022, the top floor of the home will be rented out, providing income to Serenity Sistas.

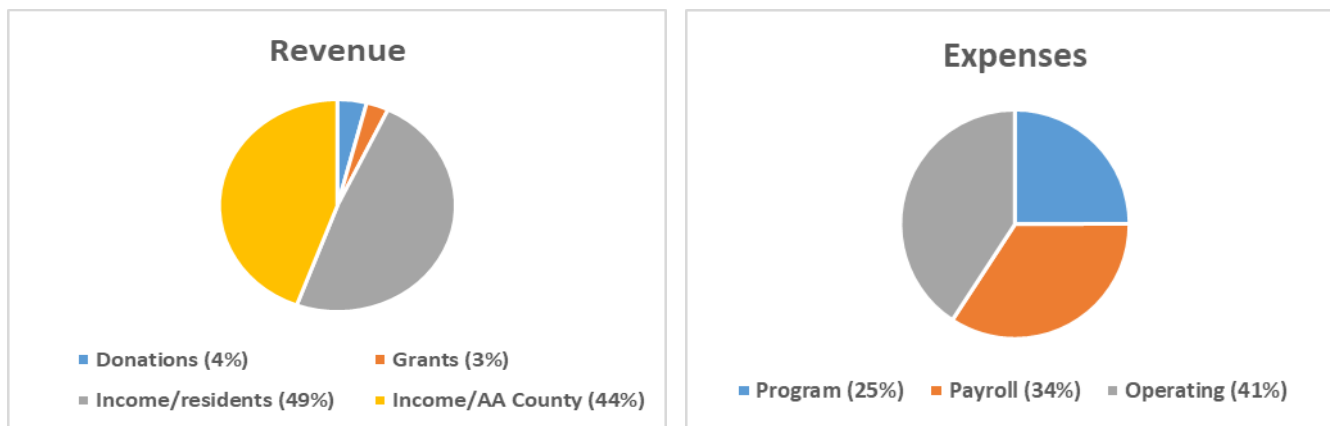
Serenity Sistas Board of Directors

Our board of directors has guided the organization through challenging times. They are passionate about Serenity Sistas' mission to help individuals with substance use disorder gain sobriety. They ensure financial accountability and advocate for the organization in the community and among their peers. Our board members and terms are:

Traynor, Angela M	Founder, CEO, President, Permanent
Adams, E. Wesley, Director/Vice President	One Year; eligible for re-election
Mowle, Eileen M, Secretary/Treasurer	One Year; eligible for re-election
Collins, Terri, Director	One Year; eligible for re-election
Keane, Debi, Director	One Year; eligible for re-election
Mayhew, Bryanne, Director	One Year; eligible for re-election
Timm, Rob, Director	One Year; eligible for re-election

Financials

We are incredibly grateful to our donors who are so important to our mission. Thanks to their generosity and our collaboration with the state of Maryland, Anne Arundel County, and the City of Annapolis, Serenity Sistas made it through the year with no significant cuts. We are careful to be good stewards of our funding and use it to the benefit of our resident/participants. The 2021 financial highlights are below. A full report is available on request.



While 2021 was a challenging year, the recovery community – our friends on the front lines – make our job easier to positively impact those in recovery.

Respectfully submitted,