



Recovery CONNECTIONS of Southeast Ohio

IMPACT REPORT

We Are...

...Recovery Connections of Southeast Ohio is a recovery community organization (RCO) led by people in recovery, their families, and allies. As a non-profit, we provide non-clinical, peer-based support, public education, and advocacy to expand access to long-term recovery from substance use disorders.

Our Mission

...to provide a safe, welcoming, peer-led environment that empowers individuals through both activities & referrals to services as they work their way through all stages of recovery from substance use disorders.

From Our Executive Director & Board

What a year for Recovery Connections

I joined in May 2024, at a time when the organization had gone months without a Director and was rebuilding its presence. With no staff and limited visibility, we were essentially starting fresh—but our Board of Directors held things together and supported the transition.

In 2025, we made major strides:

- Expanded our Board from 4 to 14 members, strengthening strategy and direction.
- Created new Mission, Vision, and Values.
- Relocated our main operations to 17 Blue Line Drive in Athens, sharing space with the Athens Photo Project and NAMI Athens, opening new collaborative opportunities.
- Rebranded as Recovery Connections of Southeast Ohio (RCSEO) for a clearer, stronger identity.

Our 2025 Impact includes:

- Hiring **2 part-time Peer Supporters**.
- Distributing **1,000+ harm reduction kits** at events.
- Supporting **25 individuals** through 1-on-1 peer support.
- Hosting Connections Activities twice weekly, engaging **40+ participants**.
- Continuing NA meetings and supporting multiple mutual support groups.
- Coordinating 4 Overdose Awareness Day events across 3 counties, **reaching 285 people** and 30+ partner organizations.
- Expanding recovery supports across Athens, Hocking, and Vinton Counties.

Your support helps us strengthen recovery resources throughout rural Appalachian SE Ohio. RCSEO will continue mobilizing community expertise, advocating for recovery, and expanding services for those seeking long-term recovery.

Please consider RCSEO in your end-of-year giving. I'm always available if you'd like to learn more.

Thank You and Happy Holidays,



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Christopher T. Meyer, D.O.
Board President



Our Staff:

- (L) Stephanie Brown, CPRS
(C) Chris MacNeal, Ex. Dir.
(R) Dez Stinchcomb, PRS

You can donate using:

- the enclosed envelop,
- scan the QR code or
- visit our website



Our Impact in Action

Peer Support Groups:

- NA Group
- Women's Recovery Together Bible Study
- Access to AA, NA, AL-Anon, & other 12 step groups

Recovery Coaching

- Our Team of Certified Peer Supporters
- The importance of developing to Recovery Capital
- Setting Goals
- Access to many paths to recovery

Pro-Sober Social Recovery Activities

- Recovery Together Craft times
- Creative Workshops
- "Soup Sessions" food, fun, & conversations; in collaboration with NAMI Athens

Connections to Recovery Resources:

- Legal Advice Clinics, in collaboration with Legal Aide of Southern & Central Ohio. Beginning January 2026
- Connection to a large network of clinical & service providers for recovery



- Providing a Recovery Safe Space, in the community and at festivals

Harm Reduction

- Distribution of resources & information
- Over 1,000 Narcan kits distributed in 2025
- Providing access to fentanyl test strips, drug disposal bags, information & training

This is a glimpse of the supports, resources, & support we have been able to provide in 2025, with hopes of growing those efforts moving forward.



Our Impact Stories *

Nikki came to our Nelsonville center on a difficult day seeking a safe, quiet space. After talking with staff, she shared that being outdoors helps her cope, so our team took a walk with her. Later that week, she told us, "You guys saved my life that day, and gave me hope that my recovery is not hopeless."

Through our collaboration with Ohio Health and their Community Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Navigator, along with one of our CPRS, **Wanda** was able to find housing and access to the treatment she needed in order to reconnect with her family.

Jimmy, rebuilding his life after involvement with the judicial system, shared that RCSEO's peer support "strengthens awareness" and creates a comfortable, transformative environment grounded in shared experience.

**The Stories are true, the names are changed*

Our Impact Moving Forward

Recovery Connections has opened our primary center in Athens and continues operating in Nelsonville, with plans to expand services into Hocking and Vinton Counties. Working with community partners, we aim to establish one-stop Recovery & Wellness Resource Centers in each county.

Our growth follows a "Hub & Spoke" model to reduce barriers like transportation and ensure easier access to recovery resources across rural Appalachian communities.

Based on standard prevalence estimates, up to 9,405 adults in Athens County, 4,131 in Hocking County, and 1,872 in Vinton County may be struggling with addiction—underscoring the urgent need for expanded support.

