



April 2022 Newsletter



Karis Community

A Mental Health Community
of Hope and Healing Since 1976

Join us to hear Drew's story on May 12.

As I'm sure you all may have seen, our Spring Fundraiser is less than two months away! We are very much looking forward to getting together with you all, and we are even more excited at the chance to honor Drew Pounds and his 16 years of service as Karis Community's Facilities Supervisor & Peer Support Specialist.

I had the pleasure of first meeting Drew back in 2016 when I worked as a Community Coordinator for my graduate school internship. If I'm not mistaken, I believe Drew first introduced himself as "the Executive Director of Karis Community," leaving me thoroughly confused as I thought I was meeting with an Executive Director named E.J. Barklage. Little did I know that would be one of many lighthearted jokes Drew and I would share for years to come.

To know Drew is to know a man who is a living example of Karis' values of hope and healing. I'll let Drew share his story with you all himself at our Fundraiser – it's one you do not want to miss – but I would be remiss if I didn't underscore what Drew has given to our Community these last 16 years.

While the sarcasm and laughter have been bountiful, the hours of time and energy spent supporting Karis' building and its Community Members are truly immeasurable. Not having Drew at Karis on a day-to-day basis will be a loss, but the legacy that he has left will be ever-present.

Please do not miss the opportunity to come and celebrate this one-of-a-kind individual with us on May 12! I can assure you that knowing Drew is to know altruism and resilience.

In gratitude,
Annie Wharton, LCSW, LAC

OUR MISSION:

To provide a transitional community living opportunity for restoring basic life skills and improving the social well-being of individuals recovering from serious and persistent mental illness.

46 Years of Hope & Healing An Evening at Topgolf

A Fundraiser **FORE** Mental Health, Honoring Drew Pounds
Thursday, May 12, 2022, 6:00 - 9:00 pm
Topgolf - 10601 E Easter Ave, Centennial, CO 80112

YOUR \$40 REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

Topgolf Play • Fajita Fiesta Buffet
Bottomless Soda & Iced Tea • Cash Bar
Silent & Mystery Package Auctions • Paddle Raiser
Stories from Former Karis Community Members • And More!

TO REGISTER OR MAKE A DONATION:

Visit www.kariscommunity.org.

All proceeds benefit Karis Community!

THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS!

Gerardo Okhuysen and
Christopher Pounds

DREW POUNDS

Drew is an alumnus of Karis Community as well as a current Facilities Supervisor and Peer Specialist. His story offers hope and inspiration. We honor his commitment to the mental health community and celebrate his path of recovery and personal growth.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

Please contact
Lisa Andersson, at
lisa@kariscommunity.org
or 303-355-5546.



Thank You to Our Fiscal Year 2021–2022 Major Supporters

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Supporting Karis Community

The Empowerment Program is a stepping stone to independent living in the community. Thanks to our generous donors, Karis can provide its life-changing program for a small monthly fee, as low as \$535 per month. Our fees represent what life will be like outside Karis, teaching accountability, financial awareness, and realistic integration into the mainstream of life. Other therapeutic communities charge upwards of \$10k per month, making our commitment to accessibility and affordability unique among similar organizations. Monthly fees cover lodging, six meals per week, household supplies, utilities, group activities, and onsite mental health services. We want to continue to be able to offer our program to a diverse group of individuals. Here are some of the ways that you can support us.

DONATE ONLINE: Go to www.kariscommunity.org and click on the "Support Karis" button.

BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR: Monthly giving is one of the most sustainable sources of nonprofit funding. It allows organizations to spend less time fundraising, think longer-term, and make a bigger impact. After clicking on the donation button on our donations page, please check the box that says, "Show my support by making this a recurring donation." That's it!

DONATE BY MAIL: Make checks payable to "Karis Community" and mail to Karis Community, Attn: Donations, 1361 Detroit St., Denver, CO 80206.

AMAZON SMILE: Go to smile.amazon.com, sign in, and select Karis Community as the charitable organization you'd like to support. We then receive 0.5% of eligible purchases.

KING SOOPERS: Shop at King Soopers? Please link your rewards card to Karis! Go to <http://www.kingsoopers.com/communityrewards> and click enroll to make an account. Search for Karis, or enter our ID: IX097 to choose us, and they give us a percentage of all money spent within the Community Rewards program.

Thank you for making a difference to Karis Community!

Did you know? Did you know? Did you know? Did you know? Did you know? Did you know?

Karis is the Greek word for “grace.”

Karis has been thriving since 1976.

Karis has an Alumni Group to provide community support to individuals who have finished the program. Part of the alumni community includes individuals at the Stepping Stone Cottage, a home owned by Karis that provides a peer supported living opportunity for individuals who have completed the program and still wish to reside in a community setting.

Karis considers the needs of the whole person, not only their diagnosis.

Karis provides seven support groups each week:

**Men’s Group
Women’s Group
Recovery Support Group
Community Meeting
Mixed Group
Jobs Group
Socialization Group**

The average stay at Karis is 18 months.

Each year, 100% of the Board of Directors and staff contribute financially.

Karis has been a teaching site for the University of Denver students in the Doctor of Clinical Psychology and Master of Social Work programs for over 30 years. In 2021, Karis added the Master of Social Work program at Metropolitan State University to its list of partners.

Karis partners with over 40 agencies, including hospitals, to receive referrals and provide continuity of care for current Community Members.

1 in 5 U.S. adults manages a mental illness. Throughout the Pandemic, that number has risen to 2 in 5. We need your support now more than ever.

Karis believes that managing mental illness is an ongoing process and journey.