



PRO BONO
COUNSELING
PROJECT

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2019

A Very Special Thank You to Our Volunteers

The Pro Bono Counseling Project (PBCP) sincerely thanks our dedicated volunteers. We could not assist clients without the generous professional contributions of our clinicians.

Last year, **704** active licensed mental health professionals provided **9,840** hours of counseling services to **3,027** clients throughout the state of Maryland.

In Memory of Joyce M. L. Harrison, LCSW-C

The Pro Bono Counseling Project family was saddened to learn that long-time volunteer and former board member, Joyce M. L. Harrison, LCSW-C, has passed away. Judy DeVito, a current board member who served alongside Joyce shared, "I will remember Joyce as a caring, thoughtful, and intelligent person who always brought insight and common sense to whatever issues we wrestled with on the board."

As a volunteer, Joyce provided over 100 hours of counseling to PBCP clients. PBCP clinical director Sherri Bloom, LCSW-C, said of Joyce, "She was a committed volunteer who always accepted clients. She had keen insight, was compassionate, and impacted many clients."

Through her service with PBCP, Joyce impacted many—the clients she provided therapy to, the staff, fellow volunteers, and board members.

Joyce will be greatly missed by all whose lives she touched. You can learn more about her life by reading her obituary: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?fhid=2205&n=joyce-harrison&pid=193502396>

PBCP's Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

The Pro Bono Counseling Project held its annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon to express our sincere appreciation to our volunteers for their generous contributions to our clients. More than 60 volunteers gathered at the Turn House in Columbia to celebrate.

"Our volunteers are critical to the success of our program," states Amy Greensfelder, PBCP executive director. "We would not be able to assist thousands of clients throughout Maryland each year without their dedication to our mission."



Former Board President Melinda Hiken thanks volunteers for their service during PBCP's 2019 Annual Volunteer Luncheon.

New PBCP Team Member

In an effort to better meet the growing needs of our clients, Pro Bono Counseling has added a new clinical team member: Clinical Associate Vanessa Howard. In this role, she is responsible for scheduling and conducting client phone interviews, assessing client needs, and presenting client requests to volunteer clinicians.



Vanessa brings much experience to this position, having interned with Pro Bono Counseling for two semesters prior to graduating from Towson University in August 2019. In addition to working part-time for our organization, she is also a member of the adjunct faculty at Towson University teaching Cross Cultural Psychology.

"This form of clinical work is so beneficial because it provides a different perspective of counseling," stated Vanessa. "I enjoy the camaraderie at Pro Bono Counseling and I'm happy to be a part of the team."

In Vanessa's spare time, she enjoys playing with her daughter, Serenity, and spending time with family.

Minority Mental Health Month

July was designated as Minority Mental Health Awareness month to highlight the unique issues and challenges underrepresented groups face in accessing mental health care. While the term minority is conventionally attributed to racial, ethnic and cultural groups, it can also apply to communities marginalized due to religious or sexual orientation or gender identity.

Since 1991, Pro Bono Counseling has worked to ensure that all Marylanders have equal access to mental health care. We recently changed our data collection methods to ask open-ended questions about race,

gender, and ethnicity. We have found that clients seeking service are very diverse, with 66% being people of color and 16% identified their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino. Also, 1% of clients identified as a gender other than male or female.

This increased understanding of client backgrounds helps us to further provide the best care possible.

The Gift of Giving to Nonprofits Made Easy

Did you know that September is the busiest month for births? If your birthday is coming up this month, or during any other month for that matter, consider hosting a Facebook fundraiser for Pro Bono Counseling. Facebook makes it easy: They will automatically send you a prompt two weeks before your birthday giving you an option to host a fundraiser. Simply set a goal amount to achieve and create a message explaining why you would like to raise money for Pro Bono Counseling. On your birthday, your friends will receive a notification asking them to donate to your chosen cause. When someone donates, the donor's name, host's name and contribution amount is shared with the nonprofit as are 100% of the funds. Facebook does not deduct any processing fees.

There's no better gift than the gift of giving!