



THE
GATHERING
PLACE

A community that cares.

7 North Congress Street
Athens, Ohio 45701

(740) 594-7337
thegpathens.org



Our mission

To be a safe community that empowers peer support, recovery, and wellness.

Our vision

Hope realized. Everyone valued.
Recovery sustained.

Services and Programming

We provide a supportive social community to adults with lived experience of mental illness and/or substance use disorder in Athens and surrounding counties.

- We are open every day of the year, 64 hours per week, with 4 Certified Peer Recovery Supporters on staff. We provide access to meals, showers, and laundry facilities.
- We offer 3 recovery meetings, 3 mental health support groups, 3 creative groups, and at least 2 recreational activities every week.
- We have monthly special events, outings and off-site activities, and parties on holidays.
- We provide linkage services and resource navigation assistance to members.
- We are committed to advocacy for our members and for our community.





Mike's Bridge House

Named for late member Mike Juedes, Mike's Bridge House is a 5-bedroom Level II sober living residence for men with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorder operated by Athens Mental Health, Inc. and joined to The Gathering Place with a bridge and shared backyard.

By the Numbers

January 2024 - March 2025

10,407

Visits made to the GP

8,889

Meals served

660

Loads of laundry done

552

Showers provided

400+

Unique individuals served

133

Orientations completed

101

Individuals sheltered
during extreme cold

48

Ohio University
students

29

Peer Recovery
Supporter certifications

16

Individuals transitioned
into stable housing

3

Graduates of the Mike's
Bridge House program

3

New employees at
The Gathering Place

Our Team Members

In 2024, The Gathering Place gained 3 new employees as part of a 2-year expansion grant. This allowed for expanded programming, increased opportunities for the organization, and met our needs as we saw tremendous growth.



Ginger Schmalenberg
*Executive
Director*



Sara Pomas
*Assistant
Director*



*Mady Shiplet
Marketing &
Communication
Coordinator
Peer Recovery Supporter*



Daniel West
*Peer Recovery
Supporter
Support Specialist*



Nari Dawson
*Peer Recovery
Supporter*



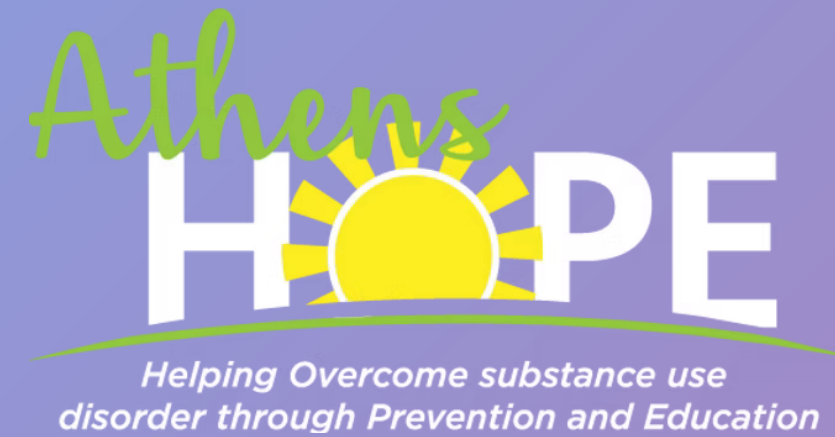
Catrina Tolley
*Peer Recovery
Supporter
Support Specialist*



Strategic Visioning

In November 2024, our staff and board worked with Mollard Consulting on a two-day retreat to complete a strategic visioning plan and establish a mission, vision, and values. This was the first strategic visioning to be done since The Gathering Place's inception.

Partnerships



Current Initiatives

Conestoga Hut Project

Conestoga Huts are micro-shelters that serve as an interim solution to providing shelter to the unhoused population in Athens.

Endowment Campaign

In partnership with the Athens County Foundation, we are establishing an Endowment Fund and launching an Endowment Campaign!

PeerTACs

In partnership with OhioPRO and OhioMHAS, we provide technical assistance and empower Ohio's peer recovery workforce.

Community Cares Fund

This newly established capital campaign aims to bolster sustainability and establish a reserve fund for The Gathering Place.

50th Anniversary

The Gathering Place will celebrate its 50th Anniversary on Friday, October 16, 2026!

Sunset Shelter Project

As part of Project Co-Create, we are partnering with and creating a MOU with HAPCAP to provide peer support at the new emergency shelter.