

Hillsgrove Clubhouse means to me recovery. Prior to attending Hillsgrove Clubhouse I was isolating a lot, playing video games and the most I was doing was going for walks, hikes and bike rides when Dad got me out to do something. The Clubhouse has gotten me back into a welcoming social environment, I have been attending the Clubhouse for almost eight years now, and through my time here I have successfully completed a transitional employment position twice. I am currently employed part time at a new job that I have been at for a year now. Hillsgrove Clubhouse has given me the confidence and ability to return to the workforce. At the Clubhouse I take part in the billing and my favorite thing to do is the "News @ Noon" where members put together a daily paper with the facts and news of the day. The Clubhouse isn't all work, we have monthly socials either out in the community or at the Clubhouse itself. One of the biggest things it has done for me is it has given structure to my day. I still go for walks, hikes, bike rides, and even picked up other physical exercise. One of those things was introduced to me by the Clubhouse, which is pickleball, I don't play much but when I do I enjoy it thoroughly. The Clubhouse has been an overall positive for me and I've seen all of the good it does for people with a mental health diagnosis. I couldn't have seen as much improvement with my mental health diagnosis and overall wellbeing without the help of Hillsgrove Clubhouse. I am grateful for all of the support and opportunities given to me by Hillsgrove Clubhouse. Thank you for your time and I would encourage you to support and pass House Bill H-8417 for Hillsgrove House funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Sherman". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kevin Sherman

Before I came to Hillsgrove, I was jobless, isolated and severely depressed for years. I started coming to Hillsgrove Clubhouse in 2021, usually attending once a week or so. Eventually they were able to help me get a job, and I was able to keep that job for about a year and a half, until the company closed. While I was working, I was more involved in the community, so I wasn't going to Hillsgrove as frequently. When I lost my job, I began to feel lost again, and I knew I need the Clubhouse. It took a while, but eventually I began coming in once or twice a week again for some time, and I became a friendly face that everyone recognized.

Coming to Hillsgrove Clubhouse is an essential part of my wellness plan. Hillsgrove provides structure during my week. It gives me a place to engage with others and be around my community. Hillsgrove is a friendly environment and a useful resource that helps me hold myself accountable.

On behalf of myself and my friends at the Clubhouse, I know that if we didn't have a place to be, there would be detrimental consequences to our wellbeing and the community.

Sincerely,

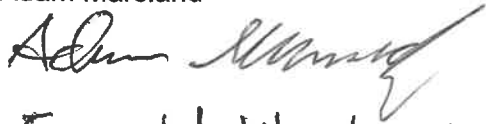
James Denice

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Denice". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

For me, Hillsgrove Club house has meant a new beginning. When I began coming here, my life was in a state of chaos and I oscillated between being listless and hyper-anxious. Hillsgrove gave me back the structure which I had lost and more than that, it showed me a path forward. My membership at Hillsgrove showed me that working with people, helping them and being relatable are not only things which I'm good at, but also are very fulfilling to me. With that revelation, the staff at Hillsgrove have helped me get into a program to train to become a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist, which will allow me to have a career that I'm proud of and allow me to get off of SSDI and take control of my life.

Sincerely

Adam Marsland

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adam Marsland". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the main body of the handwritten text.

I would like to encourage you to support house bill
H-8417.

In my opinion, Hillsgrove House needs funding for all of us, staff and members. I've been attending Hillsgrove House for 20 years, since my father passed. I was a total mess. I loved all the staff that was here, and I love all the staff here now, and members also got me through it. It gets you out of the house and about. The café sells everything under the sun, and costs money. Lunch is always free and great. Now we need money to help run Hillsgrove House – community activities, new equipment, and the free lunches!

Linda J. Weber

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda J. Weber". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "L".

Hillsgrove has been a great place to interact with members and seek support in my employment needs. Before Clubhouse, I was staying at home and isolating. I started coming two days a week working with the Admin Team, answering phones, and doing reception. After a while, I started attending Hillsgrove Clubhouse every day. Soon after (9months), I found part-time employment with the help of staff. I worked for 3+ years doing dishes, which gave me the opportunity to make some money and improve my mental health. The job gave me the opportunity to build on my skills which I had learned in the kitchen. It gave me financial support after moving into my apartment. For these reasons I want to support House Bill H-8417 for Hillsgrove Clubhouse funding.

Sincerely,



Ethan Paris

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HILLS GROVE CLUB HOUSE

HAS HELPED ME ATTAIN
NEW SKILLS, I FEEL IT HAS ENRICHED
MY LIFE IN A SENSE THAT I KNOW
WITH MY MOMS WISDOM HAS HELPED
ME IN SO MANY WAYS. THIS PLACE HAS
TAUGHT ME TO TWEAK MY SKILLS AND
ALSO SHOWN ME THAT WHAT I PUT MY MIND
TO I CAN ACCOMPLISH. THE KITCHEN +
CAFE HELPS TEACH ME HOW TO TAKE COMM-
ANDS, WORK ALONG WITH OTHERS. THE
BUSINESS AREA CHALLENGED ME + MY MIND
THE STAFF IS WONDERFUL, PEOPLE
ARE NICE TO JUST ENJOY BEING HERE

RESPECTFULLY YOURS

LAURIE COSTA

4-14-26

Testimonial)

I have been coming to Hillsgrove Clubhouse for six years and feels like I just joined yesterday. It provides a safe place to spend the day. I have had the opportunity to work in all units of clubhouse like Business, Kitchen, Cafe, Employment, and membership. Meaningful work has revealed my gifts and talents such as baking, cooking, creative, cleaning, and clerical. I have made many friends and really enjoy the staff.

Darlene Swartz



What the clubhouse means to me:

Valerie Stacilauskas

I met many new friends. I also have volunteered, through out the work-ordered day; I helped in the cafe, the kitchen, the garden and the bussiness unit. I have gotten to learn and integrate with new friends in Hillsgrove Clubhouse to keep the club running. I have gotten alot more self-esteem & also courage to communicate better. Thank You to Thrive & Hillsgrove Clubhouse. I plan to keep coming back to Clubhouse & also helping to keep the Clubhouse running.

Valerie Stacilauskas

✓ What the Clubhouse means to me; by Michael Jensen
When I first heard about Hillsgrove Clubhouse treatment, to put the bottle down almost twenty years ago. I never heard about Hillsgrove Clubhouse til then, Thrive Behavioral Health (formerly Kent County Mental Health) told me about Clubhouse. I was just put on SSOI at that time and was deemed permantly disabled. I needed to rebuild my life and achieved it through the Hillsgrove House. And almost 30 years I did alot of good work at the Clubhouse and seen alot of good things come out of Hillsgrove Clubhouse. I will be more specific if asked ~~to~~ to speak. (I have done alot of work. Over the years I helped to build the Clubhouse by painting & landscaping & construction and build a handicap garden.

Michael Jensen

Hillsgrove House has helped me in many ways. ~~I~~ I am able to get out of my house and socialize. I love going on the field trip/outing/social because I am able to go to places I have never been with some great members and staff. Being there has ^{just} helped my self esteem ~~and~~ as the members and staff very socialable and complementary. Going to hillsgrove has helped me to venture farther out from my shell.

Barbara P

What Hillsgrove means to me

- Opportunity to volunteer and be active in the community.
- Helped me find temporary job; earned some money.
- Helps people that don't have the means to socialize, have a good meal, and learn.
- The food is good.
- It's a good opportunity to socialize and meet people.