A vivo ArtWorks in South Minneapolis supports artists living with mental illness and more than a dozen of them are part of the ‘collective’ who have full access to the studio, art supplies, and exhibition opportunities. Their goal is to demonstrate that people living with mental illness can achieve success in art and life. This year’s Artability poster winner, Faye Buffington-Howell, has been creating a vast array of paintings and drawings in the corner of the Avivo ArtWorks studio since 2008—making her the longest running collective member. This is where the winning piece, A Basket of Opportunities, was created.

Part of her inspiration for A Basket of Opportunities, was witnessing another collective artist actually weave one and then flipping through a large catalogue of art and landing on a beautiful picture of a basket. “I had never seen anyone make a basket before and I got really excited. I wanted it to be modern. I wanted it to be joyful and I wanted it to be my style. It was a learning experience for me and I really enjoyed it,” said Faye.

Faye did not discover art until she was shuffled off to boarding school in the eighth grade to be shielded from her mother’s alcoholism. While there, she had admired a beautiful painting by a Catholic Sister and decided to drop piano lessons and pursue a degree in art.
A tumultuous life riddled with a few traumatic events left Faye with PTSD, anxiety and depression until she met a man in Albuquerque, NM who was initially from Brainerd and said Minnesota is the land of 10,000 lakes and 10,000 treatment centers. With great enthusiasm, Faye told him, “we’re going!” and she left the desert and moved to Minneapolis.

To Faye, winning this means a lot because she feels if you have the patience and develop a technique—you get a reward. Not because you’re better than everyone else, but because it shows you that art is blood, sweat and tears. It’s a technique and you have to work at it.

The New Tax Law and Charitable Giving

Chances are you have heard about the major tax law changes recently passed in Congress. You may have wondered how this will personally affect your specific financial situation, as well as your charitable decisions. Now that the dust has settled, experts are weighing in what they know and what might be ahead.

What Are the Facts?
New tax law considerations for individuals:
• Increases the standard deduction, but significantly reduces the pool of individual tax filers who itemize
• Increases the child care credit
• Increases the limit on deduction for cash gifts to 60% (up from 50%)
• Deductions for state and local taxes, as well as the mortgage interest deduction, have been limited

What Lies Ahead?
Bottom line, no one knows exactly how these tax law changes will specifically affect how or how much individuals give to charity. However, here are what some experts are saying in the philanthropic sector about its possible effects:
• Deductions don’t drive donations, but they do influence size and timing of gifts
• Financial advisors are now advising their clients to “bundle” or “cluster” their giving. For example, if a donor would normally give $30,000 to a charity over a 3-year period ($10,000 each year), they will now give $30,000 in one year to “bundle” and maximize their tax advantage
• 33.3% of tax filers currently itemize, this is expected to be reduced to 5% due to the bundling effect now being encouraged
• Based on studies from the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy and Independent Sector, there is the potential for a loss of $13.2 billion in charitable giving
• It is likely organizations that rely on gifts ranging from $1,000-$10,000 may be the hardest hit
• The State of MN currently has three separate bills under consideration that would change state tax laws related to charitable giving

Renowned fundraising author, Kay Sprinkel Grace said, “In good times and in bad, people give because you meet needs, not because you have needs.” People Incorporated has been meeting the needs of the community for almost fifty years. Your support makes our communities stronger.

People Incorporated encourages you to seek professional tax advice from your financial advisor. If you have questions about your charitable giving, please contact us at info@peopleincorporated.org or 651-774-0011.

Sources: The St. Paul & Minnesota Community Foundations, AFP International Conference seminars, Gray Plant Mooty, Giving USA report
On April 20th we began the process of “honoring our past and embracing our future” with the Gratitude Event. We gathered together old friends, former board members and leaders, community partners, and also a number of new friends and partners at the McNamara Alumni Center. We celebrated all those who have contributed to the mental health community and to People Incorporated over the years. The intention of this event was truly about opening up this period of celebration, and doing so by bringing the community together, looking back a bit at the field over the last 50 years, and honoring the community impact that People Incorporated has made.

This event was only the beginning, we have some incredible things planned for the rest of 2018 and into 2019. You will be hearing about all these amazing events and opportunities, focused at honoring and celebrating the commitment we have made to our communities, and we invite you to celebrate with us in any and all ways you can.

For our 50th anniversary, People Incorporated is embarking on a “50 for 50” campaign. We intend to celebrate with 50 items that educate, enhance and empower our communities regarding mental health. The first item on this list was indeed the Gratitude Event. What a wonderful celebration it was, looking at the field of mental health and at People Incorporated, and how much progress we have made.

The second item on our “50 for 50” list is our community partnership with the St. Paul Police Department’s mental health unit. People Incorporated is happy to have a mental health professional embedded into the unit to assist the police with mental health related community calls. We could not be more enthusiastic about this important contribution to the community and this innovative partnership with the St. Paul Police.

Watch our “50 for 50” list grow and celebrate every addition with us. Keep an eye out for updates in our newsletters, at some of our sites and on our website! We have come a long way in the last 50 years, we are so proud of the vision and accomplishments of so many, and look forward to the future. Most of all, we look forward to reminiscing, celebrating and growing with all of you into the next 50 years!

Sincerely,

Jill Wiedemann-West, M.A.
CEO, People Incorporated
We’re thrilled to have been chosen by the Arts @ MSP Visual Arts committee to showcase Artability artwork along with art pieces from Interact Center for Visual & Performing Arts and the Minnesota Women Ceramic Artists at the Minneapolis - St. Paul International Airport. Artability artwork will be on display in the North Main Mall case in Terminal 1 from June 2018 through June 2019. Artability is a People Incorporated art program that showcases the creative abilities of people living with a mental illness. The classes build skills, confidence and relationships with an artistic community.

Arts @ MSP’s mission is to enhance the image of the Minneapolis - St. Paul International Airport, enrich the public’s experience and promote a sense of place through arts and culture. In partnership with the Metropolitan Airports Commission, the Airport Foundation MSP began administering the Arts @ MSP program ten years ago. Components of the Arts @ MSP program include commissioned pieces, rotating exhibits, new film screenings, music, dance and theatrical performances and an annual MSP employee art show. Next time you’re traveling through the airport, keep an eye out for some beautiful Artability pieces!

Furthermore, The Science Museum of Minnesota is including Artability artwork as a resource to its Mind Matters exhibit. The art will be on display from July to October, 2018. Artability artists created their pieces during Artability workshops held this past April, May and June.

Artability was also invited to exhibit at The Sower Gallery at the Shepherd of the Hill Church of Chaska from July 15 to August 20, with the opening night on July 14 from 7 – 9pm. The showcase is open to the public. Join us to show support for community arts!

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of the Reverend Harry H. Maghakian on Tuesday, May 15, 2018. In 1969, Mr. Maghakian founded People Incorporated when he noticed a residence next to his church was sheltering a number of otherwise homeless men.

Many were veterans and it was clear that several were masking symptoms of a mental illness with alcohol or drugs. Mr. Maghakian’s congregation began to offer those men a place in their church to come for coffee and snacks, and soon this grew to Thanksgiving, holiday meals and other special occasions.

At the time there were few organizations in the Twin Cities serving people with mental illness, and Mr. Maghakian’s church soon joined with five other congregations to found an organization that eventually became known as People Incorporated.

Mr. Maghakian, an honorably retired teaching elder, was ordained in 1962 after attending McCormick Theological Seminary. He served as pastor to Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church in St. Paul from 1962 to 1974 and was instrumental in creating Liberty Plaza, an affordable housing development. From there, he transferred to the Presbytery of Detroit where he was the Associate Executive Presbyter until 1979. Mr. Maghakian then transferred back to the Twin Cities Area and served at Valley Community Church, Golden Valley from 1979 until his retirement in 1990. In 1993 Harry came out of retirement and served at Andrew-Riverside Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis until 2014.

Mr. Maghakian was living in Minnetonka at the time of his death and is survived by his wife Judy, son Reverend David, daughter Sally, four grandchildren and one great grandchild. A memorial service was held on June 9th at the New Life Presbyterian Church in Roseville, MN. It is requested by the Maghakian family that all memorials be made to People Incorporated.
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

In April nearly 400 health care professionals, community partners, People Incorporated clients and coworkers and other community members gathered under one roof for our Gratitude Event to celebrate all the good that’s been happening in mental health in Minnesota. Guests enjoyed live music, exhibits about Artability and the Science Museum of Minnesota’s new Mind Matters: Mental Health exhibit, and ended the evening with an incredible performance by the Brave New Workshop. We are heartened by the outpouring of support our community has shown for mental health care. Along with our partners, People Incorporated has been providing critical integrated mental health services to the most vulnerable in our community for nearly 50 years and we recently had the opportunity to share our work nationally with our peers.

The morning after the Gratitude Event, several People Incorporated employees hopped on a plane bound for Washington, D.C., to take part in this year’s NatCon18 – an annual conference presented by the National Council for Behavioral Health. The trip began with a networking event with our CCBHC (Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic) peers, both from Minnesota and the other seven CCBHC demonstration states. The CCBHC pilot program, its impact and its potential for real, sustainable and scalable behavioral healthcare reform was met with enthusiasm and aspiration from everyone present. We were happy to share the news of our tremendous success with the demonstration, providing a supportive community of care to nearly 6,000 clients through the CCBHC to date.

Jill Wiedemann-West, CEO said, “As I talked with peers from across the country at NatCon, I realized what a great opportunity it is to participate in something like NatCon, as there is so much passion and great thinking going on throughout the United States in our communities of care. To share and learn from one another is truly a gift!” We’re so grateful for these opportunities to celebrate our local mental health community and talk with our peers from across the country. We still have a lot of work to do but it’s important to also celebrate the amazing work currently taking place!

CHASKA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS VISIT PEOPLE INCORPORATED

Apriton Educational Advisors is a company that works with high schools and their students to introduce them to career fields in which they have expressed an interest. Chaska High School has partnered with Apriton Educational Advisors to provide career experiences for their seniors before they graduate as part of their Senior Project. The Senior Project is an opportunity for any Chaska High School senior who is in good standing regarding academics, behavior, and attendance to create a project that has meaning and depth, that challenges them and is of interest to them. Many of those students want to use their Senior Project to explore a specific career field and 24 Chaska students have a specific interest in healthcare and more specifically, mental health.

On May 30 Apriton Educational Advisors brought Chaska seniors to visit People Incorporated for an informational meeting with senior leaders. Representatives from Homeless Outreach, Adult Foster Care, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Children’s School-Linked, Crisis, Intensive Residential Treatment Services, Training and Human Resources welcomed students. We highlighted careers available within community mental health services and why people find them rewarding. It’s clear to us that the Chaska High School students are smart and determined individuals, and we hope to see many of them in the future for a job interview!
**THOUGHT LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON WITH RON POWERS**

Ron Powers recognizes the “heroic efforts” of all those who work with mental health and especially those who are challenged by a diagnosis of mental illness. On June 7, 2018, Mr. Powers shared the story of his two sons, Dean and Kevin, and his struggle to write “no one cares about crazy people,” a book that combines the history of mental illness with his personal, powerful story, as well as his hopes for the future. Nearly 300 people from 80 organizations came to hear his story.

Ellen Ewald, a board member of People Incorporated, moderated the conversation and shared some of her personal story. Both Mr. Powers and Ms. Ewald talked about how the symptoms of mental illness in their children were clear retrospectively, but that they had no idea what was happening at the time and struggled with what actions to take as the disease progressed.

The audience, including a staff representative of Senator Amy Klobuchar, was challenged to take action. Mr. Powers spoke against the system that imprisons people with mental illness, puts them in solitary confinement and neglects treatment. He called for a “champion” in Washington, D.C., to provide awareness and funding to address the mental health crisis underway in a country that spends more on health care than any other developed nation, while providing less actual care.

People Incorporated trainers, Russ Turner and Ginger Maderios led two classrooms through de-escalation training prior to the luncheon. They discussed the biology of stress and led examples of how to assess a tense situation, how to approach people who are upset and how to safely intervene. Additionally, the 11 exhibitors at the Resource Fair were selected for the broad array of services they provide, including parenting skills to address bullying, “first episode” diagnosis and treatment, clinical information for care providers, treatment options, employment assistance and personal messages for teens who are struggling. People Incorporated was represented by staff from Mental Health Services, the Training Institute, Talent Acquisition and Artability. All exhibitors expressed gratitude for being included and a willingness to participate in the future.

**THE RESTORING PLACE**

After funding was cut in 2017, we were sad to find ourselves in a position where we needed to close Ramsey House on April 30, 2018. Ramsey House first opened in the spring of 2005 and the building itself is over 100 years old. Because of its historical significance and beautiful architecture we knew we needed to find a way to repurpose the space.

The building will reopen in August of this year under its new name, the Restoring Place. It will be a ten bed residential and outpatient program for female-identifying clients in a gender-responsive and trauma-informed setting. Services are geared towards serving a population with a mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorder. The Restoring Place is set to model our Huss Center for Women program, located in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood of St. Paul. Both programs offer on-site medical care via Livio Medical Group and clients have access to psychiatry services and prescribers experienced in treating co-occurring disorders. For more information call 651-774-0011 or email info@PeopleIncorporated.org.

**MENTAL HEALTH TRAINEES AND SUMMER BACHELOR’S EXPERIENCE**

During the past year, our second group of mental health trainees worked in over 20 programs, which represents six different service areas. The six individuals graduated from the program on June 12 and now qualify for experienced mental health roles within People Incorporated and elsewhere. Two graduates are going onto earn Master’s degrees and the other four have accepted full-time roles at People Incorporated. We are honored to receive support from the Otto Bremer Trust, The St. Paul Foundation, and the ECMC Foundation for the Mental Health Trainee program. Our third cohort of Mental Health Trainees will start on June 25, 2018.

Additionally, we are excited to launch the new Summer Bachelor’s Experience program on June 11, 2018! A group of six students will gain exposure to four service areas and four trainings for mental health practitioners over the eight week experience. The students will learn the mission, vision, and values of People Incorporated, and the rewarding work of community mental health.
DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERING

Looking to declutter your home? Trying to find items to donate? Bring your gently used items to People Incorporated and we’ll be sure they get to our clients. Please drop them off at our Admin building located at 2060 Centre Pointe Boulevard, Suite 3, St. Paul, MN 55120. We’re in the greatest need of the below items. Thank you for your generosity!

- Blankets
- Weighted blankets
- Water proof sheet protector/washable incontinence bed pads
- Gas cards
- School supplies (binders, notebooks, pens, pencils, markers, crayons, backpacks, etc.)
- Winter supplies (beanies, gloves, scarves, jackets, etc.)

Looking to donate your time? We could use your help preparing food, gardening, fundraising, serving the homeless and so much more. To learn how you can help, reach out to John Macauley at John.Macauley@PeopleIncorporated.org. Continue reading to hear from volunteer, Cheryl Prohofsky, on what volunteering at People Incorporated has meant to her.

Why did you initially decide to volunteer with People Incorporated?

For two reasons. First it was a way for me to give back for all the Artability classes I have been able to enjoy. Second and more importantly, I have been given an opportunity to learn and grow once again in a business environment.

What has been the best experience so far volunteering with People Incorporated?

Learning again to give freely of myself and gaining a sense of a greater purpose that I can share with others. The people who I’ve been working with all have a desire to help make life better for so many.

Would you recommend volunteering to others?

I would most assuredly (and have) recommended volunteering for People Incorporated.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For all events, register online at PeopleIncorporated.org/Event or call 651.774.0011.

MENTAL HEALTH DAY

August 27, 2018
Minnesota State Fair
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108
Stop by People Incorporated’s booth

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

September 21, 2018
Time: 8:00am – 9:30am
The Town and Country Club
300 N Mississippi River Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55104
The event is free, be sure to register at PeopleIncorporated.org/event

NAMIWALKS

September 22, 2018
Time: 11:30am Check-in begins
Minnehaha Park
4825 Minnehaha Avenue
Minneapolis, MN
Go to NAMIWalks.org and join the “People Incorporated” team

ARTABILITY ART SHOW AND SALE

October 25 – 27, 2018
The Great Hall
180 5th Street East
St. Paul, MN 55101
Enjoy 500+ creative works from 150 local artists. Support the Artability program and bring home something special. Prices range from $15 - $800. Learn more at PeopleIncorporated.org

ANOKA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD

We were honored to receive the 2018 Anoka County, Minnesota, Public Health Award along with our partners, Anoka-Hennepin School District and Headway Emotional Health in April. The award recognizes our leadership and contributions toward improving the health in our communities through our school-linked mental health services. Many thanks to Annmarie Florest, Lisa Woodruff, Sara Benson and the entire school-linked staff for their dedication and countless hours spent every day on this collaboration.

PEOPLE INCORPORATED RECEIVING THE PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD WITH THE OTHER TWO RECIPIENTS

CHERYL PROHOFSKY, VOLUNTEER

PEOPLEINCORPORATED.ORG
SERVICES
People Incorporated serves almost 14,000 clients through almost 60 programs in the Twin Cities.

INTERVENTION & ENGAGEMENT
Crisis residences
Domestic abuse and anger management

OUTREACH & ACCESS
Homeless outreach

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES & HOUSING
Adult foster care
Case management
Deaf mental health
Deaf supportive living
Drop-in resource center
Epilepsy mental health services
Housing First
Housing with services
Independent Living Services (ILS)
Intermediate care for developmentally disabled
School-linked mental health
Service coordination
Transition living
Transitional support

TREATMENT & RECOVERY
Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)
K-12 day treatment
Mental health clinics
Mental illness + chemical dependency treatment
Residential mental illness treatment

WELLNESS & FOUNDATION HEALTH
Movement and alternative therapies
Nutrition
Psychiatry and nursing

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SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS IN OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH COLLABORATION AND INTEGRATION OF CARE.

Please call 651.774.0011 if you will be moving, are receiving duplicate copies of our newsletter or no longer wish to receive our mailings.

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A BASKET OF OPPORTUNITIES BY FAYE BUFFINGTON-HOWELL

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