

HOPEWELL COMPASS POINTS

WINTER 2026 NEWS for FAMILY and FRIENDS

HOPEWELL TRANSITION PROGRAM:

Supporting the Move Toward Independent Living

Hopewell Transition Program (HTP) supports residents moving from Hopewell Farm to more independent living. Based in Cleveland's walkable Larchmere neighborhood, the community-based program offers structured, individualized support with on-site staff and access to local resources. As clinical manager **Carl Vondracek** explains, "Think of it as a supportive bridge: structured enough to provide stability, but flexible enough to encourage growth, confidence, and real-world independence."

Currently, entry into HTP is limited to individuals discharging from the farm program, though plans are underway to expand eligibility to direct community referrals or other providers. Participants join HTP once they're ready to practice more independent living skills while continuing to receive guidance from a dedicated care team. Founded in 2020, the program has 17 alumni successfully managing housing, healthcare, and daily routines.

Project director **Candace Carlton** notes, "One of the strengths of HTP is its dedicated, integrated care team," which includes Carl, case manager **Rochelle Holmes**, clinician **Anne Boyle**, and clinical services coordinator **Sarah Turner**. Together, they provide personalized support through counseling, case management, group sessions, and community activities tailored to each participant's goals.

While independence is the goal, participants are never on their own. Staff assist with medications, healthcare connections, and everyday life skills. Many begin exploring work, school, or other meaningful activities within the first few months. Most participants remain in the same apartments after graduating. Some continue receiving long-term support from Hopewell, while others transition to community-based providers. Support levels remain flexible, adjusting as confidence and skills grow.

A standout success is the "Ladies of Larchmere," a group of current and former participants who independently created



Carl Vondracek, Sarah Turner, Candace Carlton, Rochelle Holmes, and Anne Boyle

a regular weekend social tradition. Their evenings often include dinner at a local restaurant followed by live piano music or karaoke. Through these shared experiences, the women have built genuine friendships and a natural support system while engaging with the community on their own terms.

Transitions can be both exciting and challenging. Hopewell Farm continues to offer additional support when needed, including respite stays if symptoms increase. With ongoing connection and individualized planning, HTP helps people move forward with confidence, knowing support is always close by.



A THERAPEUTIC FARM COMMUNITY

COLLEEN WELDER, Chief Executive Officer



Dear Hopewell Community,

In February 1996, Hopewell welcomed its first resident to the farm. Thirty years later, it's remarkable to reflect on the journey that has brought me here.

I was first introduced to Hopewell in 1997, when I was a brand-new psychiatric nurse at Hanna Pavilion at University Hospitals in Cleveland. Someone shared a VHS marketing video about a place called Hopewell, and I remember watching it with a small group of patients, simply trying to learn more about the program.

Immediately, I was captivated.

What I saw on the screen felt like a striking contrast to the cold, clinical hospital setting where we spent our days. Hopewell appeared peaceful, beautiful, and deeply caring—a farm community where people recovering from mental illness belonged, contributed, and found meaning in everyday life. I was especially moved by founder Clara Rankin, whose passion and vision were unmistakable, even though it was a 30-minute video.

My path crossed again with Hopewell a few years later, when I referred a potential client to the farm and had the chance to visit in person. Walking the grounds and seeing the community in action confirmed what I had felt years earlier. I remember thinking that someday, I hoped I would find a way to work at Hopewell. That opportunity came in 2003, when I joined the community as a nurse manager. I have never looked back.

As we celebrate Hopewell's 30th anniversary, I continue to be inspired by the care we provide, the sense of belonging we foster, and the hope that remains at the heart of everything we do. What drew me to Hopewell nearly three decades ago is still alive today—and it's what carries us forward into our next chapter.

Congratulations to Hopewell on 30 years of healing, community, and hope.

Kind regards,

Colleen Welder, RN-BC, MBA
Chief Executive Officer

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COMPASS POINTS

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hopewellcommunity.org

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WITH MENTAL ILLNESS.



summer SOLSTICE

Friday, June 26, 2026 at 6 pm

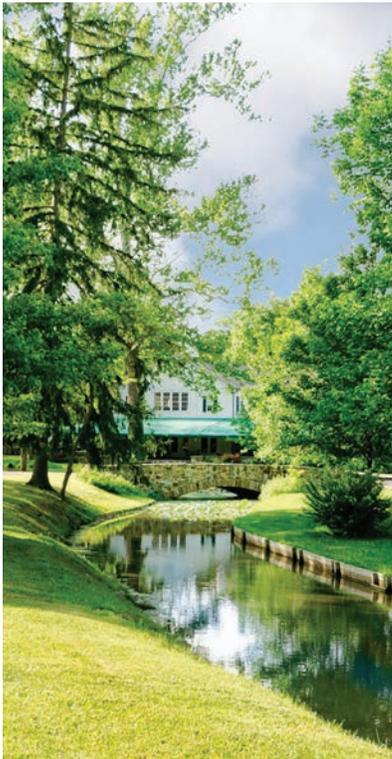
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For more than 25 years, Summer Solstice has been Hopewell's signature fundraising event. Join us on Friday, June 26, to support Hopewell and help provide essential residential mental health services for adults in need.

Celebrate the start of summer at the beautiful Chagrin Valley Hunt Club, where historic architecture and natural beauty create a welcoming, elegant setting. Enjoy exquisite wines, delicious cuisine, and stunning surroundings as we toast summer 2026 together—all while making a meaningful difference.

Join us under the tent for an unforgettable evening. This event will sell out!

honorary CHAIRS

Suzanne and Paul Westlake



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Entertain your customers, colleagues, and friends at one of Northeast Ohio's premiere events. **Sponsorship packages are \$10,000 (Gold), \$6,000 (Silver), \$3,000 (Bronze) and \$1,000 (Copper).**



To become a sponsor, donate an auction item, or buy tickets, please visit hopewellcommunity.org/events/summer-solstice-2026 or click the QR code with a smart device.

donate AUCTION ITEMS

For the Summer Solstice silent and live auctions, we need eye-catching, unusual, and exclusive items and experiences.

Do you have a vacation home to donate? A meal with a celebrity? Top-shelf whiskey or a case of wine? *Use your imagination. We are excited to sell auction items to raise funds for Hopewell.*



HOPEWELL TAPS BUTTERNUT MAPLE FARM FOR SUGARING COLLABORATION

A chance meeting at Leadership Geauga's class of 2026 between Chief Executive Officer **Colleen Welder** and Renee Delafronconi, co-owner with her husband Pierre of Butternut Maple Farm in Burton, led to a sweet collaboration.



Hopewell staff Doreen Brown, Kellie Durr, Theresa Merten, Andy Hunt, Mickey Holmes, and Floyd Davis with Renee and Pierre Delafronconi and an evaporator, just one of Butternut's big shiny sugaring machines.

Renee and Pierre visited Hopewell to take a tour and learn about our sugaring operation. "We were so impressed with Hopewell; we were talking about you for weeks!" Renee said. Pierre is now providing expertise to Hopewell staff in our sugaring "rebuilding year" that will improve processes and make them more efficient.

Hopewell runs a sugar house, built in 2016 with generous donor support, and harvests sap from our maple tree sugarbush. Each year staff and residents spend a day in the woods, tapping trees for sap and processing maple syrup the farm uses year-round. Residents love the opportunity to connect with nature and work hard. Maple syrup, maple candy, maple sugar, maple cream. . . what reward could be sweeter, especially since it is Hopewell-made!



Staff members Doreen Brown, Food Service Manager, and Theresa Merten, Farm Animal Manager, preparing the bags.

SUGARING, *Step One*

The Hopewell team officially kicked off maple syrup season by taking the first hands-on steps in the process—cutting and preparing 700 sap bags to collect sap water from the trees. Everyone enjoyed maple cookies made with Hopewell syrup and hot apple cider crafted from Hopewell's own apples. This early-season work lays the foundation for the entire maple syrup harvest and reflects the collaboration, care, and sense of community that defines Hopewell.

Visiting Artists Wanted!

Hopewell's popular Art Therapy Program immerses residents in a creative world that helps build independence, problem solving, and coping techniques. All year round, we are open to visiting artists who connect residents with the Northeast Ohio artistic and creative community.

We are currently seeking applicants for our 2026 Visiting Artist Program, which fosters an alliance between creative arts and wellness. We are seeking artists who value the connection between mental health and artistic expression, and who are interested in exploring this intersection through instruction, collaboration, and community engagement. Through this program, it is our vision to connect individuals experiencing mental illness with creative and innovative approaches to healing and recovery.

Visiting artists hold three to four day workshops where they teach their craft, tailoring projects to individuals or groups of residents. A stipend of \$1,000 is provided, which includes \$500 for materials. Artists may stay at the farm in a private apartment if they prefer and may join the community for meals.

Are you an art therapist or an artist who has experience working with small groups in the mental health community? If so, contact Kala Mansfield (kmansfield@hopewell.cc) to discuss.



WELCOME to *Our New Hopewell Board Members*



Dr. Melissa Cole, DNP, APRN, ANP-BC, is the inaugural Dean of the College of Health and an Associate Professor of Nursing at John Carroll University, where she leads the development and growth of new health professions programs. A nurse leader with more than 20 years of clinical and executive healthcare experience, she previously held multiple senior leadership roles at University Hospitals, including Vice President and Acting System Chief Nursing Executive during the COVID-19 pandemic.

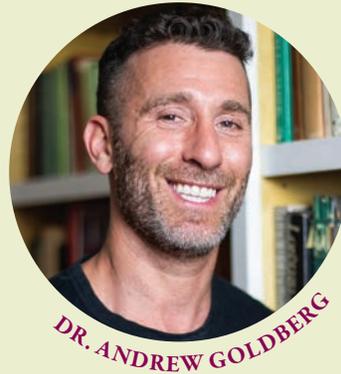
As a new board member, Dr. Cole hopes to positively impact both the physical and mental health wellness of communities across Northeast Ohio. She brings strong executive expertise in healthcare operations, strategic planning, and service line growth, with a focus on expanding access, increasing census, and strengthening programs to serve a broader and more diverse community. Dr. Cole lives in Chagrin Falls with her husband and two children. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, yoga, strength training, and spending time with her family.



Sarah Eure, MPH, is a data and analytics leader at the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, where she leads enterprise-wide data strategy efforts supporting organizational decision-making and technology transformation. Sarah earned her undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina and holds a Master of Public Health

from The George Washington University. Her work focuses on using data, systems, and analytics to strengthen programs and improve outcomes in the mental health sector.

Sarah joins the Hopewell Therapeutic Community Board with a commitment to advancing access to effective mental health services and supporting mission-driven organizations through thoughtful program design and advocacy. She lives in Tremont with her husband and enjoys distance running, hiking, and traveling.



Dr. Andrew Goldberg is a licensed psychologist and the owner of the private practice Be Your Own Therapist. He earned his Psy.D. (Doctor of Psychology) in Clinical Psychology from the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology in Palo Alto, California, and a Master of Arts in Social Cognitive Psychology Research from The New School

for Social Research in New York. His work centers on creating tools that make mental and emotional wellness more accessible and easier to use in everyday life. He recently joined the board of Hopewell, where he is interested in supporting and strengthening their clinical programming. In his free time, he teaches yoga, plays guitar, and is learning to craft.

Hopewell Renews Accreditations

This past fall, under the leadership of quality improvement and compliance director **Candace Carlton**, Hopewell renewed its three-year accreditation with the **Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)**.

Founded in 1966, CARF International is an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services. The accreditation process applies CARF's internationally recognized standards during an on-site survey conducted by peer surveyors. This accreditation distinguished Hopewell service delivery and signals to the public that Hopewell is committed to continuous performance improvement and accountable to the community and other stakeholders.

While there are five therapeutic residential farms in the United States for adults with serious mental illness, Hopewell is the only farm certified by CARF under the "therapeutic community" category.

We also were surveyed by the **Ohio Department of Behavioral Health (ODBH)** and the **Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD)**. ODBH licenses all four of our residential buildings (38 rooms all together). Our clinical services bridge between ODBH – certification under General Services and CARF. We also are an Individual Option (IO) Waiver provider through Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

OUR TEAM, OUR PASSIONS: Mickey Holmes

Program Director Jonathan “Mickey” Holmes has been at Hopewell for nearly 20 years—over half of his life—and he wouldn’t have it any other way.

Mickey started as a kitchen assistant and became a program facilitator after a year. In 2024, Mickey earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from Kent State University and is now a registered nurse. As program director, Mickey oversees more of the clinical aspects of programming. Recently added to his list of duties were medical records coordinator and liaison with Ashton Solutions, our IT firm.

“I work directly with clients on work crews, farm chores, room cleaning, off-property trips and other activities. I spend a lot of time with the residents who are struggling the most. That’s what I’m good at,” he said. “The challenges residents face can be so enormous that they impact every facet of their life. Each client has a unique story, but all are challenged in different ways.”

Mickey added, “I also help staff get residents to engage with the program more deeply. I found I could communicate with clients in a way that allowed me to be helpful to them. More than meeting a need, we are empowering and teaching them to meet their own needs. As staff we are both caring for the individual, seeking to care for themselves, seeking to engage them and help them engage in the real world.”

MICKEY HOLMES



Mickey’s best days revolve around an opportunity to intervene with a resident and have them take some measurable steps. He said, “I had a client who was struggling with isolation, avoiding people, and didn’t engage in activities. I spent some extra time with them, and they opened up in a way I wasn’t expecting.

They joined with farm chores the next morning and I saw a little glimpse of the person behind the mental illness as they engaged. I could really see the individual without the stress of their illness. There you are: the human being. Those experiences are meaningful.”

Mickey and his family live on property and his wife, Nicole, is also on staff as the assistant clinical director. He takes his children to “visit their Hopewell neighbors” by spending time in the barn, hiking in the woods, or fishing in the pond. He has a big garden, and he takes solo hikes on property one or two times a week, which he finds meditative.

Thank you, Mickey, for everything you do for Hopewell.

from the WISHING WELL

We appreciate non-monetary gifts-in-kind which enhance our activities and programs.



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Special thank you to **Geraci’s Restaurant!** Owner Marti Spoth saw this popcorn machine on our wish list and contacted Hopewell right away. “I have a machine and it’s yours if you want it!” she told us. Staff member **Rachel McDonald** picked it up in time for residents and staff to celebrate National Popcorn Day in January.



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Using the healing powers of clinical engagement, our therapeutic community, nature, and meaningful work, Hopewell's program transforms the whole person: mind, body, and spirit.

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