



## Why is Places for People Unique?

- More than 80% of people enrolled in services with PfP live in independent housing in the community, while approximately 60% of our clients were homeless upon first contact. This is, by far, the highest percentage of enrolled individuals living in independent housing for any provider of mental health services in the state of Missouri. This is accomplished through the provision of individualized and specialized community support and money management services, generally not provided by other community mental health centers.
- Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) is the most studied of the evidence-based treatments for serving individuals with schizophrenia spectrum and bipolar disorder, and has consistently demonstrated efficacy with individuals where other treatments have been ineffective. PfP operates four of the 10 (40%) of ACT teams in the state of Missouri including a Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) team that interfaces with the courts.
- The vast majority of treatment services provided by PfP are evidence-based in that they have demonstrated treatment efficacy when operated with fidelity. Services are anchored in evidence-based techniques to help those served picture a healthier, meaningful future and develop an individual treatment plan toward achieving that future. The evidence-based treatments are the “tool box” for plan implementation. PfP values and provides access to more evidence-based treatment models - bigger tool box - than a majority of the community mental health centers in the state of Missouri.
- PfP places a heavy emphasis on research and development of new techniques and treatment models. PfP is continuously involved with other researchers across the country in the development of promising and innovative treatments for this population, often in collaboration with the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) or the Substance and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA).
- Staying true to our roots as a “housing first” organization, PfP owns 6 residential properties providing more than 63 units of housing for people with serious mental disorders in the community, and leases two additional properties housing 16 people with serious mental illnesses and involvement with the criminal justice system.
- PfP has implemented a clinical outcomes system that measures and tracks physical and behavioral health clinical outcomes across 10 domains and more than 18 indicators for persons enrolled in our services. The depth and breadth of the collection of clinical information we use is unique to community mental health centers across the United States.
- PfP is highly regarded and valued by our community partners, including St. Louis City and County, state, municipal and probate court, City and County taxing authorities. For example, PfP receives the greatest amount of funding of any provider of mental health services in the St. Louis area from the St. Louis Mental Health Board, and the Mental Health Board has asked Places for People to create and implement programming understanding that PfP provides the largest menu of treatment options or a “bigger tool kit” than any other community based mental health center in the St. Louis area.

## Connect with Us



## Organizational Overview

**5,000**  
people served a year



Places for People (PfP) was founded in 1972 to address the critical shortage of appropriate, supported housing for people who were being discharged from long-term institutionalization in mental health hospitals. A small group of volunteers from the State Hospital in St. Louis realized that housing options for these discharged patients were primarily boarding homes and nursing homes—essentially trading one institutional setting for another—or homelessness. These volunteers began renting apartments in the city, moving discharged State Hospital clients into them, and providing individualized support services to promote the success of independent living.

Today, Places for People has evolved as the leading provider in the St. Louis area of specialized, comprehensive, evidence-based mental health and physical health services.

With an annual operating budget of almost \$15 million and nearly 300 employees, PfP provides an unparalleled toolkit of programs, evidence-based services, and resources for people who have serious mental illnesses, typically accompanied by complex and multilayered challenges: chronic homelessness, substance abuse disorder, primary health disorders, and trauma.

Places for People is locally and nationally recognized as a leader for providing innovative, comprehensive, and recovery-focused mental health services. PfP has the distinction of being a provider of choice for major funders, including the Department of Mental Health and the St. Louis Mental Health Board. Partnering with such funders, PfP frequently conducts pilot programs or initiates new programs to address critically underserved populations. In 2013, PfP was proud to receive several accolades for the work of our dedicated staff, including:

- Respect Award from the St. Louis chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Alliance
- 2013 Outstanding Performer for Urban Housing Development from the Department of Mental Health Division of Behavioral Health
- 2013 Health Care Advocacy Organization of the Year Award from the St. Louis American Foundation

## Mission

“To provide caring, effective services to help those with the greatest challenges recover from mental illness and associated chronic illnesses.”