From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

This summer at the Cole Resource Center is going quickly! The number of families and individuals we have met and work with has grown swiftly and every day the office is buzzing. One of our team members responds immediately to every person who comes into the office or calls or emails us. The CRC team now includes our 24 volunteers, our 3 college interns, and our 2 peer mentors as well as Brian Scott (peer/family navigator) or myself. All of us are filled with passion and motivation to continue to open pathways to wellness for families and individuals affected by mental health challenges.

I want to share a poignant moment I experienced a few weeks ago. A social worker from McLean showed up at the CRC with two young men, patients within the hospital. These young men were dressed in hospital scrubs. They were depressed, heads down, didn’t speak or make eye contact. They needed clothes so they could go on an escorted walk outside the buildings. They reminded me of a loved one in my own family who was hospitalized some years ago, with only the clothes on his back.

They came to the Cole Resource Center because we could help. We have recently expanded and re-ignited an initiative of McLean, now rebranded as the Cole Clothes Closet. The Closet is run by a CRC volunteer who has organized clean clothing by size, season and gender. What a delight for me to walk these two young men to the Cole Clothes Closet and for them to easily select seasonal clothing which enabled them to walk outside the buildings as they recover.

This is a very small way in which the Cole Resource Center provides support to individuals as they recover. I was also thrilled to provide each of these young men with information about our Barkin/Whitman workforce development program in which they could enroll at the right time after discharge. I have not seen them back yet. However, I am encouraged and hopeful that they will return.

Sincerely,

Joanne

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