



COMPASSPOINTS

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www.directionsmh.org

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Tax Rollbacks Reduce Services



Everyone knows that the majority of homeless persons have mental health or substance abuse problems or both. Unfortunately, faced with hard decisions about where to reduce funding, outreach mental health services to homeless persons and families will be cut back October 1 of this year. Directions for Mental Health, Inc. has offered these specialized services since 1988, but now the majority of these services will disappear.

"We know that without access to treatment, homeless persons with mental illness and substance abuse will simply cycle through shelters, jail and life on the streets," reported Tom Riggs, Directions' President and CEO. "Some will die. It is doubly tragic that these services have connected many hundreds of persons and families to treatment that reduces future homelessness, and without treatment the cost to society in jails, emergency rooms and shelters is greater over the long run. Of course, Directions will still offer office-based treatment, but many of these persons need to be engaged before they accept help."

Several innovative homeless outreach services will remain in place, such as street outreach in partnership with law enforcement in the Pinellas Park

and Lealman areas of Pinellas County. Those crucial services have linked hundreds of street homeless persons to care. However, the services that are being eliminated are the only outreach linking homeless families to services, formerly funded by the JWB Children's Services Council and in-home mental health treatment for persons and families in transitional living, funded by Pinellas County Human Services. The treatment services alone resulted in 131 persons and their families leaving transitional living for stable housing last year.

Many transitional living shelters, such as Homeless Emergency Project in Clearwater, are unsure how they will be able to serve acutely mentally ill persons in their housing services. "That could mean not accepting persons who are likely to be disruptive," said Barbara Green of the Homeless Emergency Project. "They are a critical component of our community's continuum."

"The sad fact is that our partners at JWB Children's Services Council and Pinellas County Government did not want to reduce these services, but they had to take their cuts from somewhere. Everyone knows that the decision is 'penny wise and pound foolish' but options were limited," added Riggs.



DIRECTIONS
For Mental Health, Inc.

www.directionsmh.org
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CARF has awarded accreditation to the following Directions programs:

- Case Management/Services Coordination for Children & Adults
- Outpatient Treatment for Children & Adults
- Prevention/Diversion Services for Children & Adults
- Crisis Intervention for Adults
- Day Treatment for Adults
- Supported Living for Adults

The Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) Children's Services Council of Pinellas County awarded Directions for Mental Health a three-year A.S.S.E.T. certification for the following programs:

- Children's Outpatient
- Kid Connection (based in many high-need elementary schools)
- Outreach Services to the Homeless
- Early Childhood Consultation

COMPASS POINTS is a quarterly publication of Directions for Mental Health, Inc., a private nonprofit community mental health organization serving Pinellas County.

Do You Know What A Deferred Gift Annuity Can Do For You and Directions?

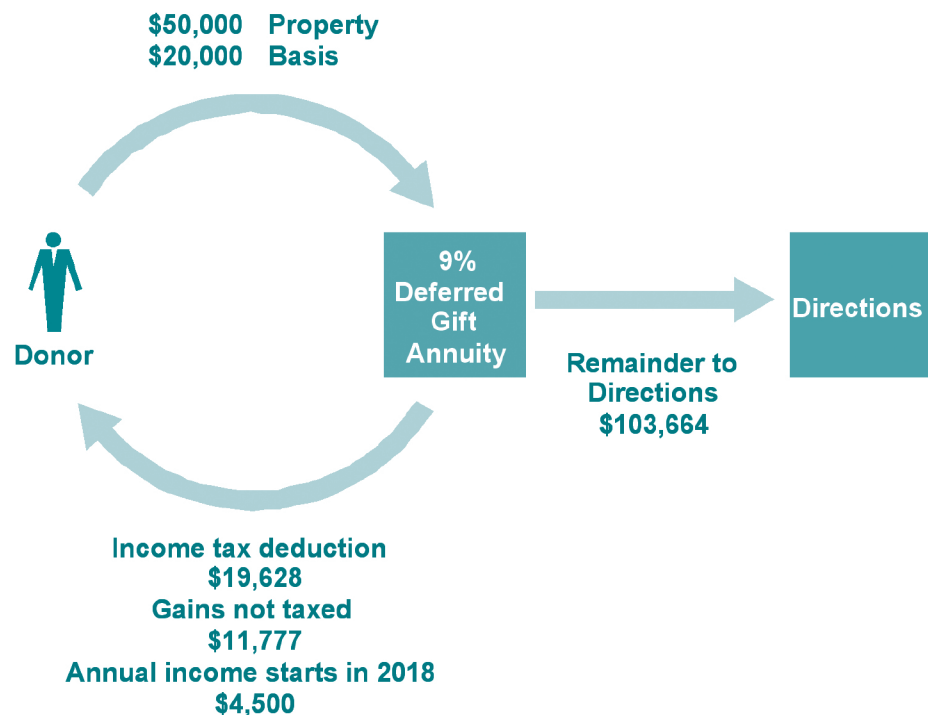
A deferred gift annuity is a simple contract between you and Directions.

In exchange for your irrevocable gift of cash, securities, or other assets, Directions agrees to pay one or two annuitants you name a fixed sum each year for life, with payments starting at least one year after your gift. The older your designated annuitants are at the time of gift and the longer payments are deferred, the greater the fixed income Directions can agree to pay. In most cases, part of each payment is tax-free, increasing each payment's after-tax value.

Payments are usually made annually, semiannually, or quarterly.

EXAMPLE:

If you irrevocably transfer \$50,000 in property, with a cost basis of \$20,000, to Directions in exchange for a \$4,500 annuity for an annuitant, age 55, starting at age 65:



BENEFITS:

Immediate

Income tax deduction of \$19,628. May save up to \$5,496. Reduced capital gains tax. May save up to \$1,766.

Annual

Annual income of \$4,500 for life starting in 2018, \$610 tax-free. Projected total after-tax income of \$67,067 over 28 years.

Future

Directions projected to have \$103,664 in 28 years. Reduced estate taxes and costs.

These calculations are for illustration purposes only and should not be considered legal, accounting, or other professional advice. Your actual benefits may vary depending on the timing of the gift.

Directions Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Directions for Mental Health, Inc. celebrated its 25th Anniversary as a provider of behavioral health services in Pinellas County at the Hilton St. Petersburg at Carillon Park on April 19. This year's event was a black-tie optional Heal the Hurt Gala that was so successful that Directions was able to fund an endowment for programs that help children exposed to violence; the endowment is managed by the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay.

Representative Bill Heller served as Honorary Chair of the event. Skip Mahaffey, renowned radio personality, was Emcee. Awards were presented to Dr. Heller, in recognition of his outstanding leadership in the university system, community and the Florida Legislature; to GENOA Healthcare for their outstanding support as a business partner; and to Studio 10 at WTSP-TV for their promotion of community awareness and education on mental health issues. Directions' Chairman of the Board, Matthew Chambers, presented the first ever Lifetime Achievement Award to Tom Riggs, who last year celebrated the rare achievement of serving 20 years as CEO of Directions. The keynote speaker for the event was Dr. David Shern, President & CEO of Mental Health America and a leading expert in the mental health field.

Guests had a number of items to attract their attention in both silent and live auctions, including table centerpieces that were underwritten by a private donor, along with Vasile Loznianu, a glass artist who handcrafted each vase individually; and Sweat's Florist who designed the floral arrangements to match each vase. In addition, Connie Avellino of Cavellino Photography donated her photography services for the entire night. Live music was provided by "Sunday Night Quartet."

Silver Sponsors included AstraZeneca, GENOA Healthcare and TSE Industries. Bronze Sponsors included Cobbe Dental, Merrill Lynch-Matthew Chambers, CFP and Stahl & Associates Insurance. Crystal Sponsors were Advantica EyeCare, Crown Eurocars, Harmony Behavioral Health, Inc., the Hospice of the Florida Suncoast, MetLife Resources, and Wallace, Welch & Willingham, Inc. A number of individuals also supported the event with the purchase of tables, tickets and personal donations.



Honorary Chair, Representative Bill Heller and Tom Riggs



Keynote Speaker, Dr. David Shern



SAVE THE DATE

Heal the Hurt

Gala

A Benefit for Children
Exposed to Violence

The 2009 HEAL THE HURT GALA will be held on **Saturday, May 16, 2009** at the Hilton St. Petersburg at Carillon Park. Watch for details

Directions for Mental Health, Inc.
PRESENTS VARIOUS COMMUNITY CLASSES
THROUGHOUT PINELLAS COUNTY.



These include early childhood workshops, parenting classes and ACT (Adults and Children Against Violence Training Program for parents/caregivers.) Please call 547-4566, ext. 121 to register for ACT or ext. 122 for more information.

For information on teen anger management sessions, please call 524-4464, ext. 1303.

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Individual \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 \$_____ Other _____
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Detach and mail to:

Making a Difference, Directions for Mental Health, Inc. 1437 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater, FL 33764
Or, make a difference at Directions online at www.HealTheHurt.org.

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