



Dandelion Meadow

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Overview *for* Prospective Board Members



Founder's Message

Thank you for your interest in joining Dandelion Meadow as a Board member.

For many women facing the long and emotional journey of recovery, life can feel a lot like that dandelion growing in between concrete and rocks surviving in an unforgiving landscape. Many view dandelions as weeds that can be trampled on, but we see them as beautiful wildflowers with purpose and potential. We will create a safe haven where recovering women can peacefully take root and flourish in a supportive community. Once our Dandelions have transformed, their puffs of seeds can dance away to begin new lives.

My goal has always been to provide a safe place for women; and to help break the cycle of substance use, prostitution and human trafficking that helps women move from a life of surviving to thriving.

With your board participation, you'll be joining a like-minded group of experts in substance use and recovery, and people with both the passion and the business acumen to create long-lasting change in our community.

Hope lives here!

Elise Perier-Sweeney
Co-Founder and Chairman of the Board
✉ Dandelionmeadowzgrow@gmail.com



What We Do

We are building a two year women's recovery home with a heart centered community support system for empowering survivors of substance use to develop a life of purpose and balance – a resource which is currently non-existent and severely needed in Loudoun County.

We seek to replicate our sister-program of the proven and nationally acclaimed recovery model of Thistle Farms in Nashville, TN to provide:

- medical and psychological care
- educational development
- financial counseling
- social-enterprise for life-long, marketable skills
- recovery programs that are stigma-free, compassion-filled and build the resilience and coping skills needed for a healthy and fulfilling life

*There is no
force equal to
a woman
determined to
rise.*

~W.E.B. Dubois

Why We Do It

- More than 1 out of every 20 women have a substance use disorder in the United States, and women who are addicted face different social and biological barriers to recovery than male counterparts.
- 24 months after treatment in a recovery **residence**, people are half as likely to return to substance use, show a nearly doubled monthly income, and have a one-third as likelihood of incarceration compared with counterparts in “usual treatment” (i.e., outpatient program only)

Who We Are

Elise Perier-Sweeney, **Co-founder / Current Chairman**

Stephanie Grumm, **Vice Chairman**

Ashley Allen, **Secretary**

Board Members at Large

Josh Cagney

Kelly Decker, MA, LPC-R

Chantelle DiLorenzo

Sahar Givpour

Craig James

Tia Walbridge

How We Do It

Board Governance

Recruits and nominates new members, manages the by-laws and strategic planning of the board.

Business Affairs

Manages the finances, human resources and legal issues of the organization. This committee is also on the hunt for our new home!

Board Committees

Community Affairs

Steers the fundraising, marketing, public relations and program activities of the work.

To date, this committee launched and completed several successful art-therapy groups and has hosted numerous events in the community to help spread the word about Dandelion Meadow.

Love Heals!

Join Us!

Commit to attending 1 board meeting a month (1 hour) and joining 1 of 3 committees. Time commitment averages about 5 hours a month.

We are currently searching for two folks to fill the Chairman and Treasurer Board seats!

Steps to Become A Board Member:

1. Schedule a meeting with one or more board members for an informal conversation
2. Attend a board meeting as our guest
3. Accept board membership nomination & sign a pledge
4. Join a committee
5. Do amazing work!