

Behind the Veil



VAIL COMMUNITIES
CULTIVATING HOPE FOR MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

May 2026



Mental Health Awareness Month

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and this year's theme is: *"Stigma grows in silence. Healing begins in community."* This May, however, things feel heavier as we navigate funding losses for two of our Clubhouses.

There are moments when communities are tested; when something essential is at risk, and what happens next depends on whether communities choose to purposefully act. This is one of those moments.

Right now, our Uptown and Ramsey County Clubhouses are at risk of keeping their doors open. And when we say, "at risk," we mean it. Without immediate support, these 2 Clubhouses, these communities, could close as soon as June 30th.

*If you have ever believed that mental health care should be accessible; if you have ever believed that individuals with mental illness deserve a place to belong; if you have ever believed that smart, effective solutions should be sustained; This is your moment to act, because what happens next is not abstract. It determines whether someone has a place to go tomorrow morning. It determines whether mental illness recovery continues or is interrupted. It determines whether these communities survive. Join us. Stand with our Members. Help us keep these doors open. **Please give now.***

-Juli Stangler

Senior Director of Development & Marketing

Clubhouse Giving Day: Keep Our Clubhouses Open!

Today, Clubhouses all around the world come together to raise awareness about the Clubhouse model and raise money to support our life-saving work. For Vail, however, this day is so much more important than that. It's the difference between our Clubhouse doors staying open. It's the difference between continuing the life-saving work our Clubhouses do each day.

As we've said before, the need is great and the moment is now. It's imperative we come together to support our Clubhouse community and ensure these safe spaces for so many stay open. \$500,000 funds 6 months of operational costs for 2 Clubhouses. \$300,000 funds 6 months of operational costs for 1 Clubhouse.

Your donations will directly help us keep our Clubhouse doors open, continue supporting those with mental illness, and providing the community with accessible mental health care. *Please donate using the QR code below or by visiting: <https://vailcommunities.org/donate>.*



Final Olmsted County Listening Session

Over the past few months, Vail Communities has partnered with Olmsted County and NAMI Southeast Minnesota to host community listening sessions about a Clubhouse coming to Olmsted County. The listening sessions have been a huge success with many community members showing their support, offering crucial feedback, and providing input and ideas for a future Clubhouse. There is only one remaining listening session on Wednesday, May 20th, at 4:30pm - 6pm! We would love to have you join us and hear your input and ideas!



2026 History Theatre: "Still We Rise"

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for this year's History Theatre performance. It was one of our largest attended performances yet, and it was truly a night to remember! Thank you to our Clubhouse Members who shared their stories with honesty, bravery, and vulnerability. View the full album of pictures on our Facebook page. A recording of the full performance will be available to view on our YouTube channel soon!



Increasing Internet Access at Dow Towers

Our ROSS Program has been working with the Hopkins Digital Access Initiative on improving internet and computer access to Dow Towers residents. Residents were thrilled to learn that the property was just approved for a grant that provides computers and hotspots, with 1 year of free internet, to residents in need. The Hopkins Digital Access Initiative applied for this funding through the National Digital Inclusion Alliance. They also donated a laptop and hotspot to the ROSS Service Coordinator office, specifically for resident use. Eventually this resource is hoped to be made available to all Hopkins residents, but they have selected Dow Towers as an early recipient to pilot the project!

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