What We Offer

- Peer support and hands-on assistance in establishing and maintaining connection to community resources
- Collaboration on setting short-term and long-term goals
- Referral to essential services such as advocacy and clinical services
- Connection to health-related work groups, committees and advisory groups, as well as meditation, aerobics and other exercise/healthy living classes
- Connection to education resources (eg. computer training, GED classes, college prep, skills training, etc.)
- Group workshops on recovery and socialization
- Connections to peer-led and other support groups
- Vocational counseling
- Connection to volunteer opportunities

How You Can Help Us

First, spread the word! You can help by posting and distributing our brochures and flyers, and by recommending us to eligible young adults who you may know or serve.

We would also like to enlist the support and partnership of all organizations in the community with whom we can partner. Whether you are a recreational, educational, or social service organization, we eagerly welcome your help and cooperation.

Finally, we would be especially grateful to those of you who can rent, or even donate for free, your spaces for us to use as venues for our events.

Contact Us

We welcome all questions and suggestions! If you are interested in becoming our client or would like to share a resource with us please feel free to call, email, or stop by.

Community Links
Tel (929) 210-9810 or 9811
Fax (929) 210-9812
communitylinks@balticstreet.org

Community Links is a program of Baltic Street AEH, Inc.
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Community Links
Dream, Pursue, Accomplish!
Empowerment through Community Integration

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Community Links is a program of:
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www.balticstreet.org
Mission
Our mission is to help Community Links participants improve their quality of life by achieving independence and self-sufficiency, through community participation and integration. We work with young adults 18-25 years old residing in Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island, who are living with psychiatric diagnoses or struggling with substance abuse. Our peer specialists work with clients to develop individualized plans for self-empowerment, recognizing and seeking out passions and interests to cultivate long-term connections with social, cultural, spiritual, political, and other community resources. We have flexible hours to meet with our clients in their own communities, helping them in working towards a fulfilling, stimulating, well-rounded life. Our peer specialists seek to combat the stigma and isolation associated with mental illness, having themselves experienced their own struggles and triumphs through the process of recovery.

Our Approach
Though we will assist clients in finding essential services to achieve and maintain their emotional wellbeing, our goals go far beyond that. We will work with individuals to link them to non-mental health resources to meet their needs and aspirations, so that they may achieve true inclusion in the community beyond the mental health system.

Community Links hosts two events each month, showcasing resources in the community and providing our clients with an opportunity to utilize them. Our events will take a variety of forms and will often involve speakers, presentations, panels, workshops, shows, and interactive groups, along with an atmosphere conducive to socialization and networking. Attendees will have the chance to connect with everything from GED classes and colleges to art classes and social or cultural community groups. All our events are designed to ignite client interests and will offer entertainment and refreshments.

Recovery specialists meet clients in their own communities, escort them to resource locations and coach them through the exciting but sometimes intimidating process of taking on new challenges and venturing into new places. We work with clients not only to establish these connections but also to maintain them in the long term to ensure that they’re utilized to their fullest potential.

Vocational Counseling
Community Links’ vocational counselor is here to assist program participants in their search for meaningful employment. Participants will have access to a range of services to help them define and carry out steps towards their career and occupational goals. The vocational counselor will help participants with resume composition and build up, and will work on a process uniquely formed to serve their needs, helping them develop job readiness and overcome hurdles to employment. Vocational counseling at Community Links will be provided by means of supportive and empathetic guidance making a potentially difficult and intimidating process more hopeful and empowering.

Community Outreach
We understand that many communities in NYC are lacking in access to resources and struggle to meet the needs of their youth members. We therefore seek to identify resources where they are available and to connect our clients to them. Individuals can participate in community events, and we will build relationships to prevent re-occurring problems and to bridge successful transitions through our program. We also recognize that the spirit of community is a cornerstone of our mission. The support and hospitality of communities will be fundamental to the success of our work and ultimately to our clients’ success. We believe that as our clients come to be included in their communities they will bring valuable and positive contributions to them.