

# HARVESTING HOPE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SEED SOWER INC.



Inside The [Spring 2026](#) Issue

## The Good Stuff

We invite you to learn more about our work and its impact in our shared community.

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Sowing Change. Harvesting Hope.

## Welcome to Harvesting Hope

Dear Friends & Neighbors,

As we begin the spring season, we are taking a moment to reflect on 2025, as well as look ahead.

This issue includes data that brings the progress of the previous year to light. And, at the same time, previews our next challenge: **bridging the gaps that exist across the recovery continuum.**

To help move this work forward, we have joined with partners across the state to help launch RE-PATH — Recovery Empowerment through Policy, Advocacy, Transformation, and Hope. This collaborative effort is multi-faceted and ensures that the voices of people with lived experience are represented in conversations that shape policy, programs, and systems.

Last year, **352 people** were transported from our region to treatment. While this is a vital first step, we also know that too many individuals return home without the follow-up support needed to sustain recovery. **Closing that gap** is essential to building lasting recovery in our communities, and helping launch RE-PATH is critical to that effort.

A heartfelt thank you to our staff, board members, community partners, and program participants who move this work forward every day.

With Gratitude,

*James (Jay) Phillips*  
Executive Director

# Milestones and Measured Impact



Those working in recovery know it is never one-dimensional. In 2025, we continued to deepen impact in key areas and are excited to share details.

Our recovery housing program saw a 23% increase in average length of stay — from 169 days to 208 days.

This is a critical data point because research consistently shows that length of engagement is the strongest predictor of positive recovery outcomes.

Seed Sower Transport continues to serve in all the ways we had hoped, and more. This year alone, we completed 27,763 trips supporting recovery and covering 613,792 miles. This includes transportation for 352 adults to medically managed detox and inpatient programs across West Virginia. In addition, more than 60% of trips supported education, training, and employment, reinforcing that recovery is also about rebuilding lives and livelihoods.

Through our partnership with Fruits of Labor, participants in our program now earn certificates eligible for college credit through WVU Potomac State College, placing them just six courses away from an Associate of Applied Science degree. We recognize that employment in early recovery creates dignity, confidence, and long-term sustainability.

Our Mobile Recovery Support Team hosted 250 pop-up events with 150 outreach organizations, and engaged in more than 4,700 direct interactions, delivering a message of hope to those who might otherwise be overlooked.

## Looking Ahead

In addition to reducing barriers across the recovery journey, we recognize advocacy as essential to fulfilling our mission and will be expanding this work through RE-PATH.

## Changing Lives

In 2025, we provided:



6,200

Safe, substance free housing nights for women in our program committed to recovery.



613,792

Miles driven in direct support of recovery including work, training, health, and service.



> 4,700

Direct interactions with people needing support across southern WV.



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## Recovery Advocacy Day at the West Virginia State Capitol



At Seed Sower, we know that recovery doesn't end with housing, transportation, or peer support. Recovery also requires advocacy, with strong, informed voices helping shape policies and systems. That's why we were excited to attend Recovery Advocacy Day at the West Virginia State Capitol (above), which saw the largest turnout in 12 years.

## RE-PATH: A Movement for Change

Recently, our Executive Director, Jay Phillips, joined recovery leaders from across the state to officially launch **RE-PATH: Recovery Empowerment through Policy, Advocacy, Transformation, and Hope.**

RE-PATH is a movement led by people in recovery, for people in recovery. Its mission is simple but powerful: amplify recovery voices, strengthen communities, and help transform how West Virginia supports long-term recovery.

This effort began at the grassroots level. Across the state, recovery leaders were seeing the same reality—too many individuals still fall through the cracks, and too many recovery voices are missing from the tables where decisions are made. By building on the foundation laid by the Appalachian Recovery Alliance of West Virginia and learning from People Advocating Recovery (PAR) in Kentucky, RE-PATH was formed to chart a clearer, stronger path forward.

*There's more on RE-PATH in this issue.*

## RE-PATH Mission

To create a strong, healthy recovery community in West Virginia by empowering individuals, supporting long-term recovery, and strengthening systems of care through collaboration, advocacy, and compassion.

## RE-PATH Vision

We envision a West Virginia where every person in recovery is valued, supported, and empowered to thrive.



LEADING THE INITIATIVE

## Founding Officers for RE-PATH

**Rachel Thaxton**, Co-Chair –  
WV First Foundation of Saint  
Albans

**Jay Phillips**, Co-Chair – Seed  
Sower, Inc. of Beckley

**Matt Boggs**, Treasurer –  
Recovery Point of Huntington

**Anna Holley**, Secretary –  
Putnam County

## RE-PATH Board Members

**Josh Barker**, Director of  
Substance Abuse Prevention  
and Outreach and Special  
Advisor to the Attorney  
General of West Virginia

**Amber Blankenship**, Reentry  
Program Director at The  
REACH Initiative

**Patsy DiCesare**, Transition  
Agent in Kanawha County with  
Jobs & Hope West Virginia and  
a person in long-term recovery

**Bob Hansen**, retired Director  
of the Office of Drug Control  
Policy (ODCP) for the West  
Virginia Department of Health  
and Human Resources (DHHR)

**Dr. Matt Johnson**, Director of  
Faith-Based Initiatives for the  
Fletcher Group

## RECOVERY-ORIENTED SOLUTIONS

# Introducing RE-PATH West Virginia



## Six Areas That Shape the Work

**Maximizing Resources:** Bridging the gap between need and access by aligning community, private, and public sector resources to serve individuals in recovery efficiently and equitably.

**Advocacy and Voice:** Advancing policies and public awareness that prioritize recovery, protect individual rights, and amplify the lived experience of those on the recovery journey.

**Community Integration:** Cultivating inclusive environments that embrace people in recovery, their families, and allies as active, contributing members of their communities.

**Stigma Reduction:** Reframing addiction and recovery through education, storytelling, and engagement to eliminate shame and silence.

**System Transformation:** Collaborating with providers, peers, families, allies, and policymakers to build a seamless continuum of care that is recovery-oriented, trauma-informed, and person-centered.

**Recovery Leadership:** Developing and supporting leaders in recovery, their families and allies to shape the future of behavioral health and social justice in West Virginia.

## Celebrating Voices of Women in Our Program



The Seed Sower program is inspiring, hopeful, powerful, compassionate, and motivational. I'm just really grateful to be here and have the opportunity to be a part of this amazing program.

— *Brittany F*

Three words that describe the Seed Sower program are: powerful, loving, and caring. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to keep my baby and have a better life.

— *Kelly M*

## A Major Milestone: We're Officially Licensed

We are proud to share that we've officially received our behavioral health care license. This milestone places us one step closer to expanding our work and offering behavioral and mental health services to better support people in our community.

## Five Seeds

Five is a powerful number.

Once five years of sobriety is achieved, the chance of relapse drops to less than 15%, according to Psychology Today.

This is a big benchmark because anyone randomly selected in the US faces a 15% risk of addiction.

Five years of sobriety levels the playing field.

At Seed Sower, our goal is to provide housing and support to those we serve for five years.



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### Get in Touch

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