



Recovery Alliance Duluth

# 2025 Annual Report

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**2025: A Year of Connection,  
Community and gRADitude**

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**Notes from the Directors!**



Cellie Dudley  
Co-Director | Director of Programs  
Report

If 2025 taught us anything, it's this—recovery grows in community, and community grows when people feel seen, supported, and valued.

This year, we showed up—in community spaces where people could come exactly as they are—whether they're in recovery, curious about recovery, or supporting someone they love.

From All Recovery Meetings to Cups of Cheer, from outreach tables to Recovery Month celebrations, we connected with hundreds of individuals across the Northland. But more than numbers, what matters most are the moments: the first All Recovery Meeting someone walks into, the laughter shared over pizza & bingo and all the moments that reminds someone they're not alone.

Throughout the year, we continued to carry the message that people are Born to Thrive—not defined by their struggles, but by their strength, resilience, and capacity for growth.



Shawnacy Trent  
Co-Director | Finance Director Report

Hi, my name is Shawnacy, and I am an ally to the recovery community.

2025 was a year of growth and transition.

After serving as Finance Director at Recovery Alliance Duluth, I stepped into the role of Co-Executive Director in the fall alongside Program Director, Cellie Dudley.

This transition reflects our commitment to shared leadership and building something sustainable for the future. While we each bring our own areas of expertise, I continue to lead the financial side of our work—ensuring that our resources are aligned with our mission and directly support our programs and community impact.

In 2025, this meant prioritizing investments in program staff and direct services, while maintaining strong operational support to keep our work moving forward. Every dollar reflects a

This belief guided our work, shaped our spaces, and reminded us daily why community matters.

We were honored to achieve MARCO Certification in 2025, affirming our commitment to upholding the integrity of the recovery community organization model and serving all pathways of recovery. We also expanded new and meaningful partnerships across our region, strengthening our ability to reach people where they are and respond to real community needs.

Through the Northland Peer Recovery Academy, we developed a peer recovery curriculum that was approved by the Minnesota Certification Board. In August 2025, we celebrated our first graduating cohort.

2025 was full of growth, learning, and a whole lot of heart.

And as we move through 2026, we carry that momentum forward with a new focus: Resilience—the power of community, connection, and continuing forward, together. Around here, we like to say we're Resilient as... we will leave it to your imagination to fill in the blank—because resilience looks different for everyone, but it lives in all of us.

We're just getting started.

commitment to connection, access, and recovery in our community.

Together, we are continuing to grow in this work—strengthening our impact, supporting our team, and staying grounded in the community we serve.

# 2025 Impact Summary

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- Invested in growth through national trainings with Faces & Voices of Recovery and All Rise, along with local trainings including St. Louis County Health & Human Services and the MARCO Conference

- Introduced a Book of the Month for RAD staff to support ongoing learning and team development
- Were Guests on Minnesota Recovery Connection Radio: Redefining Recovery - A Recovery Revolution
- Celebrated the first graduating cohort of the Northland Peer Recovery Academy
- Led Recovery Month under the theme Born to Thrive
- Presented at the Recovery Month Proclamation by the St. Louis County Commissioners
- Hosted Recovery Night Out on the Range and the Annual Walk for Recovery in Duluth
- Launched the Spread Sunshine Not Stigma merchandise campaign
- Achieved MARCO Certification
- Expanded partnerships and deepened community impact across the Northland
- Hosted our first Gratitude Lunch to recognize and thank community partners who make this work possible

### **Mission:**

To build and mobilize a compassionate community to support individuals seeking or maintaining recovery to inspire hope, create connection and eliminate stigma.



Recovery Month billboard sharing a clear message: Thriving in the North. Minnesota Recovery Strong.



Born to Thrive: The Message that guided our 2025 Recovery Month!

### **Values:**

RAD is a recovery community organization and, as such, is led and informed by the recovery community.

RAD recognizes recovery is an individual, personally directed journey.

RAD values its independence as a community organization that honors multiple pathways to recovery.

RAD is inclusive and recognizes cultural differences.

RAD believes in meeting people where they are and with what they need.

RAD knows substance-use disorder is a chronic disease that requires long-term support and care.

## What We Do

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### **Three Step Approach to Peer Recovery Services**

- **Peer Recovery Support:** involves individuals who have lived experience with substance use and have taken a 46-hour training certified by the Minnesota Certification Board.
- **Recovery Coaching:** is a supportive approach with the purpose to support individuals achieve and maintain recovery & recovery related goals.
- **Resource Navigation:** guiding individuals to access and connect with the resources, services, and support systems they need to address various challenges.

#### **Free Community Events:**

Our free community events create space for connection and belonging. From Recovery Month celebrations to family-friendly activities and outreach events, these gatherings are open to anyone in recovery, curious about recovery, or supporting someone on their journey. They help reduce isolation, build relationships, and remind people they are not alone.

**In 2025 we served 615 people!**

## RAD Staff



Our RAD team getting into the Grinchmas spirit!



Some of our team after presenting at the 2025 St. Louis County Health and Human Service Conference.

## What are we up to?



A fun game of Twister at our 90's event with Health Realization!

### Events:

In 2025 we hosted over 60 Events. Our events ranged from Kickball, hikes, Cupcakes to Movie Nights!



A bird house someone decorated at one of our All Recovery Meetings.

### All Recovery Meetings:

We hosted 261 All Recovery Meetings in the community, both open to the public and closed to the communities they were hosted in. In 2025 we had 715 people attend our All Recovery Meeting!



Annual sledding day with the Virginia Police Department  
We look forward to this every year!



Our Annual Recovery Month tie-dye tees!



Community shows up in BIG ways  
Thank you to everyone who supported our Pizza Ranch fundraiser—every slice shared helps build recovery in our community.

# Northland Peer Recovery Academy

The Northland Peer Recovery Academy is a community-based training designed to prepare individuals with lived experience to support others in recovery. Through a 46-hour curriculum certified by the Minnesota Certification Board,

participants build skills in peer support, ethics and boundaries, motivational interviewing, cultural humility, and person-centered practices.

NPRA is more than a training—it's a process of growth, connection, and leadership development. Participants engage in both classroom learning and real-world application, gaining the tools and confidence to walk alongside others in recovery. The academy creates space for people to step into their lived experience as a strength and a pathway to giving back.

By the end of the training, participants are equipped to pursue certification as a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist (CPRS) and to contribute to a stronger, more connected recovery community across the Northland.



McCoy, Cellie and Jess  
NPRA Facilitators



Our first Northland Peer Recovery Academy cohort. A group of community leaders stepping into their purpose and showing what's possible in recovery.

# Recovery Month!



Angeline Briski Speaking at Recovery Night Out



The beginning of the walk!  
2025 Walk for Recovery



Michelle at the T-Shirt pop up!

RAD hosted t-shirt pop ups all over St. Louis County. Thank you to our hosts at Partners, Life House, 2540 Coffee House, WebMed and the Damiano Center.



RAD Staff and St. Louis County Commissioners

Recovery Month Proclamation

St. Louis County Commissioners recognizing Recovery Month 2025



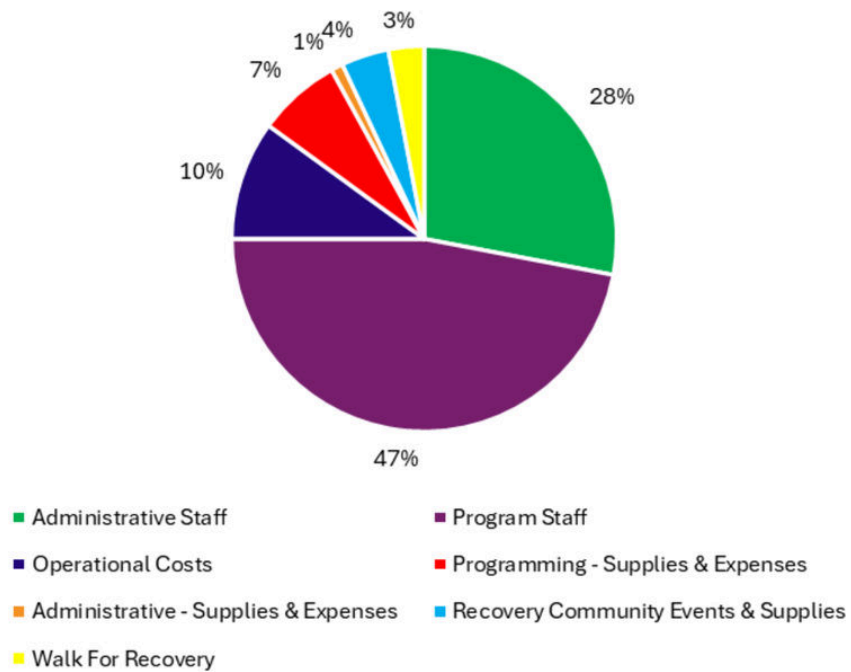
Community members and team sharing what thriving means to them at the 2025 Walk for Recovery.



Walk for Recovery 2025— rain didn't stop us!

# Finances

2025 Finances



# Thank you to our Sponsors of our 2025 Walk for Recovery!

Victory Fund, Reflections, CADT, MN Adult and Teen Challenge, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Human Development Center, Lakeview Behavioral Health, EOSIS, Centricity Credit Union, Lakeview Celebrate Recovery, North Shore Bank, Pioneer Recovery Center, Health Realization, Recovering Hope, Wilderness Health MN, Hazelden Betty Ford, Essentia Institute of Rural Health, Hanlon and Associates Insurance, Reflections, Gethsemane Evangelical Lutheran Church, Genesis Recovery Services, Super One, Qdoba, Carmens, Costco, Starbucks and the many volunteers who made the day possible!



Recovery happens in community.

Thank you for being part of ours.



Adult and youth sizes available!  
Color options may vary

 BONFIRE



Our Bonfire store features a rotating collection of RAD merchandise, with proceeds directly supporting our programs and community efforts. Each purchase helps us continue building spaces of connection, hope, and recovery across the Northland.

Buy Here!



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