



MENTAL PATIENTS LIBERATION ALLIANCE

Some of our accomplishments:

The Alliance began in Syracuse in 1972 and quickly gained nationwide recognition as one of the first human rights organizations of people who had been labeled "mentally ill".

The organization incorporated in 1982. Alliance members have since assisted over a dozen other peer organizations with their incorporation process.

The Alliance hosted the 11th International Conference on Human Rights and Psychiatry in 1983, which brought 150 people to Syracuse, New York.

The 1984 *Organization Award for Mental Health Advocacy* was awarded to the Mental Patients Liberation Alliance.

In 1985, the State Office of Mental Health met to discuss implementation of federal law 99 - 660 (include stakeholders involvement in state planning processes). The first person with a psychiatric label to sit on the Mental Health Planning Advisory Council was an Alliance member.

Prior to public funding in 1986, The Alliance established drop-in centers in three cities in Central New York (Oswego, Ithaca, Syracuse) through membership donations and with volunteer staff.

In 1986, The Alliance opened our Advocacy, Education, and Social Center in Syracuse through a member item grant from the New York State Senate. That Center served our community until 2002.

The Alliance negotiated with Hutchings Psychiatric Center through 1987, and then in 1988 signed an access agreement to provide people receiving treatment at that facility with trained and supervised advocates.

The precedent setting access agreement prompted the New York State Office of Mental Health to establish a workgroup of Alliance representatives, other advocates, and state officials to develop the official state Policy known as PC 1500. The policy still encourages development of relationships between state-operated facilities and independent peer advocacy organizations.

The Alliance developed the first Peer Advocacy Training in New York State. The training continues to receive national attention and attendance. The Alliance has helped train over 900 people at these institutes. Many of the people now work in peer support and advocacy and help train others in this field.

The Alliance developed a 200-page manual to accompany its advocacy training.

The Alliance published eight issues of the newsletter "the fine line" with over 16,000 copies distributed throughout the State and The United States.

The Alliance received *The Community Service Award* March 19, 1990 in recognition of "Outstanding Service and Commitment" from The Association of Community Living Agencies in Mental Health (ACLAIMH).

On May 30, 1991, The Alliance was presented the Rehabilitation Support Services, Inc. (RSS) *Certificate of Recognition* "in recognition of dedication and commitment to the advancement of consumer operated initiatives".

In 1993, The Alliance negotiated an agreement to provide advocacy service to people at Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center. Significant to that agreement is the location of the Alliance Peer Advocacy Office on the grounds of the facility.

In 1996, The Alliance opened the Alliance Peer Support Center in Utica with reinvestment funding through Oneida County.

In 1997, The Alliance purchased a building in the City of Utica to house our peer programs in that community. The down payment was made possible by donations from our membership and supporters.

The "voice" journalism award - The Best Op/Ed Award was presented to "*Forced Psychiatric Treatment*" by George Ebert, *Mental Patients Liberation Alliance* in 1999 by NEW YORK CITY VOICES, a consumer-run project of Park Slope Center for Mental Health.

The Janice E. Brown Memorial Award "For Lifetime Dedication to Human Rights in Mental Health" was given to George Ebert by V.O.I.C.E., Inc. on October 9, 2002.

In 2004, The Alliance took title to and began renovating an apartment house in Utica that serves as a retreat for our members.

The Alliance established a toll-free Peer Support Line in 1989. In 1998, funding made it possible to provide uninterrupted, around-the-clock service. The line receives up to 900 calls each month.

The Alliance has helped to co-sponsor and coordinate the Annual "Our Time Has Come" conference. Over 1200 people have attended this conference.

The Alliance was invited to provide a support group on the psychiatric unit at St. Joseph's Hospital.

The Alliance presents at numerous conferences and was part of Syracuse University's School of Social Work curriculum, presenting each semester.

The first *Lifetime Achievement Award* "*For Outstanding Advocacy*" was presented to George and Mary Ann Ebert on May 20, 2004 by The Empowerment Center.