



# MEG's GIFT

MEG's gift is a 501(c)3 nonprofit public charity started in 2015 by the family of Megan Elizabeth Garbach (MEG), to honor her life and carry on her legacy. The mission of MEG's Gift is to positively impact mental health care in the Rochester community through financial support, education, and advocacy. This mission is guided by a vision of a more loving community that better understands, accepts, and helps individuals suffering with mental illness. That was Megan's view of life. As a group of family and friends loyal to this mission, MEG's Gift volunteers are committed to pursuing it with creativity, high energy, and enthusiasm as we model Megan's compassionate and loving ways.

In its first seven years of operation, MEG's Gift has awarded over \$330,000 to several local organizations that promote mental health awareness. Each of these organizations advocate for the care of persons with mental illness, educating those whose loved ones struggle with mental illness, and provide treatment services to those in need. One major source of fundraising is our annual golf tournament including dinner and silent auction. Other income sources come from sponsors, family foundations, corporate sponsorships, and memorial giving as well as proceeds from special events held in conjunction with retail and service sector establishments.

Each year, our Board of Directors identifies organizations with complementary missions to MEG's Gift.

The chosen organization becomes the primary beneficiary of our fundraising efforts for that year. In the first two years the principal beneficiaries included St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center, and the Veterans Outreach Center. More recently, program awards included the local chapters of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), the Monroe County Consortium on Trauma, Illness and Grief (TIG), the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the Children's Institute, and East House. These organizations have developed programs that impact the emotional health of both our children and adults who are in need of support. Many other organizations have also benefitted from MEG's Gift.

For 2022, MEG's Gift has chosen Villa of Hope as primary beneficiary of our fundraising efforts. The agency offers four core services, two of which align well with our mission. The Villa's Behavioral Health Clinics offer a range of therapeutic interventions for persons struggling with addictions or mental health problems. Also, in Villa of Hope School (Grades 7 to 12), emotional development and academic growth are simultaneously nurtured. The focus of their work is to build relationships, recover potential, and renew hope for the future.

*Learn more about the Villa of Hope by visiting [www.villaofhope.org](http://www.villaofhope.org)*