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Community Access Receives \$40,000 Grant from the KKR Relief Effort to Support Workforce Development Program

—Funds will help scale up Howie the Harp, an award-winning and industry-leading Peer Workforce Academy in NYC for people living with mental health concerns—

(New York, NY)—[Community Access](#), a New York City-based mental health nonprofit, recently received a \$40,000 grant from the KKR Relief Effort, a philanthropic initiative of KKR, to support the expansion of the agency's award-winning [Howie the Harp Peer Workforce Academy \(HTH\)](#). HTH is a pioneering training and career development program that provides comprehensive support for people living with mental health concerns to pursue meaningful careers in the human services sector.

This critical funding comes at a time when HTH celebrates its 25th anniversary with a major redesign of its flagship training center in Harlem: new smart classroom technology, an expanded computer lab and library, and a series of new e-courses are all a part of how HTH is scaling up enrollment, and preparing for the next quarter century.

With more than 2,000 graduates trained for the peer workforce, HTH has made a meaningful impact on how mental health services are delivered in New York City and beyond. Hundreds of agencies across New York City look to the program every year as a source for job candidates, and HTH has come to define excellence in peer workforce training. The academy supports individuals who have been traditionally disenfranchised and underserved because of their experiences with homelessness, jails and incarceration, hospitalizations and other life events that make finding and keeping a living wage job difficult.

"I believe the contribution of Howie the Harp's peer training has had a great effect on the growth of job opportunities for peers in general," says **HTH program director Lynnae Brown**. "The field has really come to value lived experience as an important ingredient in the provision of quality services, and our program's training in particular is looked to as the gold standard."

The KKR Relief Effort awarded funding to Community Access through its KKR Grants initiative, which is focused on identifying and supporting nonprofits whose work supports priorities related

to [opportunities, communities, and heroes](#). HTH's programming closely aligns with KKR's goal of creating opportunities by supporting innovative pathways of workforce recovery and development. The KKR Grant is administered by Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.

"Thanks to KKR's generous grant, we are going to be able to scale up HTH enrollment in exciting new ways. We know the future of workforce development will be conducted at least partially in a virtual environment, and KKR's grant will help us invest in curricula, e-courses, and new smart classroom technology," said **Cal Hedigan, Chief Executive Officer of Community Access**.

About Community Access

Founded in 1974, Community Access is a pioneer of supportive housing and social services in New York City for people living with mental health concerns. Driven by the simple truth that people are experts in their own lives, Community Access expands opportunities for people living with mental health concerns to recover from trauma and discrimination through affordable housing, training, advocacy, and healing-focused services. Community Access provides person-centered services that help people pursue goals that are important to them – from gaining access to an affordable home, to learning new skills; from re-establishing community ties, to setting goals for the future.

About KKR Grants

KKR Grants is a global effort focused on identifying and supporting the most innovative and effective nonprofits whose missions are aligned with priority areas, including delivering immediate aid to vulnerable populations impacted by the pandemic, providing innovative pathways of workforce recovery and development, and supporting our heroes including teachers, first responders, essential workers and front-line medical professionals. KKR is supporting these organizations with financial grants and strategic support. The application for nonprofits is available at www.kkr.com/grants.