



Club 12 of Plattsburgh Inc. Our Purpose

The diseases of alcoholism, drug addiction and compulsive gambling wreak havoc on our society. They ravage our health care system, strain the economy, devastate our families, and threaten public safety. Their floodwaters have no regard for societal boundaries, gender, ethnicity, or economic status. The cost to our society is staggering. In 1999 the National Gambling Impact Study Commission estimated the annual cost to society of problem gambling was \$5 billion. According to estimates from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, a combined \$276 billion was spent or lost in 2005 on health care, lost productivity, premature death, crime and auto accidents relating to alcohol and drug abuse. Roughly 75 percent of all that money was paid for by public sources, which means American taxpayers are footing three quarters of the bill. With 117 million taxpayers in the U.S., this means that the average amount paid by each individual taxpayer averages approximately \$1,800.

The disease of addiction isolates both the sufferer and their loved ones. Fortunately, this can be overcome with proper treatment. By increasing access to recovery services, the costly toll on society and the burden it places on families can be reduced. It has been proven that the most effective treatment for alcoholism, drug addiction and compulsive gambling involves peer counseling – one survivor talking to another. This is why the 12 step recovery programs of Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and Gamblers Anonymous have been so successful in providing hope for these sufferers. Other proven 12 step recovery programs such as Al-Anon/Alateen, Nar-Anon Family Groups and Gam-Anon address the immense problems which family members face.

Club 12 is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation whose primary purpose is to maintain a permanent facility to supplement the work of all of these twelve-step programs and more. While not affiliated with these programs, Club 12 was formed to provide individual 12 step recovery groups such as these with a reliable clean and secure place to hold their meetings free from landlord schedules. In addition, Club 12 provides meeting space for individual groups to hold special events such as educational workshops, conferences, speaker meetings, anniversary dinners and book studies.

We recognize the opportunity that an organization such as ours has for the creation of a social and service network, which is particularly useful to persons early in recovery. Club 12 has a number of committees and subcommittees including Operations, Buildings and Grounds, Membership, Fundraising and Tri-County Liaison which help to promote the building of better citizenship and leadership through the development of character among the membership and the community.

Clubs similar to Club 12 have been in existence for many years. By assisting to reduce the loneliness and isolation suffered by the alcoholic and addict and his or her family, these clubs have proven to be valuable components in the recovery process.

Club 12 of Plattsburgh Inc.

1 Durkee Street, Suite 102
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
club12ofplattsburgh.org

Mail to: P.O. Box 2935
Champlain, NY
12919