



PEER *connections*

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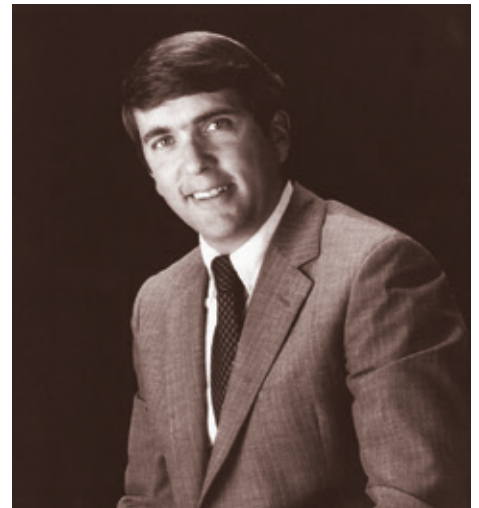
HISTORY OF TMWC

Who Is Thomas M. Wernert?

The Thomas M. Wernert Center is proudly named for a man who valued and advocated for the power of peer support in an individual's journey of mental health recovery. Thomas Wernert served as the Executive Director of the Lucas County Mental Health Board for more than 30 years. Throughout his career, he helped to establish Hospice of Northwest Ohio and oversaw the creation of other

mental health centers and recovery services for Lucas County residents.

Mr. Wernert worked closely with mental health consumers and advocates to ensure that consumer's rights and appropriate treatment were achieved. He believed in the power of peer support and that the connection among peers helps end feelings of isolation and stigma. As a result, he was the first to fund the Consumers Union of Lucas



County as a standalone agency through the Lucas County Mental Health Board.

During his time at the Mental Health Board, Mr. Wernert also hired and worked alongside Toledo's current mayor, Wade Kapszukiewicz. "He was a great boss and a great guy. Tom had a big heart with a big personality," says Mayor Wade. "I think about him a lot in my daily work now."

Mr. Wernert lost his battle with cancer in March 1999. His life work helped pave the way for recovery in Lucas County. The Consumers Union of Lucas County was renamed The Thomas M. Wernert Center in July 2004.



Make Your Vote Count for Mental Health

This month, we have an opportunity to make our voices heard and support mental health in our community by voting YES on Issue 8, during the primary election on March 19, 2024.

Previous mental health levies have helped fund the Thomas M. Wernert Center and more than 100 other programs and services throughout Lucas County. Access to quality mental health care is critical for all communities.

Lucas County is fortunate to have so many resources that are specific to individuals and their needs, but there is still work to be done.

Now more than ever, supporting mental wellness is crucial for a healthy, thriving Lucas County. Please support your community by voting YES on Issue 8 on March 19th – or during early voting.

THE LEVY WILL PROVIDE VITAL FUNDING FOR:

- Expanding mental health services for all ages, including children, adults, and seniors.
- Supporting crisis intervention programs to prevent escalation and tragedies.
- Investing in mental health education and awareness to break down stigma.

Lucas County **Mental Health & Recovery Services**
2024 Levy

VOTE FOR Issue 8

NOW MORE THAN EVER

Ohio Primary Election • March 19, 2024 • Supported by Citizens for Mental Health



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AS A TENANT

The Toledo Fair Housing Center will be at Thomas M. Wernert Center on March 8 at 11:00 AM as part of our Friday Forum series.

The Fair Housing Center is a nonprofit civil rights agency that promotes housing choice, the creation of inclusive communities of opportunity, and the protection and expansion of fair housing rights to support strong communities free from housing discrimination.

Local activists and media have recently been highlighting poor living conditions in central Toledo apartment buildings. However, housing discrimination is not always as obvious or apparent.

As a tenant, it is important to know your rights and what resources are available to you. Learn more from The Fair Housing Center at TMWC!



RECOVERING TOGETHER



CONGRATULATIONS!

Another class of TMWC peers have earned their Mental Health First Aid certification and are qualified to respond to the signs of mental illness and substance abuse.



TMWC Knitting Circle is trying their hand at embroidery! Join them every other Wednesday at 1:30 PM in the Clubroom.



Jaclyn from Heartstring Melodies Music Therapy Services teaches a workshop series to peers from NAMI and TMWC. This group focuses on musical expression and creativity!





THOMAS M. WERNERT CENTER
FOR MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY & SUPPORT

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MISSION

To improve the quality of life for persons living with mental illness by offering hope and peer-driven programs that address recovery through education, advocacy and peer support.

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Join the Thomas M. Wernert Center

If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming a member of Thomas M. Wernert Center (TMWC), please contact Stacey at **419-242-3000, ext. 105** for more information.

Please note that TMWC is not a clinical agency. Peer support relationships are different from clinical relationships in that they are based on mutual sharing of lived experience with mental illness.

Individuals can become an active member who participates in the many programs, services, and activities we offer if they meet the following criteria:

- You must be 18 years of age or older.
- You must live in Lucas County, Ohio.
- Have a diagnosed mental illness or are receiving mental health services.
- Be ready to begin or expand your recovery journey.

