

2025

Annual Report



About Us, Our Mission & Vision

New Roots Glynn is a peer-led, community-based Recovery Community Organization dedicated to supporting all pathways to recovery. We provide free, confidential peer support; one-on-one check-ins; recovery planning; harm-reduction education; family support; and community training, including Narcan distribution. Our work is made possible through primary funding from the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, with additional leadership and guidance from the Georgia Council for Recovery. Grounded in dignity, inclusion, and the belief that recovery is self-directed, we meet every person exactly where they are—whether they are seeking abstinence, reducing use, rebuilding stability, or simply looking for a safe place to talk.

Since opening in 2024, New Roots Glynn has become a vital resource for individuals navigating early recovery, re-entry, treatment entry and recovery residences, and the complex realities of substance use disorder. Our peer specialists walk alongside participants through setbacks and successes, helping them build the confidence, resilience, and community needed for long-term recovery. Through compassionate support and evidence-informed practices, we help people strengthen their roots and grow toward healthier, more stable futures. As we continue expanding our partnerships, programming, and community presence, we remain guided by the belief that recovery is possible for everyone. By centering lived experience and fostering a culture of hope, we are contributing to a stronger, healthier Glynn County—one relationship at a time.

The mission of New Roots Glynn is to provide person-centered recovery support in our community and end the stigma surrounding substance use disorder by providing advocacy, recovery coaching, support meetings and community and family support. **Our vision** is to make recovery the expectation, not the exception. We will utilize our life experience with substance use disorder and recovery to support others in finding and sustaining long-term recovery.

The Year in Review

This year, our community experienced significant gaps in recovery support, particularly the absence of a peer-led organization to provide accessible, lived-experience guidance. This gap is critical given the current data. According to the 2025 Georgia Social Indicator Study, Glynn County faces a bifurcated reality: while youth prevention efforts appear successful, our adult population is in a high-risk category

(Overall Rank 118 out of 159, where 159 indicates the highest risk). The prevailing threat is no longer traditional heroin use, but a highly lethal fentanyl crisis that is driving overdose deaths and hospitalizations among adults aged 20–64 at rates far exceeding the state average. Research consistently shows that peer support increases treatment engagement, decreases these hospitalization rates, and strengthens long-term recovery outcomes. Yet until recently, Glynn County had no Recovery Community Organization to offer this kind of connection. Many individuals navigating the complex realities of substance use disorder were left without a consistent, community-based resource to walk alongside them.

In response, we focused on establishing New Roots Glynn as the county’s first RCO and building a strong foundation for long-term impact. Much of our work centered on introducing ourselves to the community—explaining who we are, what we do, and how we serve. We prioritized forming partnerships with organizations that share our commitment to creating a safe, supportive environment for people in recovery. At the same time, we concentrated on developing and maintaining programs that address the most urgent needs we see every day: peer support, transportation, and job-readiness assistance. To sustain and expand this work, we also began seeking multiple lines of funding to grow our programming beyond peer support alone.

As a result, we were able to build meaningful partnerships, strengthen our presence, and lay the groundwork for a more connected recovery ecosystem in Glynn County. As a new organization—and the first of our kind locally—the past two years have been essential in establishing trust, visibility, and a clear mission. By showing up consistently, educating the community, and inviting collaboration, we are helping shape a stronger, more coordinated network of support for individuals and families impacted by substance use.

Key Impact Highlights

This year, New Roots Glynn served 2,613 people and provided 90 peer support sessions, reflecting the growing need for accessible, lived-experience support in our community. We continued building programs that address the most pressing barriers to sustained recovery. A major milestone was laying the groundwork for the S.E.T. Initiative, a program designed to reduce obstacles related to Support, Empowerment, and Transportation for individuals in early recovery. We also established a food pantry, which quickly drew community investment—including a \$5,000 donation from Rich Foods and the Davis Love Foundation. Alongside our substance use and mental health recovery

meetings, we expanded our offerings to include cancer support and eating disorder support, ensuring that more individuals could find connection and care.

Strengthening partnerships remained central to our mission. We formed a new collaboration with For Good. For Glynn., allowing us to connect peers with emergency one-time financial assistance while offering recovery support to those they serve. They also partnered with us on Tiny Thrift Shop, a new fundraising arm that will help sustain our programs. We deepened relationships with the Brunswick Housing Authority, Veterans Village, National Alliance on Mental Health, and Worksource Coastal Georgia, creating a more coordinated network of support across the county. Our harm-reduction efforts continued to expand as we monitored and stocked the Narcan box at the local homeless day shelter and maintained our contract with the Department of Public Health to provide free Narcan and training from our office. We also shared our mission and services with Keller Williams, the Boys and Girls Club, VIA Connects, and nursing students at the College of Coastal Georgia.

Our team and volunteer capacity grew significantly. Our executive director completed Community Reinforcement and Family Training (CRAFT), enabling her to facilitate a non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention program for families. Our peer support specialist completed the CARES Academy, earning her Certified Peer Specialist–Addictive Disease credential. Our board expanded from five to eight members, strengthening our leadership and governance. Among our most meaningful achievements, we were awarded a two-year grant from the Opioid Abatement Trust to support the S.E.T. Initiative—funding that allowed us to purchase a vehicle and hire a driver to launch the transportation component of the program. We also celebrated our first full year as Glynn County’s first Recovery Community Organization, marking a year of foundational growth, partnership, and impact.

Financial Snapshot

- For the fiscal year Total revenue: \$221,529.52
- Total expenses: \$212,018.84
- Primary funding sources: grants, donations, and community partnerships

Peer Support in Action

Peer Story: Finding a Path Back to Self-Forgiveness

One of our peers came to a weekly one-on-one check-in determined to stay away from substance use, yet struggling with something far heavier: forgiving himself for past mistakes. He shared that the weight of his guilt felt like a risk to his recovery, and he was afraid it might lead him to a setback. He didn't want to return to that life, and he asked for help. Together, we created a plan he felt comfortable with—one that focused on accountability, self-compassion, and practical steps he could take when those difficult feelings surfaced. We continue to meet weekly to talk through his progress, adjust his plan when needed, and make sure he never has to navigate those moments alone. He knows he has someone to listen, support, and walk with him as he builds a healthier future.

Peer Story: Staying Steady in a Challenging Living Environment

Another peer, a woman living in a court-ordered recovery residence, came to her check-in overwhelmed by the conflicts and personalities in her current living situation. She is mandated to stay there for six more months and doesn't have the financial ability to move, even if probation approved it. Everything else in her recovery is going well—she has been substance-free for over six months—but the stress inside the house has her worried about a potential setback. While there isn't an immediate solution to her housing situation, she knows she has a safe place to talk through the challenges she faces. Our role is to listen, help her cope with the daily stressors, and support her in staying grounded until she is able to move on. Her progress is real, her commitment is strong, and she doesn't have to carry the weight of her environment alone.

Peer Story: From Crisis to Stability

A peer reached out asking for help with his substance use disorder. He was honest—he was still using and didn't know how to stop, but he wanted to. After talking through his options, he decided that detox was the safest first step. We located a facility that accepted his insurance and had an open bed, allowing him to go immediately. When he was released, we began one-on-one peer support to help him stabilize and stay connected. Together, we found sober-living housing, and once he felt grounded, we shifted to building long-term goals. We worked on his résumé, job applications, and the steps toward independence. His journey is ongoing, but he is no longer navigating it alone—he has support, structure, and a path forward.

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, New Roots Glynn is focused on strengthening the foundation we built during our first full year and expanding the reach of our recovery support services. Tiny Thrift, which opened in January 2026, will continue to grow as a fundraising arm that sustains our programs and deepens community involvement. A major priority for the coming year is fully implementing the transportation component of the S.E.T. Initiative by establishing a driving schedule and helping peers access interviews, jobs, and essential appointments. We are also committed to increasing private donations by pursuing additional grant opportunities and continuing to educate the community about our mission. As our visibility grows, we aim to expand our dedicated volunteer base, building on the strong core group that already supports our work.

We are also preparing to launch several new initiatives that will expand our impact across the region. In early 2026, we partnered with McIntosh County to bring Recovery Community Organization support to their residents, marking our first expansion beyond Glynn County. This partnership will allow us to train additional Certified Peer Specialists, increasing the number of peers available in both counties and extending the hours and locations where individuals in recovery can find support. These efforts reflect our long-term goal of creating a more connected, accessible recovery network throughout coastal Georgia.

Community involvement remains essential to our mission. Volunteers play a vital role in sustaining our thrift store, food pantry, and day-to-day office operations, and we welcome anyone who wants to contribute their time or skills. Donations—both financial and in-kind—are critical to keeping our services free and accessible. We encourage supporters to follow us on social media, visit our space, learn about our programs, and share our message. The more our community understands who we are and what we do, the more we can grow—and the more people we can walk alongside on their recovery journey.

Gratitude

We are tremendously grateful to our donors, volunteers, partners, and the community for supporting our mission. New Roots Glynn is powered by community. Every hour volunteered, every donation given, every partnership formed, and every story shared helps build a stronger, more hopeful Glynn County. Thank you for standing with us and believing in recovery for all.