

# Positive Resource Center – Manifesto

## **Move beyond the stigma.**

Everyone, regardless of their situation, deserves their chance to live their best possible life. Unfortunately, some health issues carry with them such stigmas that the people who contend with them are often left feeling ignored or unsupported.

To really make a difference, it's time to move beyond the stigma and start seeing the whole person – their challenges, their fears, and, most importantly, their *potential*.

We do this by being both advocates and supporters. By getting donors and communities to move past their existing ideas and prejudices and seeing these as people who need, deserve, and will benefit from help. By getting clients to understand that they are not defined by these aspects of themselves and guide them as move along the path to rebuilding their lives, giving them the support they need to address their issues, acquire essential skills, find financial stability, claim their independence, and find where they belong in their community.

In this way, we reinforce the idea that these stigmas really shouldn't exist, and that, with a little help, anyone can find the right opportunities, realize their potential, and make their lives what they want it to be.

## **Fix the social factors affecting health.**

Health is such a complex issue – it's not enough to treat the person, you have to treat their circumstances: Their community, their resources, their skills, the way they see themselves, and the way society sees them.

We understand that health is a bigger issue, and so we're moving beyond traditional concerns to address these social factors: One, by being advocates for our clients, so they feel represented, understood, and respected by the community at large. And two, providing clients with resources and guidance so they can address their issues, acquire the essential skills they need, and move further along the path to rebuilding their lives, claiming the opportunities due to them, and realizing their full potential.

In addressing these issues on both a community and a personal level, we believe that we can start fixing them at large, affecting wider cultural change and truly changing health for the better.