

project.ME

ANNUAL REPORT

2025

**JANUARY
2026**

Prepared by

AISHA DISS

Prepared for

COMMUNITY AT LARGE



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Do you know
what an opioid overdose
looks like?

opioid overdose signs & symptoms

- unresponsive
- shallow, labored breathing; no breath sounds
- cannot be roused-sternum rub
- snoring sounds; gurgling
- blue or grey lips/fingertips
- floppy arms & legs

AGONAL BREATHING IS A SIGN THAT A PERSON IS NEAR DEATH AND CAN SOUND LIKE LOUD SNORING. THIS OFTEN OCCURS WITH OPIOID OVERDOSE DUE TO RESPIRATORY DEPRESSION. IT IS NOT TRUE BREATHING. CHECK IN.

how to respond to an opioid overdose

- administer naloxone/narcan
- call 911; stay on the line
- provide chest compressions
- provide rescue breaths with mouth guard
- if no response in 3-4 minutes, administer 2nd dose in opposite nostril
- continue compressions & breaths
- when conscious, place in recovery position

Indiana's Good Samaritan Law

Requirements to receive protection under the law:

1. Administer Naloxone/Narcan to a person experiencing an overdose
2. Contact Emergency Services (911)
3. Wait for EMS and police to arrive at the scene
4. Provide all relevant info requested by law enforcement and cooperate at the scene

AARON'S LAW

if an individual follows ALL of the requirements above they are protected from criminal & civil liability for intervening.

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A background image showing a circle of paper cutouts of human figures holding hands. The figures are in various shades of gray and black, arranged in a ring. The cutouts are positioned as if they are holding hands, with their arms extended towards the center of the circle.

project.ME

MISSION & VISION

MISSION

project.ME seeks to strengthen support systems through outreach, coaching & advocacy-aiding in the connection to recovery & harm reduction support services and tools, while decreasing barriers for sustained life & recovery.

VISION

project.ME will eliminate stigmas related to justice involvement and substance use concerns through decreasing recidivism, improving adult resiliency through trauma-informed practices, and aiding individuals in living their purpose in a safe, holistic, judgment-free environment.



AISHA DISS

Founder & Executive Director
person in long-term recovery from OUD,
mental health/trauma, and incarceration

If I'm being honest, 2025 asked more of me—and of project.ME—than any year before it.

This year stretched us. It grew us. It humbled us. And it reminded me, over and over again, why this work exists in the first place.

At its core, project.ME has always been about people. Not programs. Not numbers. Not checkboxes. People. Real humans with complicated stories, real pain, real resilience, and real worth. In 2025, we showed up for those humans in deeper, more intentional ways than ever before.

We expanded peer-led, all pathways recovery support across multiple counties. We strengthened our drop-in center as a place of safety, dignity, and belonging. We distributed life-saving Naloxone, offered practical supports, held space for hard conversations, and walked alongside people navigating substance use, mental health challenges, justice involvement, and homelessness—without conditions, without judgment, and without expectation of who they “should” be.

We also grew internally. We built stronger systems, clearer structures, and a more accountable culture—while staying rooted in our values. That balance isn't easy, especially for a grassroots organization led by people with lived experience. But in 2025, we proved that authenticity and professionalism can coexist. That compassion and accountability can live in the same room. That peer-led doesn't mean unstructured—it means deeply informed.

This year also required me to evolve as a leader. Letting go of being everywhere. Trusting others to lead. Making hard decisions for the long-term health of the organization, even when they felt uncomfortable. Growth isn't always loud or shiny. Sometimes it looks like boundaries, clarity, and choosing sustainability over urgency.

As we step into 2026, I feel grounded and hopeful.

We're looking ahead to deepening our impact—not just expanding for the sake of growth, but strengthening what already works. We're focused on increased access to peer support, continued collaboration with community and state partners, and exploring innovative solutions around recovery support, safe and dignified spaces, and long-term stability for the people we serve. We're committed to data-informed storytelling, sustainable funding, and protecting the heart of this work as we scale.

None of this happens alone.

To our staff and peers: you are the heartbeat of project.ME. Your lived experience, compassion, and integrity make this work real.

To our partners and funders: thank you for believing in harm reduction, peer support, and people-led solutions.

To the individuals who trust us with their stories: you are the reason this organization exists. Always.

project.ME was born from my own lived experience—out of a moment where I had to decide whether my life would stay the same or radically change. Every year, I see that same moment reflected in others. 2025 reminded me that when people are met with dignity, options, and support, transformation is possible—on their own terms.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

With gratitude and resolve,

Aisha Diss

Founder & Executive Director

project.ME FW, Inc.

I said “somebody
should do
something about
that.” Then I
realized I am
somebody. —
Lily Tomlin

note from
the
founder

kiersa



RAD/Drop-in supervisor

kara



RAD lead/trainer

caiden



outreach lead/operations

ashlee



RAD/Drop-in



founder/executive director

chelsey



RAD/Drop-in

aisha

craig



RAD/outreach/Drop-in

dawn



RAD/211/Drop-in

renald



outreach/Drop-in

drop-in center

project.ME
expanded services at drop-in center

mail

lockers

laundry

restrooms with showers

260.203.0913 www.projectme-fw.org info@projectme-fw.org

YOU ARE INVITED TO
project.ME
NEW YEAR PARTY
FRIDAY
JANUARY 3 7-10 PM
2305 BROADWAY FORT WAYNE,
IN 46807
KARAOKE MUSIC DANCING GOOD COMPANY
www.projectme-fw.org
*DROP IN CENTER WILL BE CLOSING AT 7PM
**FOOD SERVED 7-8PM

BOXING BAG USE GUIDELINES

The boxing bag is here as a healthy outlet – not a gym feature. Please follow these simple rules to keep everyone safe and comfortable:

- REQUEST GLOVES FIRST**
Ask a staff member for the center's boxing gloves before using bag. Personal gloves may be used only if approved by staff.
- ALWAYS WEAR INNER GLOVES**
For hygiene and safety, you must wear provided inner gloves or disposable gloves under the boxing gloves. No bare hands are allowed on the bag – ever.
- KEEP IT SHORT AND SWEET**
This is a brief outlet, not a full workout. Please limit your use to 5 MINUTES AT TIME so others have a chance, too.
- BE MINDFUL**
The bag is for releasing stress safely – not for sparring or extended training. If you feel angry, upset, or need space afterward, let staff know – we're here for you.

IMPORTANT REMINDER
Use of the boxing bag is AT YOUR OWN RISK. project.ME and its staff are NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INJURIES that may occur during use. Please follow all guidelines and staff instructions. Stop boxing project.ME

6,749

drop in center visitors in 2025

2,603

naloxone doses distributed at the center

9,743

total number of safe use, safe sex, wound care, and hygiene kits distributed at center

The project.ME Drop-In Center is a low-barrier, peer-led space designed to meet people wherever they are. Individuals can stop in for a cup of coffee and a quiet, mostly unbothered moment—or fully engage in supportive services based on their needs and readiness.

In 2025, the center offered daily peer support, harm reduction supplies, Naloxone education and distribution, recovery coaching, and access to practical supports including laundry, mailboxes, lockers, a clothing closet, computer and phone access, and referrals to community resources.

To intentionally build positive recovery capital and connection, we also host monthly “house parties” that create opportunities for joy, belonging, and healthy social engagement in a substance-free environment. More than a service location, the Drop-In Center is a place of dignity, choice, and community.

donations!



Our Garden:
Popular Village Gardens partnered with Project.ME to support our drop-in center by planting a mix of heirloom and cherry tomato plants!



community street outreach



16,473

people engaged during
outreach in 2025

3,337

doses of naloxone/narcan
distributed during outreach

project.ME's Street Outreach Team conducts peer-led outreach nearly every day of the week, prioritizing meaningful, relationship-based engagement with people who use drugs.

Our primary focus is increasing accessible touchpoints for individuals who are often missed by traditional systems of care. In 2025, our team met people exactly where they are—within encampments, hotels, and on the streets where they reside—providing harm reduction supplies, Naloxone education and distribution, basic needs support, and direct connections to peer support and community resources.

Outreach is grounded in consistency, choice, and dignity, recognizing that trust is built over time and that engagement looks different for everyone.

3,345

total number of safe use, safe
sex, wound care, and hygiene
kits distributed during outreach

naloxone training & distribution



Life-Saving Access: project.ME provided

- * ongoing community Naloxone training and distribution to individuals, families, and partner organizations to increase overdose prevention and response capacity across the region.
- * **Low-Barrier & Peer-Led:** Trainings were delivered by certified peers with lived experience, ensuring information was practical, trauma-informed, and accessible to people who use drugs and those most likely to witness an overdose.

Indiana Overdoses 2024:

679 NON-FATAL
90 FATAL

Indiana Overdoses 2025:

520 NON-FATAL
79 FATAL



Community-Wide Reach: Naloxone was

- * distributed through street outreach, the drop-in center, and community trainings—expanding access beyond traditional clinical or emergency settings.
- * **Prevention Through Education:** In addition to distributing Naloxone, project.ME emphasized overdose recognition, safer-use education, and bystander empowerment, reinforcing that everyone can play a role in saving lives.

COMMUNITY TRAININGS PROVIDED

21

Naloxone Doses Dropped:

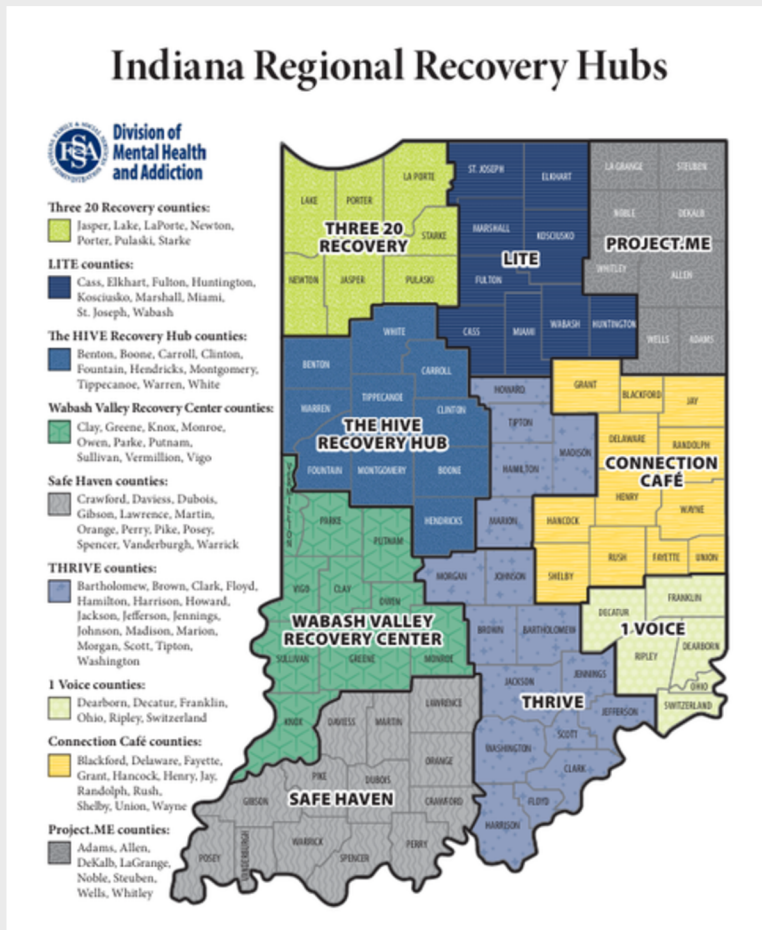
324

Naloxbox Doses:

433

REGIONAL RECOVERY HUB

peer support highlights



9,694

hours of in-person engagement

646

one-on-one peer support session in 2025

164

intakes into one-on-one peer support

93

recoverees supported through drop-in center peer support

286

of individual requests for peer support received in 2025

“RECOVERY ISN’T ONE PATH—PEER SUPPORT MAKES ROOM FOR ALL OF THEM.”

The Recovery & Dreams (RAD) Peer Support Team is grounded in the belief that peer support is a critical component for individuals who are still struggling and navigating complex, often overlapping challenges.

In 2025, RAD peers walked alongside people facing substance use, mental health concerns, justice involvement, and homelessness—offering consistent, nonjudgmental support rooted in lived experience.

All project.ME peers are certified and bring personal experience with incarceration, substance use, mental health challenges, and housing instability, allowing them to build trust in ways traditional systems often cannot.

RAD peer support is not about fixing or directing outcomes; it is about showing up, building connection, and helping people identify their own goals, strengths, and next steps—at their own pace and on their own terms.

project.ME

2025 financials

* INCOME STATEMENTS

project.ME's income in 2025 reflects continued community trust and diversified support, including public funding, grants, and community-based contributions. These resources allowed us to sustain core operations, expand peer-led services, and respond to emerging needs across the region. We remain committed to responsible stewardship, transparency, and aligning every dollar with our mission to provide accessible, person-centered support to individuals impacted by substance use, mental health challenges, and justice involvement.

Revenue **\$1,226,769.80**

Expenses **\$728,628.89**

* BALANCE SHEET

project.ME's balance sheet reflects a growing and stabilizing organization, with assets and liabilities managed to support both day-to-day operations and long-term sustainability. In 2025, we continued to strengthen our financial position through careful planning, responsible use of resources, and intentional reserves to ensure continuity of services. This approach allows project.ME to remain responsive to community needs while maintaining fiscal responsibility and organizational resilience.

Assets **\$513,675.35**

Liabilities **\$5,728.75**

* CASH FLOW STATEMENT

project.ME's cash flow reflects the timing and movement of funds necessary to support continuous service delivery throughout the year. In 2025, we managed cash flow carefully to meet operational needs, sustain peer-led programs, and respond to fluctuations common in grant- and contract-based funding. Prudent cash management ensured organizational stability while allowing us to remain flexible and responsive to the evolving needs of the communities we serve.

Operating **\$498,140.91**

Donations **\$83,140.08**

project.ME

2025 highlights

Community & Outreach

- Allen & Whitley County JCAP
- HART Active Warrant Outreach
- ACJC Bridges to Recovery

Education & Advocacy

- Drug Policy Alliance Conference
- Overdose Awareness Event

Connection & Recovery

- Save A Life Day
- Community Baby Shower
- River's Edge Self-Guided Recovery
- Saint Joseph Mission Huddles
- Whitley County Pride



project.ME brought our entire team to the International Drug Policy Reform Conference in Detroit.



Our self-guided recovery JCAP group at the Whitley County Jail with Aisha & Chelsea