



### **What is our Mission?**

*To create a space for people to share their brokenness, encourage and equip the hurting, build community, and search for meaning.*

### **What are our Priorities?**

*To end suicide.*

*To compassionately steer anyone struggling with suicidal ideation towards hope and life through peer support and resources.*

*Comfort the challenged and challenge the comfortable.*

*Encourage and practice communication, cooperation, and collaboration among mental health organizations.*

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## **BROKEN PEOPLE PEER SUPPORT**

A MENTAL HEALTH PEER SUPPORT GROUP  
WWW.BROKEN-PEOPLE.ORG

My Dear Friend,

November 24, 2023

I'm writing this letter to you from our third floor hotel room at the downtown Grand Rapids Residence Inn in hopes of gaining your financial support for Broken People. It's the day after Thanksgiving and my family faced the unique challenge of getting all of us together this year. You may have heard, or maybe you didn't, our house caught fire on August 4th.

Here's what happened: I was in Holland, Mi having a chocolaty delicious beverage with a friend, and Melissa was at work. I'm about 1/4 done with my drink when my phone rings. Facebook Messenger call? From my neighbor? Must be a butt dial. But...it rings again. I guess it's not a butt. I answer and all I can hear is my neighbor screaming into the phone. No clue what she was saying. "I can't hear you. Can you call back later?" Later came in thirty seconds. "Joe...your house is on fire!" Now... there isn't much that will pull me away from a good time with friends and a cold cup of chocolaty goodness, but this fit the bill.

While I rushed home, my neighbor's entire family had made it their personal mission to save our dog and to keep the house from burning down. The dad broke through the front door and secured Roxy, then made his way to the attic access and began fighting the fire from inside. Meanwhile, his wife and kids were running hoses from two doors down and spraying the exterior of our house while waiting for the fire department to arrive. It was a beautiful and awe-inspiring act of love that saved our home!

**That's what Broken People does.** We are not therapists or trained mental health professionals. We are "neighbors" that understand that emotional fires happen. We've faced them ourselves. We don't pretend to have all the answers. We are there for day to day support and encouragement as people who "get it." We will be and have been there to support those who are suffering and to call the emotional fire department / professionals for help if and when it is needed!

Broken People Peer Support is a soon to be non-profit organization (application was submitted to the IRS last month) that has been in operation for over five years hosting in-person support group meetings (just finishing our 12th semester) and online peer support for people in 44 countries. In addition, we have been working with first responders, social workers, mental health professionals, colleges and universities, and other mental health non-profits from around the country to just try to make a dent in the pain and suffering that people deal with in silence and secret every day.

Would you please consider being a "financial neighbor" to Broken People with either a generous one-time gift or monthly support by going to [www.broken-people.org](http://www.broken-people.org) and clicking the donate button? The need is huge. And we have huge hopes to meet as many of those needs as possible! Our goal is \$1.4 million dollars. There's a lot we want to do: start more in-person groups, beef up and promote our blog, create easily accessible, new practical/common sense resources, host essential webinars, and produce educational videos that reach and apply to different professions and emotional situations/needs.

I know this was a bit of a long letter, so thank you for taking the time to read through it. And thank you for considering to donate any amount toward this cause.

With a heart full of sincere gratitude,

Joseph Reid  
Founder & Executive Director  
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Not online? Make checks payable to:  
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