Step Up: 2021-2024 Vision/Mission Statement

Vision
Step Up envisions that all individuals, families, and communities affected by serious mental health issues, and by chronic homelessness, will have the opportunity to experience recovery and a sense of belonging, and that permanent supportive housing will be available to everyone who needs it.

Mission
Step Up delivers compassionate support to people experiencing serious mental health issues, especially individuals who are chronically homeless, to help them recover, stabilize, and integrate into the community. Through dynamic partnerships, we provide positive social and learning environments, vocational training, permanent supportive housing opportunities, and recovery services to empower individuals to cultivate lives of hope and dignity. We exercise innovative leadership and advocacy to increase public understanding, support and acceptance of all people living with serious mental health issues.

Toward achievement of our mission, Step Up delivers

❖ Comprehensive support services and programs leading to self-sufficiency, harm-reduction and recovery for individuals experiencing serious mental health issues.

❖ Meaningful opportunities for members and their families to achieve self-determined goals, experience community, and support advocacy to reduce discrimination.

❖ Exemplary permanent supportive housing, associated services, and infrastructure that are member-focused, outcomes-based, economically and environmentally sustainable, aligned with the Housing First model, and developed through longstanding, trusted partnerships.

Objectives for 2021-23

❖ Continue to expand our national presence as a pre-eminent housing developer and service provider to a chronically homeless population experiencing serious mental health issues, including subpopulations of adults, young adults, homeless Veterans and unaccompanied women
  ❖ Grow the SouthEast US presence across GA, TN, FL and expand to other SE states such as MS
  ❖ Expand our presence in an increasing number of CA cities and communities

❖ Assert a national leadership role involving some level of certification process, in conjunction with Sam Tsemberis and his Pathways to Housing, on Housing First to position Step Up as a prominent authority on this evidenced-based practice

❖ Pursue continued implementations of the innovative private/public partnership model for scaling permanent supportive housing in whatever venue provides the opportunity to progress on the model

❖ Increased advocacy and recognition of Step Up as the subject matter expert on state and federal policies relating to mental health and homelessness.

❖ Incorporate and implement AIDE within the fabric of the operations of Step Up.