

Biography
Donna Mae Baukat, Peer Support Professional
President/Co-founder and Executive Director, Community Compassion Outreach, Inc.
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Donna Mae Baukat was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii, by her American-Filipino parents. At the age of thirteen her family relocated to Anaheim, California. After graduating from high school, she immediately went to work as a stenographer for Boeing Aerospace. Donna Mae is the mother of three children from a previous marriage and has seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She and her husband, Stephen M. Baukat, have been married for forty years.

In 1975 Donna Mae became the first Pacific Islander woman responsible for the selling of printed circuit boards for manufacturers and distributors throughout Southern California. She was also the first Pacific Islander woman to occupy the role of marketing and sales engineer for a chemical machining manufacturer. Donna Mae further developed and honed her marketing and communication skills when asked by a professor of civil engineering to market and sell his innovative invention that would greatly impact the building of bridges and highways across the country. She successfully worked with civil engineering professors and public utility engineers in major cities until her early retirement in 2005.

Donna Mae and Stephen relocated to Durango in 2013. Noticing a great need for services and support for the local homeless community, she established the Community Compassion Outreach Church Program in early 2017. She dedicated herself to learning about the homeless populations and the challenges they face by familiarizing herself with local, state and national practices. It was during this time she realized her passion for providing supportive and innovative solutions to the homelessness issue in Durango.

In February of 2018, Donna Mae held a local forum under the same title as the keynote speaker's book, *Ending Homelessness: Why We Haven't and How We Can*. Along with the author of the book, Donald W. Burnes, Ph.D, other panel members were represented by city and local officials and service providers. The forum proved to be such a success that Community Compassion Outreach was promptly incorporated and established as a non-profit organization. Donna Mae created a Board of Directors consisting of Community Compassion Outreach volunteers who connected with various local health, housing, shelter and food providers. Working with Denver-based skyscraper architect Stuart Ohlson, Donna Mae has been pursuing the design of sustainable sober-living housing units for low-income individuals and families. She formed the Village of Hope Development team, which includes local contractors, builders, realtors and volunteers. It is actively pursuing land and funding to construct a community based housing village.

In 2020 Community Compassion Outreach applied for and received two Covid-19 relief funds, which provided rental assistance, motel nights, groceries and utilities for at-risk and homeless. Donna Mae, along with dedicated volunteers, began providing home-cooked meals in 2018 to those in need every Saturday afternoon in Schneider Park. With over two decades of working on her own recovery from mental health conditions and education in substance use disorders, Donna Mae plans to expand the services provided to those in need through the Community Compassion Outreach Network. She meets peers at Espero Apartments weekly on Wednesday afternoons and plans to visit Purple Cliffs to educate and support people wanting to enter or maintain recovery.

Beginning in late 2020 to the present, Donna Mae has applied herself towards furthering her training for working with people with substance abuse use disorders and/or mental health conditions. She is a qualified Peer Support Professional. Using grant funds, she recently established the Recovery Empowerment Support Services (RESST) Program, which is La Plata County's first recovery community support service organization. The program will hire and train additional professionals to fulfill active roles in the recovery support workforce. Donna Mae is currently working towards becoming a peer support supervisor through the Colorado Mental Wellness Network.

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS:

- Durango/La Plata County Coordinating Council on Homelessness/2020-Present
- Housing Solutions for the Southwest Coordinated Entry System/2019-Present
- Mercy Regional Medical Center—Southwest Colorado Opioid Overdose Planning Consortium/2020-Present
- Voting Member of the subgroup User Design Workgroup of the Care Coordination Behavioral Health Administration /2021-Present
- Southwest Colorado Resource Group led by Department of Human Services/2020-2021
- Chief of Police Advisory Panel/2020

TRAINING:

- Peer Support Supervisor, Colorado Mental Wellness Network
- WRAP Seminar I Mental Health Recovery and Wellness Recovery Action Planning
- Ethical Decision Making, Colorado Mental Wellness Network
- Colorado Mental Wellness Network, Peer Support Professional
- Introduction to Substance Abuse Prevention: Understanding the Basics
- An Introduction to Choice in Recovery: A Client-Centered Approach
- Recovery Coach Academy Addiction Recovery Support
- Corporation of Supportive Housing, Essentials for Providing Services
- Corporation of Supportive Housing, Supportive Housing 101

EDUCATION:

- Hope International University, Business Marketing and Administration, Fullerton, CA (2000-2004)
- Saddleback Jr. College, Mission Viejo, CA (1985-1987)
- Fullerton Jr. College, Fullerton, CA (1962-1963)