



## 50 Years of Service - The History of Maps Counseling Services

The Monadnock Area Pastoral Counseling Service (MAPSCS) was founded in Keene, New Hampshire in 1973 by a group of local ministers and lay people interested in providing professional pastoral counseling and pastoral care. The founders intentionally established MAPSCS as a decentralized organization with staff offering counseling in local churches and coming together for training and supervision.

The center was first housed in the offices of the United Church of Christ in Keene and remained there until about 1989 when it moved across the street to the ground floor of the Cheshire County Court House. In January 1994 MAPSCS raised \$25,000 to renovate a large office space at 19 Federal St. and was there for 24 years. In 2015, Maps recognized the need to expand, beginning the process that led to relocating the Keene office back to our original home at the UCC church at the head of the square in the summer of 2018.

In 1976, MAPSCS sought accreditation and became an approved Service Center of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. MAAPC/MAPS maintained its accreditation with AAPC for over 30 years. Maps was accredited by the Samaritans Institute in the past but had to let the accreditation lapse during a challenging financial season in the center. Maps chose to pursue accreditation with Solihnten (formerly Samaritans) again in 2017 and accomplished that accreditation in 2021.

The name of the center has changed several times often to reflect the evolving culture and identity of the center. In 1995, the name MAPSCS (Monadnock Area Pastoral Counseling Services) was changed to MAPS (Monadnock Area Psychotherapy and Spirituality Services), to reflect a broadening of the services and the philosophy of care being provided. Years later the Board of Directors again voted to change the official name of the center to MAPS Counseling Services. At that time, "MAPS" ceased to be an acronym. However, this led to some confusion in the community. In 2015, as part of a rebranding effort the name MAPS Counseling Services was changed again to Maps Counseling Services to clarify that Maps was not an acronym but a metaphor. At Maps, we help you find your way. Our new mission gives voice to our holistic model of care that attends to mind (the psychological dimension), heart (the emotional dimension), body (the physical dimension), and spirit (the spiritual dimension).

Maps has grown and shifted over the years. In the mid 1990's, with the addition of new staff, Maps opened a satellite office in Peterborough. Prior to 2006, the Peterborough office was a small satellite where some therapists from Keene donated a day a week to see clients. In 2007, Maps committed to expanding the Peterborough office by designating full time clinicians to this site. As they were successful, Maps added additional clinicians to Peterborough, and in 2014 the Peterborough office was relocated to a larger and more comfortable facility at 9 Vose Farm Road.

Maps believes that the essence of who we are is sustained by something more powerful and greater than any one person or challenge. We have grown and adapted without losing touch with our core values. Maps Counseling Services serves more than 1000 individuals and families each year. Our staff is beautifully diverse in our training and areas of specialty, which equips us to effectively offer hope and healing for those who seek services with us as they navigate their individual life challenges.

## Meet our New Executive Director - Dr. Ralph Sperry

Dr. Ralph Sperry, a licensed Clinical Psychologist who is Board Certified in Organizational and Business Psychology, has been appointed Executive Director of Maps Counseling Center in Keene. He was previously the Executive Director of Behavioral Health Services for SolutionHealth directing the mental health and substance use programs of Elliot Medical Center and Southern New Hampshire Medical Center. Dr. Sperry has served as CEO of psychiatric hospitals in Western Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Santa Fe New Mexico. He has also been the Chief Operating Officer of May Institute, and the National Autism Center in Randolph MA. Both organizations are internationally respected for research and treatment for autism. He is a global expert speaker and behavioral health consultant for the US State Department. In that capacity he consults with countries in their quest to develop and expand services for behavioral health, addiction, and autism.



Maps is a private counseling center that has served Keene for 50 years.

Dr Sperry's focus will be on expanding services to meet the overwhelming demand for mental health services that developed during and following COVID. As consequence of COVID, seeking mental health services has been increasingly de-stigmatized and individuals are more comfortable asking for help if they need it. Optional use of remote virtual video for therapy has made therapy more accessible. Dr. Sperry is committed to the ongoing accessibility of mental health services for our community.

## Meet Our Clinicians

**Dr. Gina Pasquale, Psy.D.**, is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist who works with individuals of a variety of ages. Dr. Pasquale has been working for Maps in the Keene office for 13 years, specializing in Infant and Child Mental Health, Autism Spectrum Disorders, and Gero-psychology. Because she has been with us for so long, Dr. Pasquale knows that Maps has shifted and changed throughout the years, especially after the global pandemic. She says, "What has remained consistent is Maps as an organization working diligently to adjust, to pivot, and to regroup so that we can meet the needs of our community." Because of Dr. Pasquale's long tenure, she has a unique and also eloquent perspective on the important 50th Anniversary milestone Maps is celebrating in 2023: "Everyone who works at Maps, whether for a short time or a long time, participates in stewarding it forward as a resource for the community. We are the amalgamation of every psychotherapist and client who has walked these halls and sat on these couches and played in the therapy play room. Our longevity rests in our ability to remember that everything is always changing in our lives and in the world."

When asked for her favorite thing about working for Maps, Dr. Pasquale emphasizes how meaningful working with her clients feels to her saying "It is at times heart-wrenching; however, bearing witness to the grit and persistence of the human spirit is remarkable, and a privilege I hold with great care." We hope that she is with Maps for many years to come. Her contribution to Maps and to the community over these past 13 years is beyond measure.

### Save the Date:

**Maps will be hosting its annual Wellness Festival on May 6th, from 9am-2pm.**

**Stay tuned for a 50th Anniversary Celebration coming later this year!**



Dr. Gina Pasquale, Psy.D.  
Photographer, Christopher David