I love that we get to use the term “cultivating” in our newsletter this month. “Cultivation” has a two-pronged definition:

- prepare and use (land) for crops or gardening;
- try to acquire or develop (a quality, sentiment, or skill).

Based on both definitions I think it is more than appropriate, since Fall is the season of harvesting the seeds that we’ve sown from ground that we’ve so diligently prepared. It seems we’ve done so much sowing, and our efforts have been on protecting our seedlings throughout the past few months, and now we get to see the rewards of our efforts, particularly in the areas of collaboration. We cultivated collaborative relationships and ideas to support peer-run organizations and peer support workers themselves and are ready to share some of the fruits of our labors, because this idea of cultivating collaboration translates so seamlessly to the work being done here at the STAR Center over the past few months. We spent some time in September working with Texas peer recovery organizations on collaboration, leadership and conflict resolution; developed an exciting new podcast titled “Hear Me Now”, where we showcase amazing peer leaders; worked with Western and Central Massachusetts Recovery Learning Communities on assisting Puerto Rico in laying the foundation for a peer recovery center; attended the National Association of Rural Mental Health conference to discuss rural peer support; and are in the process of developing a peer leadership virtual learning collaborative for the upcoming year (watch your inbox for registration soon).

We are always thankful for and appreciative of the peers and leaders that have crossed our paths in the past few months. Without their belief in cultivating collaboration, Tanya and I would be on a long and lonely path.

Let us know how your organization cultivates collaboration or bring us ideas for technical assistance that can be offered through the STAR Center. Tanya and I also wish you a very healthy and happy holiday season!

Be Well,

Elise Padilla
STAR Center Director
The STAR Center Executive Directors’ Roundtable is returning in January 2020.

The focus of these roundtable sessions will be to provide current and aspiring Executive Directors of peer, youth and family-run organizations working in behavioral health with an open space to talk about what they do to address the challenges of the workplace in the fast-paced and constantly changing arena of behavioral health.

Participants will be able to share the challenges, successes and failures in addressing issues as an executive director.

Please join us in this opportunity to get to know other EDs and emerging leaders in your community and to take advantage of the depth of experience through peer-to-peer learning!

If you are interested in participating as a guest, please contact Tanya Ryder at tryder@nami.org.

More information to follow!
LISTEN UP and Hear Me Now

“Hear Me Now” is a 45-60 minute per episode podcast focused on peers that the STAR Center has come across in our work who have used their lived experience in positive ways. We will discuss topics in peer support that come from skill sets that these individuals have utilized in peer support.

The following podcasts are now available:
- Maxine Henry: [Culture of Silence](#)
- Lora Bonnet: [Building Relationships](#)

REWIND and FAST FORWARD
The 2019 & 2020 Peer-Run Organization Learning Collaborative Webinar Series

The webinars given this past year by the STAR Center, National Empowerment Center, Cafe TA Center, Peerlink and Doors to Wellbeing are now available to view on our website.

- **STAR Center:** [Conflict Management in Peer-Run Organizations: Tools for Effective Conversations](#)
- **Doors to Wellbeing:** [Developing a Board of Directors for Mental Health Organizations](#)
- **Cafe TA Center:** [Fundraising and Sustainability: Building your Organization by Telling the Right Story to the Right Audience](#)
- **Peerlink:** [Challenges and Assets of Peer-Run Organizations in Rural & Isolated Communities](#)
- **National Empowerment Center:** [How to Embed Strategic Planning into the Culture of Your Organization](#)

The 2020 Collaborative Webinar Series will kick off on Wednesday, January 21st at 2 pm ET.

The schedule for the 2020 webinar series is as follows:

- **January 21st - STAR Center**
  Leadership Succession Planning

- **March 24th - Café TA Center**
  Staying in Your Lane: How to Figure Out Who Does What in Your Growing Consumer Organization.

- **May 19th - National Empowerment Center**
  The Importance of Cultural Diversity, Equity, and Intersectionality in Peer Work

- **July 14th - Doors to Wellbeing**
  Building Partnerships to Enhance the Peer Workforce

- **September 15th - PeerLink**
  Best Practices: Policies and Procedures
Want to learn more about the STAR Center and all that we do?

Check out the STAR Center’s website and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.