



Healing Our Communities

A community wide conversation about the impact of
deindustrialization on mental health
in the Greater Gardner Area

The *Healing Our Communities Project* is a collaboration between the *Chair City Community Workshop* and the *Montachusett Suicide Prevention Task Force*. Together we will start a public conversation about the community-wide trauma caused by steep losses of manufacturing jobs. We want to reduce the isolation and stigma faced by individuals struggling with mental health challenges in the wake of deindustrialization. We will work with scholars and service providers to facilitate conversations about how the loss of manufacturing jobs in our area effects mental health. These conversations will culminate in a public educational event in the Fall of 2017. We believe the experiences of working class adults must be central and the strengths of blue collar communities must be honored as we seek solutions to mental health challenges in the region. We are seeking adults who have been impacted by loss of manufacturing jobs to help lead this effort and service providers in the mental health field to support it.

**If you would like to get involved with the
Healing Our Communities Project, contact Tracie Pouliot
at 865-696-6733 or peopleyoumaymeet@gmail.com**