Social Justice Statement of Solidarity Against Racial Injustice
Compeer Rochester stands in solidarity with all Americans who are against racial injustice to end the dehumanization of people of color and to promote equitable and humane treatment for all people.

A Letter from our Executive Director, Program Director and Board Chair:

Over the last few months, many of us have experienced the full range of human emotions on display in the Rochester region and across our country. As a Compeer community and alongside other Compeer agencies across the nation, we continue to be active in fighting racism in any way we can as an agency here in our local community. We envision a day when all communities embrace individuals and families for who they are. The power of friendship and hope lives on — and we must work together and stand together as a community to fight racism, human rights violations, and violence against people of color.

Compeer’s foundation is based on supporting our community, staff, volunteers, and clients to live quality, healthy lives. We recognize that structural racism has resulted in Black and Brown Americans being more likely to be impoverished, incarcerated, homeless, and fighting substance abuse, which often results in a higher risk for these individuals to encounter mental health challenges throughout their lives. Compeer Rochester believes that racism is a public health crisis. We understand that police brutality and racial-motivated police violence must be condemned.

There’s more work to do. Compeer staff is trained in providing trauma-informed, patient-centered care. Our dedicated staff participates in diversity education training to drive diversity, equity, and inclusion. We will continue to provide critical ongoing dialogues within and beyond our team about how structural racism and oppression affect us, our organization, and our communities. We will work to strengthen and evolve our programs to continue to meet the needs of our community members. Our strategic plan, and more specifically our Cultural Competency Committee, advocates for racial equality and inclusion. Supporting wellness, embracing friendship, and providing hope for individuals and families will remain at the forefront of our agency today and tomorrow.

Thank you for your ongoing support. It has been an unprecedented year, but we will forge ahead with absolute confidence in the skills, talents, and passion of our staff, board, volunteers, clients, and supporters like you to make change, together, for our region and our nation.

Black lives matter.

In friendship,

Tara Banks
Program Director

Sara Passamonte
Executive Director

Steven Simpson
Board Chair