

Oxford House

Celebrating 40 Years



YEARS

Commemorative Program

2015 Annual Oxford House Convention

September 3 – 6, 2015

Washington Hilton Hotel
Washington, DC

17th Annual World Convention

Oxford House™ - Celebrating 40 Years

September 3-6, 2015
Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, DC

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

FRIDAY 9/4		SATURDAY 9/5		SUNDAY 9/6
7:00-8:15 AM	Continental Breakfast <i>World Council Nominations Due by Noon</i>	7:00-8:30 AM	Continental Breakfast <i>Voting until Noon for World Council by Houses attending the Convention</i>	Continental Breakfast
8:00-9:45 AM	Opening General Session Invocation – Deacon Ron Ealey Welcome Remarks Welcome and Convention Overview Kathleen Gibson and Paul Molloy World Council Election Rules James McClain KEYNOTE SPEAKER H. WESTLEY CLARK, M.D.	8:15- 9:30	Third Breakout Panels 1. Oxford House Traditions – Still Applicable after 40 Years 2. Brainstorming with Researchers – Recovery Topics Residents and Alumni Would Like to See Studied 3. The Importance of Fun in Recovery – Tips from Residents and Alumni 4. Housekeeping Issues (Like Bedbugs) and How to Deal With Them	Closing General Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remembrance of Members Who Have Died ▪ Tradition Renewal – Alumni and Current Members ▪ Conference Summary ▪ Closing Remarks
		9:30-9:45	<i>Break</i>	
		9:45-10:00 AM	<i>Break</i>	
10:00-11:00 AM	First Breakout Panels 1. Veterans and Oxford Houses 2. Civil Rights and the Law 3. Oxford House and State Agencies 4. Working with Treatment Providers		Fourth Breakout Panels 1. Medication in Oxford Houses 2. Drug Courts and Oxford House 3. Networking to Foster Employment and Continued Education 4. The Three R's: Recovery, Responsibility and Replication	CONVENTION REGISTRATION <i>Registration for the annual Oxford House Convention begins on Thursday, September 3, at 10:00 AM.</i> GOLF TOURNAMENT <i>The Oxford House Golf Tournament is on Thursday, September 3 at the Bowie Country Club</i> WOMEN'S CONFERENCE <i>The Oxford House Women's Conference is on Thursday, September 3 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM Registration opens at 2:00 PM.</i>
11:00-11:15	<i>Break</i>	11:00-11:15	<i>Break</i>	
11:15-12:30	Second Breakout Panels 1. The Opioid Epidemic and Dealing with Overdoses 2. Leadership versus 'Bossism' – Promoting and Practicing Participatory Democracy in Houses and Chapters 3. Involving Alumni – Forming Local Alumni Associations 4. Overview of Current Research and Upcoming Studies	11:15-12:30	Fifth Breakout Panels 1. Technology in Oxford Houses – using email, texting and social media for networking 2. Oxford Houses with Children 3. Health Issues in Oxford Houses (e.g. HIV, Hepatitis C) 4. World Council Update	
12:30 - 2:00 PM	Lunch on Your Own Veterans Meeting – 1:00-2:00 PM Lincoln East (LE) AA/NA meetings at hotel – 1:00-2:00 PM	12:30 - 2:00	Lunch on Your Own Alumni Lunch; 12:30-2:00 PM Get Tickets at World Council table. AA/NA meetings at hotel – 1:00-2:00	
2:15-4:30 PM	Second General Session Keynote Panel: Criminal Justice and Reentry From Incarceration – Policy Views and Personal Experiences Eligible World Council Nominees give three-minute campaign speeches	2:15 - 4:30	Third General Session Keynote Speaker: Stuart Gitlow, M.D. President of American Society of Addiction Medicine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New World Council Members ▪ Vote on Resolutions 	
6:00 PM	Friday Evening Event > Invocation > Food > Board Member Remarks > 100-Year Awards > Panel: The Early Years of Oxford House	6:00 - Midnight	Banquet and Dance > Invocation > Dinner and Awards > Recovery Speaker: Tom Coderre, SAMHSA > Dance: 9:00PM – Midnight	
Breakout panel rooms: (1) International Ballroom (IB); (2) Jefferson West (JW); (3) Jefferson East (JE); (4) Lincoln West (LW) All General Sessions and first breakout panels will be in the International Ballroom (IB) AA meetings are in Georgetown West (GW) and NA meetings are in Georgetown East (GE) at 1:00-2:00 PM and 10:00-11:00PM On Thursday there are AA and NA meetings from 10:00-11:00 PM				



Congratulations

Oxford House, Inc.

40th Anniversary

September 4, 2015

A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WHEREAS, today, Oxford House, Inc. is celebrating its 40th Anniversary; and


WHEREAS, for the past forty years, Oxford House, Inc. has helped many residents of the District of Columbia to recover and remain clean and sober without relapse from drug and alcohol addiction; and

WHEREAS, Oxford House, Inc. has approximately, 2,000 homes throughout the United States including 27 in the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, Oxford House, Inc. continues to provide services to help individuals become productive in their respective communities:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, do hereby congratulate Oxford House, Inc. for forty years of service to our community.

HAPPY 40TH ANNIVERSARY!


Muriel Bowser
Mayor, District of Columbia





PATRICK J. KENNEDY

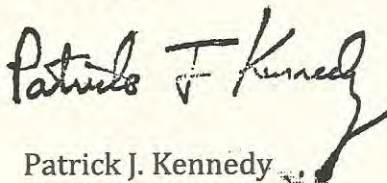
August 7, 2015

Oxford House has changed countless lives by bringing the hope and promise of long term recovery to all who seek it. I applaud your mission in creating safe, inclusive, and healthy spaces, with a focus on the wellbeing of all who are there. As someone in recovery, I know how important it is to have a home base in which to get well.

As you gather for your annual convention here in Washington, DC, I urge you to reflect on all you have accomplished together, and the work that's yet to come. We have a long way to go in eliminating the stigma that accompanies mental health and addiction, seeing the full implementation and enforcement of the parity law, and ensuring access to care for everyone who needs it. It's a daunting challenge, but one that we will overcome if we all work together.

I look forward to attending a future gathering, and wish you the best of luck as you shape the future of Oxford House.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Kennedy

Oxford House – Celebrating 40 Years

Welcome to the 17th Annual Oxford House World Convention! Forty years ago, few would have dreamed that the first Oxford House at Fiddler Lane in nearby Silver Spring would have grown into a network of more than 1,900 individual Oxford Houses throughout the country. In fact, very few believed that the first Oxford House would succeed – and yet it did. Since October 1, 1975, when that first Oxford House started, more than 350,000 individuals recovering from alcoholism, drug addiction or co-occurring mental illness have developed sobriety comfortable enough to assure recovery without relapse. That’s an amazing success story and all of you should be proud to be part of it!

There are many reasons for the success of Oxford House. The first is the people – all 350,000 or more of the people who have lived in an Oxford House. Each one needed the time, peer support and safe place to live for long enough to significantly change behavior. Each resident used the common bond of addiction to work together to make his or her particular Oxford House function well. The development and sharing of good ideas among Oxford Houses has strengthened the entire Oxford House movement.

Several factors have fueled the success of Oxford House: (1) trust in the ability of the residents to govern themselves, (2) an emphasis on people, not property, and (3) a disciplined system of operations.

The notion that individuals can fairly and effectively solve problems and govern themselves is as old as American democracy. Our forefathers built the United States on trust in the individual. They really believed that “the inmates could run the asylum.” The people – not the king, a big boss or another country – could manage their own affairs and even their country. That bedrock of America is sometimes lost in today’s raucous politics but it remains true in Oxford Houses. Today, Oxford House proudly proclaims that “The inmates can run the asylum.” and that fact has been proven again and again in Oxford Houses across the country.

Our emphasis on people rather than property came about early on – partly because we didn’t have any money or property at the time, but mostly because we were aware of the problems that wealth could create for programs. About the time Oxford House started, Synanon, an early drug rehabilitation community, was falling apart. It had begun several businesses and owned property, developed cult-like leadership and practices, fought over money and eventually fell apart. At the same time, we were aware that Alcoholics Anonymous [AA] had reached its 40th anniversary stronger than ever by avoiding ownership of businesses, accumulation of property and the promotion of cult-like leaders. The founders of Oxford House sought to avoid the pitfalls of Synanon by following the recovery-focused path of AA, keeping the focus and trust on people and avoiding the ownership of property or wealth accumulation.

Trust without a blueprint would be chaotic; and the Oxford House residents decided early on that they needed some basic operating guidelines. Beginning with the first Oxford House in 1975, through today, Oxford House has maintained a sound concept and a disciplined system of operation.

The first Oxford House in downtown Silver Spring was a single-family house and the residents found that living there felt like living as an ordinary family. The group believed that some system had to be developed to make it possible to live together without the strong dominating the weak. Clearly the laid-back group conscience used by AA groups would not provide enough structure. After all, an AA meeting only lasted about an hour and starting a new AA group was a lot easier than starting a new Oxford House. To start a new AA meeting all that was needed was “two people with a resentment and a coffee pot.” To rent another Oxford House required much more and, to live together 24/7 required some rules and a group consensus.

The disciplined system of operation came about within the first month of Oxford House’s existence. Initially the men in the house would all gather in the living room and discuss how the group was going to

operate the house to make sure everyone stayed clean and sober. Jim Spellman and I even volunteered to check with the local police to see if we could get a Breathalyzer to make sure everyone was sober when each of us returned to the house. Fortunately, an event occurred that led to a better idea.

The event was a relapse and the better idea was to meet with an AA old-timer who assured the group that disciplined democratic procedures used in his small Vermont town should work well for a group of folks living in recovery. The relapse occurred in slow motion. Sam felt ill and stayed in his room at supper time. The next morning Bill went downstairs to Sam's room with a glass of orange juice and a cup of coffee. Bill quickly came back upstairs to announce that as he went into Sam's room Sam put a bottle of Vodka back under his bed. Quickly ten of us got together, confronted Sam and told him that he had fifteen minutes to leave. He did and word quickly spread that "those guys in that new Oxford House are serious about recovery." We knew then that we didn't need a Breathalyzer. All we needed was the courage of our convictions.

The better idea came within a few weeks when Paul called his old sponsor in AA back in Vermont to tell him about what the group was trying to do. Orlando C. had been in AA from the early 40's and Bill W. was his friend and sponsor. Orlando got on a Greyhound bus and came to Silver Spring to stay a couple of nights at the new Oxford House. His advice was listened to with great interest. Our Oxford House was not part of AA but most of us respected and used AA ourselves and wanted to abide by AA principles as much as possible.

First, he assured the group it would not be violating AA traditions by electing officers to help run the house. He used the annual Arlington Town Meeting to show how a meeting should be run using parliamentary procedure with orderly discussion, motions, votes and so forth. John and others pointed out we didn't want to be a halfway house like the one we had just left. We didn't want a big boss or a house manager. Orlando suggested limiting the terms of office for the officers. That way, no one could become the big boss. He was a Selectman in his hometown but his term of office was for only one year. The Oxford House group liked the idea of term limits but thought six month terms would be long enough.

Whit had collected money for next month's rent and kept it in a coffee tin. We needed a bank account and he and Tom quickly drew up some incorporation papers to make us legal and went across the street to open a checking account at Citizens Bank. Orlando went back to Vermont, but the nightly meetings continued as the group continued to figure out how to operate. I volunteered to pay a bigger share of monthly expenses because I had lucked into a good job on Capitol Hill. Everyone else in the group objected. That if I paid more, I'd want to be the big boss. On that evening, it was agreed that an equal share of expenses was needed and, after a little discussion, everyone agreed that \$25 a week would bring in enough money to pay the rent and the other bills.

At each of the nightly group meetings, I would take notes and bring them to work the next day. Each evening I would bring the typed notes home and very soon had large parts of a manual. Each new installment brought vigorous discussion and, by the next evening, a new version of the operations manual would appear. Within a couple of weeks, Jim B. was growling, "This is getting more like a meeting of the IBM board than that of a group of drunks trying to stay sober." Discussion of sentences, words and whole sections would be debated and I would take notes. The next evening a new version of the manual appeared and included some "traditions" that looked like paraphrases of the AA Twelve Traditions.

Finally, I brought Mollie Brown to an evening meeting with us. Mollie was the volunteer who had been typing and retyping all the many versions of the manual. The group assembled and I introduced them to Mollie. When she asked, "Any more changes?" Everyone said "no." Paul then stopped making changes, which explains why Oxford House has only 9 traditions, rather than the 12 used by AA.

Two other events happened during the first six months of Oxford House. First, Ed C. was voted into the house and elected Treasurer. In those early days everyone paid the equal expense share by the week. The group had set the weekly EES at \$25 a week. If someone moved out in the middle of the week, a prorated share would be paid for the days the person would not be living in an Oxford House. Ed noted that if we each paid \$35 a week, it would amount to \$5 a day and it would be easier to determine how much a person moving out in the middle of the week owed. We unanimously voted to approve Ed's suggestion, which permitted the first Oxford House to build a positive balance in its checking account.

After Sam relapsed, the next two guys voted in also relapsed. The group began to think that Sam's bed was jinxed. The third guy did not relapse and soon there were many more applicants to the house than there were beds. John and Whit decided to start another house and our group gave them \$1,200 for the first month's rent and security deposit. The new House was Oxford House – Fessenden Street in Northwest Washington. The House moved after one year to Huntington Street, NW and stayed an Oxford House for 28 years. Soon there were seven or eight more Oxford Houses in Northwest Washington and Montgomery County, MD, mostly for men but some were for women. By 1988 there were 13 Oxford Houses.

In 1987, former Congressman Fred Rooney offered to sell us his house in Bethlehem, PA. When we told him that Oxford House did not buy houses, he offered to rent it to the group and that became the first successful Oxford House outside the DC area. Mr. Rooney talked about it with his former colleagues on the Hill so they were aware of the program. Also, in 1987, Bill Spillaine, a Ph.D. psychologist at Catholic University, had tracked down 1,240 Oxford House residents who had lived in the various Oxford Houses since 1975 and found that 80% had stayed clean and sober. News of the high success rate spread even to Capitol Hill. Congressman Ed Madigan [R.IL] called to ask if Oxford House would accept an earmark in the Anti-Drug Abuse Act to start Oxford Houses in Lincoln, Illinois. The Board of Oxford House, Inc. – then made up of the Presidents of the 13 Oxford Houses rejected the idea. This led to Madigan telling President Reagan of the rejection. Reagan asked, "Does Nancy know about this?" [*He was referring to the Oxford House program*]. She soon did and Dr. Ian MacDonald from the Reagan White House visited Oxford House-Northampton on Northampton Street in DC in August, 1988. He asked when the house had its last vacancy and was told the preceding March when 22 or 23 had applied for residency. When MacDonald asked why the group didn't just rent another house, he was told that it took two to three years for them to save the necessary \$5,000 to rent another house in the area.

So it was that the idea of start-up loan funds took hold and §2036 of PL 100-690, the 1988 Anti-Drug Abuse Act, required every state to set up a small revolving loan fund to help get more self-run, self-supported recovery homes started along the lines of the Oxford House model. That Act was the catalyst for the spread of Oxford Houses across the country but it did not happen overnight. In the fall of 1989 – a year after the new law passed – there were still only 38 Oxford Houses nationwide.

Mark Shields, who knew about Oxford Houses, shared the story of Oxford House with the late Meg Greenfield, then editorial page editor at the Washington Post. Meg talked to the Post Magazine editor about it and he assigned Peter Carlson to do a story about Oxford House in the Washington Post Magazine. That story published in November 1989 provided another catalyst for Oxford House expansion. Peter's article, "*The Oxford House Experiment*", is reprinted for this convention and Peter will share his experience traveling with the Oxford House gang to get Riley Regan and other New Jersey leaders to try Oxford Houses in that state.

Riley already knew about the first Oxford House in Silver Spring and was an easy sell for getting houses going in New Jersey. He also shared with other state directors of alcohol and drug agencies his favorable impression of Oxford Houses. Despite strong state support, the first five Oxford Houses in New Jersey all resulted in NIMBY litigation and that is where the 1988 Amendments to the Fair Housing Act came into play. Those amendments broadened the scope of that law to prohibit discrimination of 'handicap'

individuals. Oxford House believed that its residents should be treated exactly the same as an ordinary family renting a single family house in any neighborhood. Unfortunately, in city after city, the local government would attempt to enforce zoning laws that restricted the best section of town to biological families or to no more than three unrelated adults. Fortunately, the US Supreme Court agreed with Oxford House in its decision in the case *City of Edmonds, WA v. Oxford House, Inc.* 514 US 725 (1995) and held that local jurisdictions had to make a reasonable accommodation in restrictive zoning laws. NIMBY problems still arise but the Fair Housing Act protections against discrimination are an effective shield. Oxford House residents continue to move into good neighborhoods and demonstrate over and over that they are good neighbors.

In 1991, Meredith Vieira led a CBS “60 Minutes” segment about Oxford Houses. The millions who watched the program included Leonard Jason, a PhD at DePaul University in Chicago. The program motivated Dr. Jason to apply for NIDA and NIAAA grants to study Oxford House. He has studied the Oxford House programs and its residents for more than 20 years and has published hundreds of learned articles showing Oxford House success.

More recently, since 2011, the Federal government has listed Oxford House as a best practice on the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices [NREPP]. It is the only recovery house program so recognized. Now, in its fortieth year, Oxford House is doing well.

As I look forward beyond 40 years, I envision many more years of expanding the program and helping many more recovering alcoholics and drug addicts achieve comfortable sobriety without relapse. At this 40th Anniversary Convention every resident and alumni of Oxford House should take great pride in how far we’ve come, but also realize that the need for more Oxford Houses is great. More than 25 million of our fellow Americans suffer from alcoholism, drug addiction and co-occurring mental illness and we need to expand to enable more people to benefit from Oxford House living.

More growth will create new challenges but I believe that we can conquer them. With growth comes the necessity of more OHI staff – in outreach so as to bring the program to more areas and in the central office to stay on top of the general administrative, legal, informational and policy matters. However, we must always stay focused on the basics – trust that the inmates can run the asylum, an emphasis on people, not property, and a disciplined system of operations. We may need more people but we don’t need more rules. The Charter conditions say it all and Oxford House residents are the experts in knowing how to live by the Charter conditions and the Oxford House Manual.

Enjoy the convention. You will have an opportunity to learn a great deal about Oxford House, about substance abuse, about criminal justice and reentry programs, and bedbugs. You’ll have lots of opportunity to socialize and meet many new friends from around the country. There is much you can teach them and much they can learn from you. Explore all these possibilities. Enjoy the convention and learn from the twenty expert panels and four informative General Sessions. Make new friends, elect new members to the World Council and get to know the ever-growing Oxford House family. Celebrate the past and think big for the future. Most of all, keep coming back!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

September 3, 2015

17th Annual Oxford House Convention

Washington Hilton Hotel
Washington, DC

September 3 – 6, 2015

Thursday, September 3, 2015

Annual Oxford House Golf Tournament

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Bowie Country Club

This is the Seventeenth Annual Oxford House Golf Tournament and will be held at the Bowie Country Club. It is held in conjunction with the annual World Convention both for the enjoyment of the participants and to underscore the benefits of sobriety. The fee will include lunch and awards. **Transportation to and from the tournament will be available.** Check with James McClain or Mark Spence for meeting places and times.

Registration

Lobby outside the International Ballroom

10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Thursday, Friday and Saturday

Women's Pre-Conference

3:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Jefferson East and West

World Council Meeting

8:00 PM – 10:00 PM
Lincoln East (LE)

AA and NA Meetings

- AA meeting
- NA meeting

10:00 PM – 11:00 PM
Georgetown West (GW)
Georgetown East (GE)

HINTS FOR GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE CONVENTION

1. Attend as many sessions as you can.
2. Participate in the election of World Council members.
3. Go to different breakout sessions. Members of the same House or Chapter should split up.
4. Get to know folks from other states to extend you Oxford House family.
5. Enjoy your sobriety. Learn and have fun at the convention.

Friday, September 4, 2015

Continental Breakfast

7:00 A.M. – 8:15 AM

OPENING GENERAL SESSION

8:00 AM – 9:45 AM
International Ballroom

Welcome

An invocation by Deacon Ron Ealey opens the 17th Annual Oxford House World Convention. Welcoming remarks will be followed by OHI Board Member James McClain explaining the Oxford House World Council election process. Kathleen Gibson and Paul Molloy will also welcome the attendees and provide an overview of the convention.

Opening Keynote Address – H. Westley Clark, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., CAS and FASAM

Dr. Westley Clark will be making his 11th presentation at an Oxford House convention, where Oxford House audiences always enthusiastically receive his remarks. He recently retired after 16 years at SAMHSA as Director of the Center on Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) and is currently serving as Dean's Executive Professor in the Public Health Program at Santa Clara University.



Dr. Clark's professional life is one marked by non-stop accomplishments and accolades. His long and distinguished career has had significant impacts on the research, practice, policies and programs in the treatment of substance use disorders. He is a graduate of the chemistry program at Detroit's Wayne State University, the University of Michigan Schools of Medicine and Public Health, and Harvard Law School. He also completed a two-year Substance Abuse Fellowship at the Department of Veteran Affairs Medical Center in San Francisco, where he served as Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry, of the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF).

Over his many years in the field, Dr. Clark has observed the change from the focus on acute care to one that emphasizes long-term recovery. His support of Oxford House and its message of the possibility of long-term recovery without relapse is exemplified by his attendance at most of our annual conventions – whether in Washington or places like Wichita. In 2009, Oxford House presented Dr. Clark its coveted Tom Fellows award.

FIRST BREAKOUT PANELS

Veterans and Oxford Houses
Civil Rights and the Law
Oxford House and State Agencies
Working with Treatment Providers

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

International Ballroom
Jefferson West (JW)
Jefferson East (JE)
Lincoln West (LW)

SECOND BREAKOUT PANELS

The Opioid Epidemic and Dealing with Overdoses
Leadership v. 'Bossism' – Promoting and Practicing Participatory Democracy
Involving Alumni – Forming Local Alumni Associations
Overview of Current Research and Upcoming Studies

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM

International Ballroom
Jefferson West (JW)
Jefferson East (JE)
Lincoln West (LW)

Lunch on your own - Grab something to eat and hit an AA meeting (Georgetown West) or an NA meeting (Georgetown East) or go to the Veterans Meeting (See below). GET WORLD COUNCIL NOMINATING PETITIONS IN BY 1 PM.

Veterans Meeting

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Lincoln East (LE)

All veterans in attendance at the convention are urged to attend this lunchtime Veterans Meeting. Joe Chavez, a former Marine, will lead the meeting. The meeting will build on the material discussed in the 10:00 breakout panel but the main focus will be to talk about specific things that veterans in Oxford House can do over the next year to inform other veterans, veterans' organizations and VA facilities about the Oxford House program.

Keynote Panel:

Recovery and Re-entry from Incarceration: Policy Views and Personal Experiences

Panelists:	Ryan King	Senior Fellow, Justice Policy Center, Urban Institute, DC
	Kurtis Taylor	Oxford House Alumnus and Outreach Worker, NC
	Dan Hahn	Oxford House Alumnus and Outreach Worker, OK
	Noe Soriano	Oxford House Alumnus, CA
	Judy Maxwell	Oxford House Alumna and Outreach Worker, WA and OR
	Marty Walker	Oxford House Alumnus and Outreach Worker, TN

Moderator: David Patton Executive Director and Attorney-in-Chief of the Federal Defenders of New York

This special recovery and reentry panel is made up of a mix of individuals very familiar with the criminal justice system from different vantage points. Five of the panelists are Oxford House alumni who have all experienced incarceration and worked with reentry programs and individuals entering Oxford Houses from incarceration. They are at the forefront of reaching out to help others leaving incarceration to get settled in an Oxford House and avoid recidivism into either addiction or crime. They will also note that about three-quarters of Oxford House residents have been in jail or prison – some for a day or so; others for many years. Ryan King, a noted researcher on criminal justice issues, is highly knowledgeable about the current policy debate on criminal justice reform and David Patton, the moderator is an experienced criminal defense litigator, academic and author. The different perspectives of the seven participants should make for a highly informative and lively discussion.

David Patton has been the Executive Director and Attorney-in-Chief of the Federal Defenders of New York since July 2011. Previously, he worked at the Federal Defenders as a trial attorney in the Manhattan office. He currently teaches Professional Responsibility in Criminal Law N.Y.U. Law School and has taught at the University of Alabama Law School and Stanford Law School. Mr. Patton is also on the faculty of Gideon's Promise, a non-profit training new public defenders.



Among other publications, he is the author of *Federal Public Defense in an Age of Inquisition*, 122 Yale L.J. 100 (2013) and *Guns, Crime Control, and a Systemic Approach to Federal Sentencing*, 32 Cardozo L. Rev. 1427 (2011). His article in the Yale Law Journal has sparked debate around the consequences of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court Case *Gideon v. Wainwright* 372 U.S. 355 (1963), a landmark case, which held that criminal defendants are entitled to be represented by competent counsel.

David and his colleagues work in one of the most active defender offices in the United States. He is often a speaker before legislative hearings and international conferences about trial tactics and appeals.

Ryan King is a senior fellow in the Justice Policy Center at the Urban Institute, where he works on sentencing and corrections issues with a focus on mass incarceration. His objective is to produce high-quality empirical research on the impact of sentencing and corrections policies at the state and federal level; and to work with policymakers, practitioners, and community advocates to identify strategies that assist in the pursuit of a fair, effective, and rational criminal justice system.



King's research has appeared in *Criminology & Public Policy* and the *Federal Sentencing Reporter*. He has a BA in anthropology from the University of Pittsburgh and an MS in justice, law, and society from American University. Recently the New York Times used Ryan's work for a detailed description of the current prison population and the likely effects of various changes in sentencing guidelines.

Friday, September 4, 2015 (cont.)

World Council Candidates Present 3-Minute Election Speeches

The Oxford House World Council is an advisory council made up of Oxford House residents and alumni who serve staggered three-year terms. Each year at the convention, residents and alumni vie for open seats on the World Council. They circulate campaign material and make three-minute campaign speeches on Friday afternoon. Votes are counted on Saturday and the new members are introduced at the Saturday afternoon General Session.

Friday Evening Dinner, Awards and Panel Discussion

6:00 PM

- Invocation Msgr. Joaquin Bazan
- Board Member Remarks and Presentation of Directors' 100-Year Awards OHI Board Chair Jerry Conlon, along with Board Members Bill Newman, James McClain and Ken Hoffman, M.D.
- Buffet Dinner followed by Special General Session

SPECIAL GENERAL SESSION

Panel Discussion – The Early Years of Oxford House

Panelists: Paul Molloy, J.D. Oxford House Co-Founder and CEO
Myrna Brown Oxford House Alumna and Former Outreach Worker
James McClain Oxford House Alumnus and Member of OHI Board of Directors
Steve Polin, J.D. Oxford House Alumnus and Oxford House General Counsel
Mark Spence Oxford House Alumnus and Outreach Worker

Moderator: Peter Carlson Book Author and Author of the 1989 Washington Post Oxford House Article

The panel, consisting of one of the Oxford House founders and some other early Oxford House residents, will discuss the history of Oxford House and their experiences in it. They will focus on some of the early stories and also on the lessons they learned about Oxford House living that continues to be valuable to residents today. When Oxford House



was started, it was an untested system and much of the early work was trial and error. Over time, the system of operation evolved into what it is today; a highly effective recovery-housing program that owes its main success to the notion that “the inmates can run the asylum.” As a founder, Paul was there from Oxford House’s beginning in 1975; James came into Oxford House in 1982, Steve came in 1986, Mark came in 1988 and Myrna arrived in 1990.

Peter Carlson learned about Oxford House in 1989 when he was assigned to write a story about it for the Washington Post Magazine entitled, *The Oxford House Experiment*, (A copy of the article is in your convention packet – read it, it’s still pretty good!) In preparation for writing the article, Peter traveled with Steve and Paul as they undertook one of their treks to sell the Oxford House system to others. Peter will interview the panelists and also discuss his own reactions to his exposure to Oxford House and its people.

Peter is a journalist and author. He has worked at the *Boston Herald American*, *People* magazine and at *The Washington Post*, where he spent 22 years before taking early retirement to pursue his own writing. He has published several books and writes a regular column in *American History* magazine.

Oxford House – Celebrating 40 Years

Saturday, September 5, 2015

Continental Breakfast

7:00 AM – 8:30 AM
International Ballroom

THIRD BREAKOUT PANELS

Oxford House Traditions – Still Applicable After 40 Years
Brainstorming with Researchers – Recovery Topics Residents and Alumni Want
The Importance of Fun in Recovery – Tips from Residents and Alumni
Housekeeping Issues (Like Bedbugs) and How to Deal With Them

8:15 AM – 9:30 AM
International Ballroom
Jefferson West (JW)
Jefferson East (JE)
Lincoln West (LW)

FOURTH BREAKOUT PANELS

Medication in Oxford Houses
Drug Courts and Oxford House
Networking to Foster Employment and Continued Education
The Three R's: Recovery, Responsibility and Replication

9:45 AM – 11:00 AM
International Ballroom
Jefferson West (JW)
Jefferson East (JE)
Lincoln West (LW)

Remember to Vote for World Council Nominees Before Noon!

FIFTH BREAKOUT PANELS

Technology in Oxford Houses – Using Email and Social Media for Networking
Oxford Houses with Children
Health Issues in Oxford Houses (e.g., HIV, Hepatitis C)
World Council Update

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM
International Ballroom
Jefferson West (JW)
Jefferson East (JE)
Lincoln West (LW)

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

Lunch on your own – Immediate area has lots of places to eat in or carry out. Grab something to eat and hit an AA meeting in Georgetown West (GW) or an NA meeting in Georgetown East (GE) or go nearby to the Alumni Lunch.

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

Alumni Lunch [Tickets at World Council Desk: \$25 per person]

12:30-1:45 PM

THIRD GENERAL SESSION

2:00 PM – 4:15 PM
International Ballroom

Keynote Address:

Stuart Gitlow, M.D., President, American Society for Addiction Medicine (ASAM)

Stuart Gitlow, MD, MPH, MBA, is the Executive Director of the Annenberg Physician Training Program in Addictive Disease, which he started in 2005 to ensure medical student access to training that stimulates them to develop and



maintain interest in working with patients with addiction. He serves as Chair of the AMA's Council on Science and Public Health. Dr. Gitlow is the President of the American Society of Addiction Medicine, and serves as ASAM's delegate to the AMA. Board certified in general, addiction, and forensic psychiatry, Dr. Gitlow has an active addiction medicine practice.

A graduate of MIT and the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Dr. Gitlow's psychiatric and public health training took place in Pittsburgh, following which he went to Harvard for his forensic fellowship. He now divides his time between his clinical practice in New England and his academic work in New York City; he is on faculty at both Dartmouth and Mount Sinai. Dr. Gitlow formerly produced both Health Channel and ABC programming at America Online.

- **Announcement and Introduction of New World Council Members**
- **Discussion and Vote on Convention Resolutions – including the selection of a site for the 2016 Convention**

Saturday, September 5, 2015 (cont.)

Banquet

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
International Ballroom

Invocation

Reverend David Swann, Salvation Army ARC,
Bladensburg, MD

Presentation of Awards

Kathleen Gibson

- Reggie Midget Award
- Founder's Awards
- Tom Fellows Award

Recovery Speaker: Tom Coderre

A recovering cocaine addict himself, Tom Coderre is well known in the addiction recovery community. He is a Senior Advisor to the Administrator of SAMHSA and, among other tasks, he will be advising the Acting Director of CSAT during the search and transition of a director to replace Dr. Westley Clark (a hard act to follow). Mr. Coderre served as the Board Chair for Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICARES), and he is the former National Field Director of Faces & Voices of Recovery. Mr. Coderre has an extensive background in government and served in the Rhode Island Senate from 1995-2003. He is a graduate of Rhode Island College where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Political Science.



Mr. Coderre is the recipient of many awards and honors for his service including the 2007 Path to Recovery Award from A New Path, the 2009 National Advocate of the Year award from RICARES, the 2011 Community Awareness Award from the Foundation for Recovery, the 2012 James H. Ottmar Award from the RI Council on

Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependence and the 2013 Vernon Johnson Award from Faces & Voices of Recovery. He is a passionate advocate and committed public servant.

Dance

9:00 PM – Midnight
International Ballroom

Sunday, September 6, 2015

Continental Breakfast

7:00 AM – 8:30 AM

CLOSING GENERAL SESSION

8:15 AM to 10:00 AM
International Ballroom

- Convention Summary
- Remembrance Of Those Who Have Died
- Tradition Renewal and Closing

Paul Molloy
Oxford House Residents and Alumni
Kathleen Gibson



"Under the dedicated, tireless leadership of Kathleen Gibson, the entire Oxford House staff has done a wonderful job of carrying out the hard work of organizing this 17th Annual Oxford House World Convention.

May the things we have learned and the new friends we have made at this convention speed us on the way to making the 41st year of Oxford House one of great expansion. May that expansion be great enough to give every alcoholic, drug addict or person with co-occurring mental illness the opportunity to benefit from living in an Oxford House!"

Paul Molloy, a grateful Oxford House alumnus

SUMMARY OF ALL BREAKOUT PANELS

FIRST BREAKOUT PANELS

Friday 10:00-11:00 AM

Veterans and Oxford Houses

International Ballroom (IB)

Friday 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Panelists: Ken Hoffman, M.D. Chief Medical Officer, US Department of State
Joe Chavez Oxford House Outreach, HI
Arthur Wright Oxford House Resident, DC
Michael Kornell Oxford House Outreach, WA

Moderator: Laura Johnson Oxford House Outreach, OK

About 20% of the nearly 12,000 residents in the national network of Oxford Houses are veterans. Oxford Houses could play a significant role in providing recovery housing for many veterans, including those in recovery who also have PTSD. This panel will discuss how to build better bridges between returning and older veterans in recovery from substance abuse. It will focus on particular problems faced by veterans in recovery and discuss the benefits of living in an Oxford House. The panel will also consider ways by which individual Oxford Houses can reach out to VA programs and to veterans in VA Hospitals and the Veterans' Domiciliary Program.

Dr. Hoffman, a psychiatrist, is a retired U. S. Army Colonel who currently oversees health services at the State Department. Joe Chavez, a former Marine, is the Oxford House Coordinator in the State of Hawaii. Arthur Wright served in the Navy and now lives in an Oxford House in DC. Michael Kornell, an Oxford House outreach worker in Washington State, served in the Navy as did Laura Johnson, an Oxford House outreach worker in Oklahoma.

Civil Rights and the Law

Jefferson West (JW)

Friday 10 AM – 11:00 AM

Panelists: Steve Polin, J.D. General Counsel, Oxford House, Inc.
Peter Romer-Friedman, J.D. Deputy Director of Litigation,
Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
Greg Heafner, J.D. Attorney, Chapel Hill, NC

Moderator: Blair Tinkle, J.D. Oxford House World Services

From its establishment in 1975, Oxford House has sought good houses to rent in good neighborhoods. Until the 1988 Amendments to the Federal Fair Housing Act, zoning laws kept group homes out of the better residential neighborhoods. Oxford House served as the trailblazer in seeking court definition and affirmation of the 1988 Amendments to the Federal FHA, including the US Supreme Court decision in *City of Edmonds, WA v. Oxford House, Inc.* decided in 1995. In spite of that favorable decision, some localities continue to try to avoid accommodating Oxford House residents and Oxford House, Inc. continues to challenge these barriers in court.

This panel will discuss the current state of the law and how Oxford House has successfully applied the law to thwart insurance companies that try to discriminate against landlords renting to Oxford House as well as jurisdictions that dream up new tactics to continue NIMBY discrimination. It will also relate the topic to the convention theme and discuss the legal challenges over the past 40 years and how Oxford House has countered them.

Steve Polin, an alumnus of Oxford House, is a leading lawyer in the nation with respect to application of the Federal Fair Housing Act to protect rights of individuals with disabilities. He has coordinated most of the Oxford House. Peter Romer-Friedman, an attorney with the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights is experienced in Fair Housing and other antidiscrimination litigation and will discuss his group's longstanding battles and its support for Oxford House. Greg Heafner, an Oxford House alumnus, is an attorney in Chapel Hill and has represented Oxford House in Fair Housing Act cases. Blair Tinkle, the moderator, is an attorney on the staff of Oxford House, Inc.

Oxford House and State Agencies

Jefferson East (JE)

Friday 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Panelists:	Linda McKorkle	Director, Treatment and Recovery Services, Dept. of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, TN
	Angela Harper	Supportive Housing Specialist, Dept. of HHS, NC
	Philander Moore	Texas Department of State Health Services, TX
	Julie Cole, LMSW, CACII, NCACI	Project Coordinator, SC DAODAS, SC
	Julie Truitt, MPA, CSAC, CCJP	Program Administration Specialist, OSAS, DBHDS, VA
Moderator:	Steven: Dettwyler, Ph. D.	Director of Community Mental Health and Addiction Services Delaware Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Expansion of the Oxford House network of houses has occurred fastest where Oxford House has a close working relationship with the state agency. Expansion is particularly strong where a state has financially supported both a start-up revolving loan fund and on-site technical assistance. This panel will discuss whether state agencies are fully utilizing Oxford House as a cost-effective best practice for promoting long-term recovery without relapse and, if not, what should Oxford House, Inc. (or other State agencies) be doing to encourage greater support. Does the fact that Oxford House is listed on the National Registry of Evidence-based Practices and Procedures matter? Should long-term sobriety be the measure of treatment success? From the standpoint of state agencies, what could Oxford House be doing better to increase support? To what extent do NIMBY issues and occasional overdose incidents and deaths discourage state support?

All of the panelists and the moderator work in state agencies that foster development of networks of self-run, self-supported Oxford Houses. They are each in a good position to assess the working relationship and suggest ways in which it is effective and ways it might be improved.

Working with Treatment Providers

Lincoln West (LW)

Friday 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Panelists:	Deborah Taylor	President and CEO, Phoenix House Mid-Atlantic, VA
	Jeff Hunt	Oxford House Outreach, NM
	Betsy Niemann	Involuntary Treatment Specialist and Treatment Coordinator, WA
	Johnny W. Allem, M.A.	President, Aquila Recovery Clinic, DC
	Mary Aldred-Crouch, LICSW, CCAC	Director of Clinical Development & Addiction Services Starlight Behavioral Health Services, WV
	Christie Edwards, MS, LPC, LCAS, CSI	MHSU-Clinician-Manager Trillium Health, NC
Moderator:	Ed Smith	Oxford House Outreach, OR

Most individuals recovering from alcoholism or drug addiction initially go through formal treatment programs. For many individuals, the time allowed for residency in formal programs is an insufficient base for sustained long-term recovery. Individuals who get into an Oxford House following formal treatment are generally more likely to achieve successful long-term recovery than if they go directly back to the community after treatment. Some treatment programs encourage clients to go to Oxford House following treatment and they have found that clients who do so tend to avoid relapse.

The panelists will discuss how treatment programs and Oxford Houses can work together to support long-term recovery without relapse. In particular they will also discuss what treatment programs can do to foster the expansion of Oxford Houses through their own sponsorship of Oxford Houses or other means, and also what Oxford House residents can do to establish and foster good working relationships with treatment providers. The panelists will also discuss the need for getting good vacancy information.

SECOND BREAKOUT PANELS

Friday 11:15 AM -12:30 PM

The Opioid Epidemic and Dealing with Overdoses

International Ballroom (IB)

Friday 11:15 AM -12:30 PM

Panelists:	Stuart Gitlow, M. D. Ken Hoffman, M. D. Christine Scalise (NJ)	President, American Society of Addiction Medicine Medical Director, U. S. Department of State Manager, Special Populations, Trauma-Informed, Women and Families Unit. MHAS, NJ DHS
	Robert Lubran, MS, MPA Sean Hughes	Director, Division of Pharmacologic Therapies, CSAT Oxford House Outreach, WV
Moderator:	George Kent	Oxford House Outreach, NJ

The current opioid epidemic is a major concern in Oxford Houses. Most Oxford House residents stay clean and sober but occasionally residents will relapse. A relapse involving opioids, such as heroin, are more difficult to pick up than relapses into alcohol, cocaine or many other drugs. Sometimes a person relapsing on opioids simply goes to bed, falls asleep and does not wake up. Relapse always requires immediate expulsion but the opioid overdoses can be fatal and residents should be aware of their occurrence and what action should be taken if a resident is believed to have overdosed. Once the immediate crisis is over, residents can move on to expulsion.

This panel will discuss the opioid epidemic, where it's most prevalent, how to recognize overdoses and what actions Oxford House residents should take to respond to a possible overdose by a resident. Narcan (Naloxone) and other antidotes can save the life of an opioid abuser who has overdosed. All House members should know the signs and what to do in the event of a relapse/overdose. The panel consists of medical experts, a CSAT/SAMHSA representative, a state drug agency manager and an outreach worker who has dealt with affected communities.

Leadership versus 'Bossism' Promoting and Practicing Participatory Democracy in Houses and Chapters

Jefferson West (JW)

Friday 11:15 AM -12:30 PM

Panelists:	Marty Walker Lori Holzclaw De Wallace Will Madison	Oxford House Outreach, TN Oxford House Outreach, LA and MS Oxford House Outreach, NJ Oxford House Outreach, NC
Moderator:	Eric Heber	Oxford House Outreach, MI

The traditional halfway house that led to the formation of Oxford House was beset by an adversarial "we versus them" culture that often pitted the residents against the authority figures in the house. The "we versus them" culture detracts from the culture of recovery. Early on, Oxford House recognized that an egalitarian, democratic culture could alleviate the "we versus them" culture and keep the focus on the achievement of comfortable recovery.

One of the biggest challenges faced by Oxford House residents – now and in its earliest days – is fostering democracy in Houses and in Chapters. The system is purposely 'rigged' to foster democracy by its emphasis on House meetings, election of officers, and the equal sharing of expenses. In the very first Oxford House, the residents were concerned that Paul might become the 'big boss' if they didn't circumvent it and the manual was written to establish a system where democracy would prevail. It's important in all Oxford Houses and Chapters that everyone be treated equally; by establishing term limits on House officers, everyone has the chance to rise to the occasion, accept responsibility, learn leadership and strengthen sobriety. It's also important that Oxford House outreach workers serve as resource persons, teaching residents how the Oxford House system works but letting residents do the work themselves.

The panelists are all experienced Oxford House alumni and outreach workers. They will discuss how they and others have dealt with 'bossism' issues and suggest ways in which residents and alumni can guard against such behavior.

Involving Alumni – Forming Local Alumni Associations

Jefferson East (JE)

Friday 11:15 AM -12:30 PM

Panelists: John Summers Oxford House Resident, Wichita, KS
Wendall Graham Oxford House Resident, Tulsa, OK
Hamilton Barton Oxford House Resident, San Antonio, TX

Moderator: Amber McKinney Chair, Oxford House World Council

Every year, many residents leave their Oxford House and begin living independently. Oxford House, Inc. and individual Oxford Houses, Chapters and State Associations need to do a better job of staying in touch with alumni who leave in good standing and help keep them involved in Oxford House. Tradition Nine, the final Oxford House Tradition, tries to set the proper tone but alone it falls short. Residents, individual Houses, Chapters and State Associations need to do more to motivate alumni to stay involved and suggest ways in which they can be helpful.

The panelists have experience in creating alumni groups and maintaining contact with them. They will talk about how they've done it; how alumni have stayed involved in their areas and also provide tips on how others can create similar alumni networks. Alumni can play a strong role in spreading the word about Oxford House and can take on other roles. They can share their strength and experience with current residents but they should avoid overreaching and taking on responsibilities that belong to House residents.

Amber McKinney and other World Council members have also done a good job reaching out and working with alumni to keep them involved with Oxford House.

Overview of Current Research and Upcoming Studies

Lincoln West (LW)

Friday 11:15 AM -12:30 PM

Panelists: Doug Polcin, Ed.D; M.S. Senior Scientist, Alcohol Research Group
Public Health Institute, CA
Leonard Jason, Ph. D. Director, Center for Community Research, DePaul University
John Majer, Ph. D. Researcher and Clinical Psychology Professor
Truman College, Chicago, IL

Moderator: Gene McVae Oxford House Outreach, OR

The panelists will discuss recovery research with particular emphasis on studies involving Oxford House residents. Over the years there has been an enormous amount of research done on the Oxford House program and on Oxford House residents. The large body of data about Oxford House and its successful outcomes led the federal government to list Oxford House as a best practice on SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-based programs and Practices (NREPP). Oxford House, Inc. and Oxford House residents have been in the forefront of fostering recovery research. Recovery research was long hampered by the historic focus on anonymity by 12-Step groups. While anonymity has its purposes, it has also had the effect of limiting research on recovery and determining more definitively what works and what doesn't.

Each of the panelists has done significant work in the field of recovery research and will share their thoughts. Lenny Jason and his dedicated team at DePaul University Community Research Center have studied Oxford House since 1991. Doug Polcin has studied the Oxford House Model and is a leading expert on sober living homes in California. He is familiar with the differences between Oxford House and the various types of California sober living homes. John Majer has done a number of studies on Oxford House living and the recovery process in general. Their work has published in peer-reviewed articles in various professional journals. Gene McVae, the moderator and an Oxford House outreach worker in Oregon, is not only working with Oregon Oxford Houses but he is also working to bring the Oxford House Model to California.

THIRD BREAKOUT PANELS

Saturday, 8:15-9:30 AM

Oxford House Traditions – Still Applicable After 40 Years

International Ballroom (IB)

Saturday, 8:15-9:30 AM

Panelists: Paul Stevens Oxford House Outreach Coordinator, VA, DC and MD
Myrna Brown Oxford House Alumna, WA
James McClain Oxford House Alumnus and OHI Board Member
Eric Heber Oxford House Outreach (MS) and former World Council Chair

Moderator: Paul Molloy, J.D. Founder and CEO, Oxford House, Inc.

The nine Oxford House Traditions form the core of the Oxford House philosophy and structure. The Traditions were a part of the original Oxford House Manual© that was written within weeks of the formation of the first Oxford House in 1975. How was it possible to have “instant traditions”? It was possible because, by 1975, Alcoholics Anonymous [AA] was celebrating its 40th anniversary – just as Oxford House is today – and everyone believed that what had been good for AA would be good for this new recovery movement called Oxford House. By chance, and some humility, the Oxford House founders limited the Oxford House Traditions to nine rather than the twelve developed by AA. The nine Traditions gave the Oxford House a sense of gravity and direction right from its beginning. Overall, the traditions have played an important role in keeping Oxford House residents focused on recovery and living together in a way that promotes recovery that is comfortable and strong enough to avoid relapse.

The members of the panel, a mix of some early Oxford Houses residents and some more recent residents, will discuss the Traditions and examine how they have been useful in promoting the Oxford House concept and helping to keep Houses on track. Specifically, they will examine each tradition and discuss the way each particular tradition helped the Oxford Houses they had lived in and also the importance of each tradition to the future of the Oxford House movement.

Brainstorming with Researchers Recovery Topics Residents and Alumni Would Like to See Studied

Jefferson West (JW)

Saturday, 8:15-9:30 AM

Panelists: John Majer, Ph. D. Researcher and Clinical Psychology Professor
Truman College, Chicago, IL
Doug Polcin, Ph. D. Senior Scientist, Alcohol Research Group
Public Health Institute, CA
Lenny Jason, Ph. D. Director, Center for Community Research, DePaul University, IL
Chris Beasley, Ph. D. Assistant Professor, Washington College, MD

Moderator: Thomasina Borkman, Ph. D. Professor Emerita, Sociology, George Mason University, VA

The members of the panel are all researchers who are very familiar with recovery research and who have conducted much of it themselves – and continue to do so. Convention participants will have the opportunity at the panel to submit possible research topics and questions to the researchers in writing and the moderator will sort the questions and comments and have the panelists discuss them. It will be an opportunity to discuss why particular topics might be of interest to the recovery community and others or to suggest some aspects of Oxford House living that might be considered to be good topics for research, and raise other issues. The panelists will have the opportunity to discuss the pros and cons of various topics raised, explain something about the research process and cost – particularly as it applies to longitudinal research (following the same people over time). If time permits, the panel will take questions from the audience. The panelists are all distinguished researchers and academics in the behavioral sciences.

The Importance of Having Fun in Recovery Tips and Strategies from Residents and Alumni

Jefferson East (JE)

Saturday, 8:15-9:30 AM

Panelists:	Marty Walker Elizabeth Lewis Anna Mable Jones Stacie Hatfield	Oxford House Outreach, TN Oxford House Outreach, MS Oxford House Alumna, DC Oxford House Outreach, WA
Moderator:	Keith Gibson	Oxford House Outreach, NC

Oxford House CEO Paul Molloy has long said that, “If recovery isn’t as much fun as drinking, or using drugs, why stay clean and sober?” Many Oxford Houses and Oxford House Chapters take that admonition to heart and make sure that they find ways to encourage fun in recovery. Houses and Chapters should emphasize attraction rather than enforcement; sometimes that’s hard but it’s worth it.

Among the types of activities some Houses and Chapters undertake are: picnics, fishing trips, retreats, softball teams and tournaments, cookouts, spaghetti dinners, pancake breakfasts and bowling. Many Houses and Chapters emphasize these activities during Recovery Month in particular. Chapters frequently use these types of activities to encourage Houses to be members of the Chapter and demonstrate their value. Chapter membership, of course, is voluntary.

The panelists will discuss various ways Houses and Chapters have gotten together to host social gatherings and promote fellowship among residents and alumni in addition to using the democratic, disciplined system of house operation to master self-confidence, sobriety and living a comfortable life without booze and drugs.

Housekeeping Issues (Like Bedbugs) and How to Deal With Them

Lincoln West (LW)

Saturday, 8:15-9:30 AM

Panelists:	Gino Pugliese Dan Hahn Jeff Hunt Misty Wilkins Will Madison	Oxford House Outreach, WA Oxford House Outreach, OK Oxford House Outreach, NM Oxford House Outreach, NC Oxford House Outreach, NC
Moderator:	John Fox	Oxford House Outreach Regional Manager Coordinator. NC, WV, NJ, DEL, SC, TN

While Oxford House residents focus on recovery, they also have to deal with more mundane housekeeping issues. These issues need to be resolved by House members in constructive and effective ways. The panelists, all of whom are Oxford House outreach workers and alumni, will discuss some of the housekeeping issues they’ve dealt with as residents and as outreach workers.

One of the more difficult – and costly – housekeeping issues faced by Oxford Houses today involves bedbugs. It’s an issue that has been dealt with successfully by some Oxford Houses and the panel will discuss typical sources of infestation and what Oxford Houses should do to prevent infestation – and to clean it up if it happens. Prevention is by far the best solution as eradication can be very costly. Panel members who have dealt with bedbug problems will identify what they have learned about prevention and eradication.

FOURTH BREAKOUT PANELS

Saturday 9:45-11:00 AM

Medication in Oxford House

International Ballroom

Saturday 9:45-11:00 AM

Panelists: Ken Hoffman, M.D. Medical Director, U. S. Department of State
Stuart Gitlow, M. D. President, American Society of Addiction Medicine
De Wallace Oxford House Outreach, NJ
Paula Harrington Oxford House Outreach, NC

Moderator: Kurtis Taylor Oxford House Outreach, NC

Recovering alcoholics and drug addicts enter Oxford House with a clear understanding that a condition of residence is to stay clean and sober. About half of the residents of Oxford House may also have a mental health disorder that requires medication to control. Medication for some maladies is not only consistent with the clean and sober bedrock of Oxford House but is also essential to maintain the health of the resident. However, some medications have many of the characteristics of alcohol or mood-altering drugs that can trigger relapse either for the user or others in the house. This panel will sort through the medications that fit within an Oxford House environment and those that undermine the alcohol and drug free foundation for Oxford House living.

The panelists will discuss the use and misuse of medicines within an Oxford House. Some medications are not permitted because they may be illicit or cause mood-changing behavior and be addictive. On the other hand, some medicines are correctly prescribed and may be necessary for controlling serious mental illness or making a transition from addictive use to comfortable sobriety. The panel will consider how such situations are handled and steps taken by various houses to assure that the person with the prescription or others in the house do not misuse legitimate medication. Understanding different medications, their use and abuse is the first step to knowing how an individual Oxford House should monitor and control the presence of drugs within Oxford Houses.

Drug Courts and Oxford House

Jefferson West (JW)

Saturday 9:45-11:00 AM

Panelists: Nelson W. Rupp, Jr., J.D. Presiding Judge, Adult Drug Treatment Court,
Montgomery County, MD
Hon. Arthur L. Burnett, Sr. National Executive Director,
National African-American Drug Policy Coalition
Adam Branham Oxford House Outreach, SC
Kristine A. Biermann Oxford House Outreach, NJ
Corey Robbins Oxford House Resident and Drug Court Alumnus, OR

Moderator: George Kent Oxford House Outreach, NJ

In 1990, there were only one or two drug courts in the country. Today there are thousands. The practice and theory of drug courts is that it is better to route alcoholics and drug addicts into treatment than send them to jail. Drug court judges have found that drug court participants tend to do much better if they live in an Oxford House. Not only does such intervention motivate clients to begin to master the recovery process, it also saves taxpayers the costs of incarceration and recidivism. Oxford House is a natural partner of drug courts. Many drug court judges have found that their clients do better in an Oxford House than returning to neighborhoods. Many Oxford House residents are drug court clients; e.g., in June, 2015, 162 New Jersey Oxford House residents (about 20% of the total NJ Oxford House residents at that time) were drug court clients.

The panelists include Nelson Rupp, a sitting drug court judge familiar with Oxford House; Judge Burnett, an early advocate of drug courts and an Oxford House supporter; and Oxford House residents and alumni who have worked with drug courts or been drug court clients. The panel will also discuss how Oxford Houses can help drug court clients and meet the expectations of drug courts working with Oxford Houses.

Networking among Residents and Alumni to Foster Employment and Continued Education

Jefferson East (JE)

Saturday 9:45-11:00 AM

Panelists:	Karen McKinnon	Oxford House Outreach, NC
	Eric Heber	Oxford House Outreach, LA
	Noe Gonzales	Oxford House Outreach, TX
	Brooke Gower	Oxford House Outreach, VA
	Terry Ogle	Oxford House Outreach, OK
Moderator:	Dan Hahn	Oxford House Outreach, OK

From Elliott Liebow’s “Tally’s Corner” to Robert D. Putnam’s “Bowling Alone,” sociologists have been focused on community networks. While today’s sociologists may lament the demise of community and social networks, Oxford House residents create social networks that work. Oxford House residents help each other attain long-term sobriety and also serve as social and employment networks. It’s in the interest of all House residents to see that everyone in the House has a job so as to pay an equal share of expenses and they help residents find jobs. Furthermore, residents who have educational achievements, or are pursuing them, provide guidance to residents who may be interested in doing the same. Residents do this by setting examples and by using House and Chapter meetings – as well as social media – to publicize job and educational opportunities.

The panelists will discuss various ways networking works in their areas and the many ways they and other residents and alumni have helped other residents – whether by helping them find job openings, identifying educational opportunities, bringing information about recovery and Oxford House to veterans and those incarcerated or translating Oxford House material into Spanish to make the program more accessible to Hispanics.

The Three ‘R’s: Recovery, Responsibility and Replication

Lincoln West (LW)

Saturday 9:45-11:00 AM

Panelists:	Gene McVae	Oxford House Outreach, OR
	Stacey Levin	Oxford House Outreach, SC
	Lori Holtzclaw	Oxford House Outreach, LA
	Mark Spence	Oxford House Outreach, DC
	Paul Stevens	Oxford House Outreach, VA
Moderator:	Ed Smith	Oxford House Outreach, OR

Today, there are over 1,900 Oxford Houses but there is a need for many, many more. This need for additional Oxford Houses will become more critical as the country expands coverage for addiction treatment under new health insurance and parity laws. This panel will focus on the Three R’s with particular emphasis on what Oxford House and its residents can do to meet the demand for new recovery housing.

Each of the panelists has front-line experience in establishing new Oxford Houses and chapters. They will discuss what it takes to open new Oxford Houses and identify practices that work and that don’t work. They also will talk about how expansion can’t and shouldn’t be done only by Oxford House outreach workers. Oxford House expansion happened in the early years because existing Oxford Houses filled up and the residents felt guilty because they were unable to provide a bed for others who wanted what they had. The existing Oxford Houses found new houses to rent and some of the members of the existing Oxford House would move into the new Oxford House. That can and should still happen. The early members of Oxford House were particularly adept at convincing new members to do most of the work themselves – the Tom Sawyer effect. It worked and is a formula to be considered by current residents and outreach workers. Outreach workers will still find Houses to rent, recruit new members and teach them how to run the House themselves. They can also be used as resource persons for individual Oxford Houses and Chapters that want to learn the ins and outs of starting new Oxford Houses.

FIFTH BREAKOUT PANELS

Saturday 11:15 AM-12:30 PM

Technology in Oxford Houses – Using email, texting and social media for networking

International Ballroom (IB)

Saturday 11:15 AM-12:30 PM

Panelists: Tim Diehl Oxford House Vacancy Guru, NJ
Jason Bliss Oxford House Outreach, WA
Lindsay Green Oxford House Outreach, TX

Moderator: Jackson Longan Oxford House Outreach, TX

Oxford Houses use technology in a variety of ways – the Oxford House web site, various State and individual Facebook Pages, Linked-In, You-Tube, individual e-mail accounts and the telephone. Members also use the web to access information useful to them in recovery. The panelists will talk about how Oxford House residents can use the various media to good purpose – to foster their own recovery and to help others understand the program and get access to it. Furthermore, residents use social media to socialize, publicize House and Chapter achievements and events, and to share information.

The discussion will also focus on the need for all Oxford Houses to maintain current vacancy information on the web site and respond promptly to email, text or telephone inquiries about vacancies. Treatment providers looking to place people leaving treatment and individuals looking for a place to live need to be able to access accurate and current Oxford House vacancy information. Tim Diehl has created a great vacancy system for Oxford House but, like AA, it works only if you work it. Panelists will also discuss how Oxford House residents have used social media successfully (and unsuccessfully) and identify websites likely to be of interest to Oxford House residents.

The panelists are all savvy and experienced technology users with differing skills and interests. Together they should be able to provide lots of tips to Oxford House residents for how they and their Chapters and State Associations can use technology to great advantage.

Oxford Houses with Children

Jefferson West (JW)

Saturday 11:15 AM-12:30 PM

Panelists: Melinda Trujillo Behavioral Health Program Manager, DBHR, WA
Kaitlyn Hoffman Oxford House Outreach, NJ
Sean Bosson Oxford House Outreach, OR
Trace Purlee Oxford House Outreach, SC

Moderator: Judy Maxwell Oxford House Outreach, WA and OR

Many Oxford House residents have young children. Some are living with relatives or others and perhaps visiting their parent in an Oxford House. In some Oxford Houses, children live there with a parent. The panel will discuss how Oxford Houses with Children work and what challenges they pose – for the parent, the children, and the other Oxford House residents.

Issues to be addressed will include: (1) what makes an Oxford House with children work well; (2) how does a House deal with an unruly or undisciplined child; (3) should a House have age limits for children in residence and (4) is it better if only 1 or 2 residents of a particular Oxford House have children living with them; and (5) do individual Oxford Houses make special rules for when children may visit.

The panelists all are familiar with Oxford Houses for Women with Children (and a few Oxford Houses for Men with Children). They know the ins and outs of what problems can arise and how others have dealt with such problems in the past.

Health Issues in Oxford Houses (HIV, Hepatitis C, etc.)

Jefferson East (JE)

Saturday 11:15 AM-12:30 PM

Panelists: Darryl Joiner
Elizabeth Lewis
Tony Sowards
Ken Hoffman, M.D.

Staff, Oxford House World Services
Oxford House Outreach, MS
Oxford House Outreach, NC
Chief Medical Officer, U. S. Department of State

Moderator: Sean Hughes
Oxford House Outreach, WV

Many Oxford House residents have a variety of health issues in addition to addiction, including Hepatitis C, HIV, AIDS, and PTSD and other mental illnesses. Others are undergoing chemotherapy for cancers. This panel discusses how residents of Oxford Houses deal with these issues while living in an Oxford House.

One of the major DePaul studies looked specifically at the incidence of co-occurring mental illness among Oxford House residents. It followed 897 Oxford House residents for 27 months after giving ASI and PSI tests. Significantly, the researchers found that half of the individuals tested positive on the PSI, with half of that number showing serious mental illness. Significantly, those individuals testing positive on the PSI test did just as well as the other the individuals in the study. These individuals moved toward long-term recovery because they had the peer support necessary to develop good habits of sobriety and taking the right medicines at the right times. This is particularly important as states and insurers focus on behavioral health in general.

AIDS, HIV and Hepatitis C respond to proper medication. In an Oxford House, these individuals get the support they need to develop good medication habits. Housemates notice and comment when it appears that residents are not observing their appropriate medical protocols and encourage them to keep to their scheduled program or perhaps touch base with their physician or therapist.

Dr. Hoffman is a psychiatrist with extensive experience dealing with substance abuse disorders. He is also a member of the Oxford House Board of Directors and understands the system of operation of Oxford Houses. The other panelists are all Oxford House staff or outreach personnel who have lived in Oxford Houses and are familiar with how Oxford Houses deal with health problems among residents.

Oxford House World Council Update

Lincoln West (LW)

Saturday 11:15 AM-12:30 PM

Panelists: World Council Members
Resident and Alumni Members of World Council

Moderator: Amber McKinney
World Council Chair

Oxford House World Council is made up of elected Oxford House residents and alumni who serve staggered three-year terms of office. World Council is an advisory Council that identifies problems and issues, develops solutions and resolutions and makes suggestions to the organization. At this 2015 Oxford House World Convention, new Council Members will be elected to serve three-year terms of office.

World Council members will report to the convention on their activities over the past year. In many ways, the World Council serves as a ‘canary in a coal mine.’ Its members all over the country keep their eyes and ears open to learn new ways to improve Oxford House operations. When they detect a problem or improvement, they share their views with the Oxford House, Inc. Since the World Council Chair is an *ex officio* member of the Oxford House Board, lines of direct communication are always open.

ENJOY THE CONVENTION AND PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE 2016 CONVENTION

Oxford House Stories

This segment of the program contains a selection of autobiographical sketches by current and former residents of Oxford Houses. These recovering individuals are sharing their stories in order to help others afflicted by alcoholism and drug addiction to understand the hope afforded by Oxford House. Many readers will be struck by the devastating damage associated with alcoholism and drug addiction. There is no pill or magic bullet that can produce a cure for addiction. The only path to recovery is total abstinence from alcohol and illicit drugs. Few are able to master such behavior change alone. Together with the 12-Step programs, Oxford House offers its residents the opportunity and time to use peer support, a safe living environment and a disciplined system of operation to achieve the behavior changes necessary to avoid a return to the use of alcohol and addictive drugs.

For forty years, thousands of individuals have found a path to recovery by living in an Oxford House. All members of the Oxford House family hope that by sharing these personal stories of hard-won recovery, they will contribute to the growth of the Oxford House network, guide those not yet in recovery toward an effective program, and foster the understanding and support of the broader community. Many Oxford House stories of the transition from addiction to 'comfortable' sobriety without relapse – are on the Oxford House web site (www.oxfordhouse.org) under "About Us/Stories."

2015 OXFORD HOUSE STORIES BY RESIDENTS AND ALUMNI

AMBER WYATT

From the first time I ever ingested a mind-altering substance, I felt complete. I loved the mind-numbing sensation that came with whatever I decided to do that day. I'm what people call a trashcan user. I used everything and anything that was put in front of my face. I took as much as I could until I entered a world of oblivion and stupor. I had my favorites, of course, a mixture of benzos and opiates, but I did not discriminate.

I started using at 14 and, as traumatic situations happened in my life, I spiraled even farther down the rabbit hole. I was sexually assaulted at age 16, and reported it. When this happened, I did not know how to cope with the pain of being violated or with the judgment from my peers. My mom was not able to be there for me because of her addiction and I felt alone. My drug intake increased and so did my criminal activity. By the age of 20, I had 2 DWI's, 1 DUI, 2 possession charges, and a PI. I was kicked out of college at UNT, lost my licenses, lost many friends from my addiction, and couldn't hold a job. By the age of 21, I had overdosed 3 times. The first was after being raped and I tried to kill myself. The second was when I was 19 and on GHB, Xanax, and Vodka. I ended up flat-lining for 19 seconds in the back of an ambulance. The third happened at 21 when I was on Cocaine, Methadone, Klonopin, and Vodka. I ended up having kidney failure, was put on dialysis and had to learn how to walk again after having had surgery on my leg from being collapsed on the floor for 5 hours before being found. A few months after that, my best friend was found dead in a hotel room. To cope with that, I tried heroin and fell deeply in love with it. The next 3 years, I was so depressed; I was a hermit in my room. I did not see anyone unless I was getting drugs from them.

My last binge was in January of 2014. I used meth, heroin, Xanax, and vodka for about 2 weeks. When I ran out of money and people I could use, I lay in my bed, detoxing, feeling every fiber in my body growing and aching. This is when the gift of desperation came flowing through me. I realized how I wanted so much for myself and that the only way to get it was to get clean and sober. I was finally ready to go to rehab. I checked into Cenikor in Waco, away from the DFW area. My third day there, a woman came and did a presentation about Oxford House. I remember thinking, "She looks happy. That is EXACTLY what I want."

Little did I know my life was about to completely change. Not only was I about to become responsible, I also became loving and compassionate. I became giving and humble. I became charismatic and funny. I became trust-worthy and loyal. I have so many wonderful friends from Oxford; I would literally do anything for them. I learned not only to hold other people up to the rules but also to hold myself accountable. I am back in school. I have had a job for a whole year! What!? I pay my own bills. I have built up a wonderful relationship with my family. I can now pray for my mom, who is still in her addiction. The most profound thing that has happened to me is that I have found a higher power and a spirituality that I never knew was possible. I have worked my steps twice. I get to give back everything I have been given, and nothing but peace and serenity come from that. I have been sober since January 22, 2014, and I owe it all to my higher power, the steps, the support from my friends and family and, very importantly, Oxford House. Thank you.

ANDY M.

My name is Andy, and I am an addict. For many of us, those were the first honest words we had spoken for many years; such was my experience. There is no way I can include everything that has happened to me over the years, but I'll give you the key points here. We'll consider these "Andy's Cliff Notes."

I didn't grow up rich, nor did I grow up poor. I had a pretty healthy upbringing, upper middle class. I had both parents under one roof until I was 15 years old. But that wasn't enough; for as long as I can remember, I have always felt different, apart from, less than. I never felt like I quite fit in.

I remember things started when I was fifteen, around the time my parents got divorced. I don't blame my parents for my being an addict, don't get me wrong. But things did seem to go south around that time in my life, maybe it was just the event that triggered the feelings I didn't want to feel, or didn't know how to deal with. I started out with simply smoking cigarettes, no big deal, I thought. But shortly thereafter I was introduced to pot, and I fell in love with it from Day One. For those few hours after smoking, I could just forget about everything, not feel, not care. In my teen years, I was getting high more often and taking part in family events and school activities less and less. I left home as soon as I was able to, and then the trouble really began.

I wasn't out from under my mom's roof even two weeks when I managed to get arrested for burglary of a motor vehicle. It was the stupidest thing I ever got in trouble for. I stole an ashtray out of an identical car to mine that I saw for sale, because my ashtray was broken. The charges were later dropped, but that wasn't the end of my troubles.

I continued to party, progressing to other drugs, LSD, opiates, cocaine, basically anything I could get my hands on. I would get jobs but be unable to keep them; partying was more important after all.

In 1996, I tried moving away from Texas with several of my friends. We were all about to be kicked out of my mother's house and, since I had just read the book "The Pelican Brief" during my latest stint in county jail, I suggested we all move to New Orleans. Yeah. Great idea for an addict such as myself. Not so much... I lasted a little over a week, until God intervened. I ended up piss drunk in the French Quarter, got robbed, and nearly stabbed to death. I was done. When I woke up in the hospital, I phoned Mom, asked her to send me a bus ticket and, as soon as I was released from the hospital, I came home, leaving my friends behind in New Orleans.

Once I was nursed back to health by my mother and had healed, she found a halfway house in Brownwood, TX and packed my stuff up, drove me out there, and dropped me off on the doorstep. She was done enabling me and had only let me come back long enough to heal. I was introduced to the program, and picked up my first clean date on August 13, 1996. I lasted about 90 days.

Over the next couple of years, I went in and out of the rooms, living with this friend or that friend, then moved in with my sister in Arlington, TX. I started getting deeply involved with a hacker group called the "darkside hackers." That activity, combined with my drug use and poor judgment, finally landed me in Federal Prison in 2000 on a computer hacking charge. Upon release, I went through the VOA and managed to get about 18 months clean. Once I was out of the halfway house though, I started drinking since it was the only thing I could get away with.

Through some miracle I managed to successfully complete my federal parole and got off paper, and then it was on! I could use again with impunity! That worked for a short time, I had built myself back up while I was on that federal leash, even ALMOST got married, but once I no longer had any supervision, I went right back to the depths I had gone to before, quickly, up to and including homelessness, conning, scheming, stealing, all of it. Even the fact that I had kids now didn't stop me.

I cleaned up a few times between then and now, but always failed to keep my sobriety long term, I couldn't make it past the 6-month point, no matter how hard I tried.

In late 2010, I heard about Oxford House, and had been clean for a few months when my best friend committed suicide. Instantly, I had an excuse to use, and was off and running again until March 25, 2012. I cleaned up, moved back in with Mom, who was then caring for my son. I managed to get another 6 months under my belt, then I met a girl. We all know how that ends -- God moves over, girls replace God, drug use soon followed. I was off and running again, the girl left, life sucked, wash, rinse, repeat.

Each time I went back out, I found it harder to come back, and it took me longer each time. This last trip out took 18 months for me to come back. Finally, on July 2, 2014, I had stayed in enough misery and I knew I had to do something different. Things were getting bad, and fast. I wasn't going to lose everything and put my son through the experience of being homeless. I dragged myself back into the rooms and surrendered. I stayed clean with just a sponsor, steps, and meetings for the first 90 days, but knew from past experiences I needed another component.

I remembered having looked into Oxford in the past and found that there were houses in my area. I was voted into Oxford on October 3, 2014 and moved in. Since that day, the structure, accountability, and support I've gotten has worked a miracle in my life. I'm two days short of 13 months clean as I am writing this, the longest I have every been clean without some sort of outside pressure. I know beyond any doubt that Oxford has made the difference – the support of others in my house, the encouragement of members from our chapter as well as guidance of my sponsor – and, by the grace of a loving God, I've achieved more in the past year than I had in the 25 years since I used my first drug.

I will simply close with this; nothing is going to be handed to you. I know that now but from experience. It DOES work – IF YOU WORK IT.

BONNIE M.

I am a grateful recovering addict named Bonnie. I am also a daughter, sister, friend wife, and mother. I was first introduced to Oxford House last year while in treatment for pretty much anything that got me high and numbed my emotions. I had completely lost myself. Last year I hit my all-time bottom. I was at a point in my life were I couldn't even begin to see how to put the pieces of my life together; I was completely broken. I didn't know where I was going after treatment to begin my new life although, at the time, death seemed like a pretty good option to me as well.

The phone call that saved my life was to Oxford House Sandel. I spoke with a woman who was encouraging, compassionate, and who had the solution to my problem. Stacey Levin is an amazing role model for this recovering addict. The house set up a phone interview with me still in Tennessee! The phone interview went great! I was so scared, ashamed, and lost. That interview let me know I had a HOME again! That working together as sisters in recovery is possible! They loved me while I learned to love myself.

When I first got there I had horrible night terrors. One of my housemates got up at five so we could do our daily devotionals together. I was broken down, hurt, and ashamed. She empowered me to know that, 'where there's life there's hope.' That was the first time I got on my knees and talked with my higher power. As painful as it was, she sat beside me, just to listen, to be there for support. Surrendering is something I have to do daily in my recovery. Being able to accept the things I cannot change and the courage to change the things I can is something. I cannot change myself. It's something I've learned through all of the amazing people in my life today. This is not an 'I' program; it's a 'we' program! Thank goodness for that because my best thinking got me here today. Oxford House has truly saved my life. I've been in recovery a couple of times now. I've struggled with addiction for the past ten years. Oxford House gave me an opportunity to do something different. The ladies in the house showed me how to hold myself as well as others accountable. Living in the house showed me how to live again truly and taught me how to be responsible. The best thing it's given me is a clean and safe environment to come home to. There's a certain gift that's so freely given: living with other women, encouraging each other while at our lowest, and, shining a light in the dark place where all of the 'should'a, could'a, would'a' reside. Never Alone; Never Again.

Through living in the Sandel Oxford House, having a sponsor, being of service, working the steps, getting REAL, all of the amazing people that answer the phone at any given time; that's what has kept me clean and sober today. Not me, them. Oxford House gave me hope when I had none. Oxford House gave me a chance to find Bonnie again! I continue to grow daily. When Stacey was opening the West Ashley Oxford House in Charleston, Stacey asked me to move and help get the house started because she knew I wanted to be closer to my family. Today I'm currently happy! Showing others what was shown to me is a gift! Watching others grow is the best gift of all as is getting to know some amazing ladies. The miracle in an Oxford House is indescribable. The fact that I've banged down death's door several time and today am happy, joyous and free, is something I could never repay. I can actually work today, do chores, cook, clean, play with my children, and, most importantly, live! I never thought I would be able to be who I am today. My sisters used to tell me all the time, "Bonnie, you love everyone but yourself."

Today, through my higher power, meetings, my sponsor, working the steps, and the network of some amazing women who taught me all I've learned through living in an Oxford House. I am a grateful recovering addict named Bonnie. I'm thankful for the Oxford House; it's given me back me. I'm thankful for the opportunity to grow every day!

DEANN SHOONER

One of the first "sayings" that stuck with me when I lived in an Oxford house was, "You learn a lot more from those who are NOT running a program than from those that are." Fully understanding the true meaning of that took time.

When I landed in my 2nd house, I was desperate. Alcohol was my master. I knew if I continued to drink I would die. God gave me yet another moment of grace and put me in front of a group of ladies that accepted me and all my defects. They were like me, my peers. My Oxford House roommates based their successes on a strong bond of recovery. I saw my roommates staying sober and it gave me hope. The low spots of relapse and ejections showed me that just following the rules and expectations of the house was not enough. I finally understood that alcohol was just part of my problem, I had to change.

I dove into a 12-step program. I got a sponsor who had what I wanted. I worked the 12 steps of Alcoholic Anonymous and I found God. I am recovered.

My amazing journey started with Oxford and Oxford continues to be huge part of my life today. That saying has so much more weight and depth now than it ever did. It's not about why people don't succeed in an Oxford house, but how I can be of service so they can.

EDWARD JIM

My name is Edward and I am an alcoholic as well as an addict. My surrender date is November 3, 2013; I currently have 619 honest days of hard-earned, much-needed sobriety. I share with you my experience, strength and hope of what it was like then, what happened, and what it is like now. I began drinking at a young age when I was about twelve years old. It started with sneaking wine coolers from the bar my father had in our home and escalated quickly to boxed wines. As the drinking age in Hawaii was eighteen, growing up during my years at Iolani became a foggy train wreck of freedom combined with enablement. Being entitled to leave school property was a common occurrence. Frequently, the package store was my destination to supply underage classmates with my ammunition for disaster. College was a non-stop drunken fraternity 'free for all' of debauchment. Throughout my teens, twenty's, and thirty's and well into my forty's, I crashed four automobiles as the result of DUI's. I cringe to think of the numerous other occasions when I could have killed someone else along with myself.

When I say 'surrender', it was more like a swift kick of intervention in the ass by my younger brother to enter residential treatment for alcohol dependency. I spent 67 days from November 5, 2013 until January 10, 2014 at Hina Mauka Recovery Center in Kaneohe. Throughout Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's I accepted the cold hard fact that I was indeed an alcoholic addict. Nearing my discharge date, my counselor, who had been keeping my brother in touch with the progress I was making, *suggested* that I transition to clean and sober living. I interviewed at three Oxford Houses and ultimately made Namoku my stay until this very day.

After 30 days and at three months, we sat down as a family – my parents, my brother and I – to discuss my status update. Each time my desire was to move back home to live with my folks. Finally, the decision was made that, since clean and sober living was giving me a good solid foundation in sobriety and the fact that I could afford the then \$400 a month rent (it went to \$430 at the first of the year), I should give it six months to a year and reconsider my situation then. I have stayed ever since, becoming involved with different aspects of the house and chapter responsibilities; interim Windward Chapter secretary, Comptroller, and Treasurer, which I still, hold today.

I was fortunate enough to attend the International Convention last year in Portland, Oregon and plan to be in Washington D.C. later this year. Quite honestly, to say that Oxford House has changed my life is a mere understatement...it has **saved** my life! I will be forever indebted to Sione Kene and his Oxford House 'shpeel' that December day back in 2013.

ENCELA

This is a disease we will never part from. A disease that is incurable. We fight and fight to escape a disease that holds us captured... some will escape and some are not so lucky. I have found the only escape from this is to be on my knees and to pray for help.

I have caused so much pain and suffering, too many. I have so much guilt and shame from my past; at no one's fault but my own. The pain I have inflicted has caused me to lose everything and at the end of this disease I had nothing but the craving for more; and I didn't care what I had to do to get my next high or who I had to walk over and hurt to get by. I know this sounds horrible but it's true and at the time I didn't care because I felt nothing. I have begged for forgiveness and I now listen.

I was one of the lucky ones to have escaped this disease that I fought for many years. Along the journey, I have met many and lost many and seen things I wish I never did. I started off with alcohol but moved up to more powerful drugs that could give me the relief I needed to take away the pain I was battling with in my life. I have struggled with this disease for many years, off and on; and since I did not give up my will to God entirely, I ended up in a hole. Three years ago, I found myself struggling and my world crumbling down around me with no end in sight and I ended up incarcerated for 25½ months. I had so much anger and resentment towards the world and felt like I was the victim in everything and that I was owed more than everyone else.

With my self-centeredness and selfishness and withdrawal from God, I realized I was to be blamed and no one else. That's when I turned my life over to God and truly knew the meaning of "acceptance" which I learned in The Big Book on page 417. An acceptance of humility was my first priority as I started a program of recovery. This book and other things of the AA/NA program have taught me more than I thought I'd ever know. These books are about me... it's telling my life story and others who struggle with this same addiction in life but are too ashamed to come forward, as I was in the beginning but I now realize I'm not alone.

The hardest part of being in early recovery was the incarceration part because I didn't know how or what to do. I was living with other women who faced addiction too. But I met someone who helped me through all this and guided me in my recovery. I learned so much about recovery and about myself... and that's when I came to realize I wanted a different life for myself and my loved ones. That's when I learned about the Oxford House and how they help addicts to maintain their sobriety and become productive members of society. At first, I didn't care about it but just to get out and have a place to live temporary. But soon after, I learned this place was about helping addicts as long as we are willing to maintain our sobriety and continue this lifestyle.

After a while, in Oxford House Blossom, I became Treasurer and then President, shortly thereafter. And then I became even more active with Oxford House and helping others to reach out and learn about this organization. Giving back was and still is the best decision I made and now I am learning more about what it means to maintain sobriety, stability, and a solid foundation while in recovery and throughout life with family and friends in the program. I am much happier and I am truly living a life I never thought I would ever see or dreamed of. My life with God, sobriety with family and friends... That's why I can truly say: "**My Story isn't Over Yet.**" I am grateful for the life I have now, I wish to help others who wish to change their lives, as I have done. It's just the beginning of something bigger and brighter... and I cannot wait to see what this chapter of my life tells me.

My daily prayer: God grant me the serenity, to accept the things I cannot change and the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference...

ILLYANA WHITELEY

I grew up in a Mormon family in Salt Lake City, Utah and was a very sheltered child. I didn't know the wreckage of the world or how truly scary it could be. When I was 15, a year after my family moved to Washington, my parents split and I lost all trust in family, love and life. My world was torn apart. I turned to what I thought was friends, started skipping school and eventually got pregnant when I was 17. I had a beautiful baby girl, just 5 days short of being 18. Her father, who I thought was the catch of them all, had been hiding doing meth, and it was tearing us apart. A few months later, I decided I wanted to try it, because then maybe, just maybe, it would be bring us closer together. Not too long after that, CPS got involved, took my daughter and after that day I spiraled down, and fast. I couldn't get clean, I thought I could play the system, and by that time I was I was already too much in love with the drugs I was sticking in my arm. I struggled

to do what CPS wanted to get her back and, after almost 2 years of fighting and failed UA's, they had me voluntarily give up my rights, the Friday before Mother's Day. After that I didn't care anymore. I put myself in dangerous situations; I experienced traumatic events that I would never wish upon anybody. I started dealing, which led me to realize I didn't need the father of my daughter in my life anymore, and I moved out, with a guy who was trying to help, but was also an addict. I tried to get a job, I tried to go to college, but my addiction always out ruled them all. After being in an abusive relationship for a while, the police trying to catch me, and my heart was shattered; I had hit the lowest of the lows. I had nothing left. No family, no friends, no job, no life, I had lost me.

In July of 2012, I realized I needed help. I prayed to God for the first time in years and begged. At the end of that month I found myself walking into an inpatient, scared for my life and only weighing 115 lbs. That opened my eyes to everything. When I got out, I went back to my old area, and instantly relapsed. I didn't listen when they said about you've got to change people, places and things. It took two days for me to realize what was happening and I went running. I promised myself never to go back to that life again, and I have been clean since August 26 2012. I still had nothing when I got clean, and hopped all over western Washington trying to find a solution to what I would do next.

My outpatient contact suggested I talk to this program that did funding for recovering addicts and alcoholics. That program got me an emergency interview at the Pacific Terrace Oxford House in Tacoma, WA. I was so terrified that I had my mom with me during the interview but, thankfully, they saw I needed it. I moved into that house on October 8 2012, and have been here ever since. The women in my house showed me how to live again, showed me what family is and, most importantly, loved me until I learned to love myself. Through the time I have spent there, I completed outpatient, became insanely active in service work with both NA and Oxford and, most importantly, I developed a better relationship with my daughter. I went through the trials and tribulations of life, and finally found myself achieving goals. I went back to college, I got a full time job that I have currently been employed at for over 18 months and I am receiving promotions. I get to see my daughter whenever I want, and my dad even lets me take her for overnights. I paid off huge debts to child support, and started paying on court fines, which allowed me to get my license, and then 4 days later to get an amazing car with full coverage insurance. These are the things I never would have seen myself doing, especially in my addiction.

The most blessed part of being a part of Oxford, to me, is the service work. When I went to the World Convention last year in Portland, OR, I heard the announcement about World Council. Something in my gut told me to go for it, and, as I stood in front of a thousand people to explain why they should vote for me, I realized how amazing this program is. Everyone in that room had their lives changed due to Oxford being there for them and, no matter what, I would give my all to Oxford. Oxford gave me everything I could ever need, a safe place, a room to call my own, a family who loves me no matter what, and the beautiful life I get to live today.

JACKIE F.

My name is Jackie F. and I'm a woman in long-term recovery. What that means for me is that I have not had a mind or mood altering substance since May 21, 2013! Prior to coming into recovery, I struggled with who I was and what my purpose was in life. I have battled the disease of addiction since I was little, becoming obsessed with living in fantasy. I wanted to be anyone else other than who I was. I was never comfortable in my own skin and never felt a part of anything. This continued throughout my life, over-achieving in school, sports, and competing with my siblings simply because I wanted anything other than what I had. Nothing was ever enough.

My first introduction to a substance was at 12 years old. From that moment, I was hooked. I loved the feeling that it gave me. They say you only use for two reasons: to catch a feeling or to get away from one. For me, it was both. When I used I became another person, I lived in a false sense of self. I thought that I had the world in the palm of my hand and I could do whatever I wanted. I didn't think of the consequences of my actions, the hurt and pain that I caused to my family, my friends or even myself.

From the outside, everything looked good. I had the career, the house, the car, the relationships, the hair and makeup and the degree. However, on the inside, I was dying a slow painful death. I couldn't bear to look in the mirror at the monster I had become. I was spiritually bankrupt and jumped from relationship to relationship, hoping that some outside person could fix me. Some relationships were with very toxic people, thinking that I could fix them. Others were with healthy people who I thought could fix me. Towards the end, suicide sounded like the only answer and, through two attempts, I couldn't even do that successfully.

I went to detox and treatment in 2011 and returned home. I thought that I could come back to doing the same things in my life besides using and learned that this was not the case. I needed to change everything that I was doing in my life or I was going to die and I knew that there was something different out there that I wanted.

I was introduced to Oxford House on October 31, 2012. I moved in as a result of a relationship ending and not wanting to be alone or to use. I needed the support of women in recovery and that's exactly what I got! These women welcomed me into their home with loving and open arms. It was exactly what I needed! I was given responsibility immediately and fell in love with what Oxford stood for. Unfortunately, I did relapse out of the house but, with open arms, was welcomed back 52 days later. Since then, I haven't looked back. I've had an opportunity to be in service on a multitude of levels, from holding positions in a House, to being Chapter Chair, to being the Housing Services Representative for New Jersey. Oxford afforded me the opportunity to meet other people seeking long term recovery, to be a part of something special, to give back. I attended State Conventions and the World Convention in Portland and had a blast!

In November of 2014 I was blessed with an opportunity to work for Oxford House as an Outreach Worker. This meant moving hundreds of miles away to North Carolina to embark on a new gift in my recovery and I gladly accepted it. I knew that this was a unique way to continue on my journey of giving back to Oxford in ways that I never thought possible. Today I am so fortunate to be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

Thank you to Oxford House for teaching me, for blessing me with a safe haven to practice a program of recovery and allowing me to continue to give back to those seeking a new way to live!

JAMEY P.

My name is Jamey and I am an addict. In 2008 I stepped on the porches of two houses that would change my life forever. A halfway house porch was the first one. The porch of a women's Oxford House was the second.

On October 17, 2008, I was a desperate woman in need of change. Three weeks earlier I had completed six months in a halfway house and six months of an Intensive Outpatient program. A week before my departure from the halfway house, the man I was in a relationship with asked me to marry him. He wanted us to travel up and down the East Coast for a while seeing the sites while enjoying each other's company. Just like any other good little addict, I saw it as a "sign from God." The day finally came for me to leave the house. We threw my luggage in the trunk of the car along with his. I waved goodbye to my new friends. We then gassed up the car and headed up Interstate 40 holding hands while heading to romantic bliss. Everything was going to be "happily ever after" from that point forward. Within thirty minutes I was using. I'll say that again...within thirty minutes I was using.

It did not take long for me to know I had made a huge mistake. Two weeks into our travels, I looked at Prince Charming and said, "I can't do this anymore! I need to go back to North Carolina." The only good thing about the whole adventure was this...we never stopped long enough to get married.

I was back in North Carolina faced with the dilemma of what now. I couldn't stay in the relationship. I couldn't go to my family because they were my biggest trigger. I didn't have any friends who were clean. Now what? I knew I would die, spiritually if not physically, if I didn't do something. And then I saw the image of those new friends. The ones I had waved goodbye to just weeks earlier. I called my sponsor. "I gotta get back home" was the first thing I said after "Hello." She simply said, "Let's pray about it." I hung up the phone and immediately went to a one-on-one with the Creative Force in my life that I call God.

There were three Oxford Houses in my recovery city. One was a women's house. There were a lot of rumors going around in the fellowship of which I am a member about the goings on in the women's house. I heard them all. But when my sponsor called back, she said, "Oxford House is the answer I got. What do you think?" I was very hesitant at first. However, her words of encouragement were convincing. "It wasn't like that in the beginning. They've lost their way. It needs the Spirit of Change." I hung up the phone and called for an interview.

On October 18, 2008 I stepped onto the porch of the women's Oxford House in Asheboro, North Carolina. I was scared. I was broken down. I was desperate. I knew this was the last house on the street for me. I knocked on the door. The door opened to the smile of the only female from the house I had ever seen in the fellowship meetings. I let out a sigh of relief. I did the interview with the ladies of the house. They accepted me. I was still apprehensive but now I had an ally there. One who had the same goal as me and that goal was just to stay clean.

By the end of the first week I had read and understood the rules of the House. I had read the Oxford House Manual. I had even read the Oxford House Chapter Manual. My ally had shared some of the Oxford House ways with me. “We can change this thing up,” she declared. Between the both of us we mustered up enough courage to put the change into action. At the next house meeting she made a motion to drug-test the whole house. I seconded it. And we waited for the vote. “All in favor?” No one spoke. That night everyone moved out except my ally and me. The winds of change had blown through the house.

What next? An alumna from our chapter came to our next business meeting and for weeks afterwards too. She taught us how to do the books. She sat in on our first interviews. Probation officers started suggesting our house to judges. The local halfway house was sending women to us. Attitudes were changing about the Oxford House. Our neighbors became just that, our neighbors.

“Everything within the Oxford House way is geared for recovery.” That was said over and over by the alumni. I come from a very dysfunctional family. I came into the Oxford House with my dysfunctional family roles firmly intact. But Oxford House way taught me a new way. Better yet, it forced me to change. I don’t have to be the caregiver; a.k.a., enabler. In fact, in an Oxford House, it was frowned upon. Oxford House taught me that I was not only stunting my own growth by taking care of others but I was also not allowing another person to grow.

I have control issues too. Oxford House is democratically run. Everyone has a voice and a vote. I learned how to give way to the group. I learned how to listen, with an open mind, to other’s opinions that differed from my own. I had played the Hero in my dysfunctional family. My self-esteem came from my outside success. If a mistake was made or I encountered failure, my world spun out of control and my self-esteem plummeted. In the Oxford House I learned I was loved even when I messed it up. I found out it was not a weakness to cry. And I also learned some big stuff too that at one time eluded me. I can balance a checkbook. I can pay my bills on time. I am no longer afraid to go to the mailbox.

Some of the biggest things I have learned in recovery have been a direct result of communal living the Oxford House way. I trust women now. I never trusted women before. I understand tolerance. Everyone is not on the same level of growth in an Oxford House. I know how to live and let live today. I learned the language of empathy brings healing. I have stopped giving advice that is really just an attempt at controlling. I can now let others live their journey, experience their pain and not try to save them, just be there for them. And I learned how to stay clean through it all.

But in 2014, I decided I needed to buy into the lie one more time. I used and stayed on a binge for a year. Again I was scared. I was broken down. I was desperate. I checked myself into a treatment center. My completion date was approaching. My counselor asked me what my plans were. I said, “I need to make a phone call.” She compiled a list. I picked up the phone and dialed one of the numbers. The voice on the other end said, “Hello!” “I want to interview with your house,” was the first thing I said after “Hello.”

A week later I stepped onto an Oxford House porch in Salisbury, North Carolina that would help me find my way once again. Just recently, a few months ago, I moved into another Oxford House in Salisbury to help it get started as a women’s house. Prior to myself and two other women from my previous house moving in, West Thomas had been a men’s house. We have since helped it become a financially self-supported, democratically- run successful women’s Oxford House.

“It’s all about the one yet to come.” My whole Oxford House experience was based on that sentiment. The alumna taught us what she had learned. We, in turn, taught what we had learned to those who entered our home. Each one, teach one. There will always be one yet to come.

JEFF HUNZIKER

Hello Family. I was asked to write a testimonial about my experience with the Oxford House Re-entry program. I was blessed to be able to be a part of this program. In 2009 I was due to be released from a correctional facility. I had nowhere to go and the Department of Corrections would not allow me to be released until I had an address to release to.

While incarcerated I was put through a treatment program, and I figured: what the heck, I will give recovery a try for 18 months while I am on supervision. I was in work release and went to a meeting where I ran into a person who I had been incarcerated with who was living in the Skagit Valley Oxford House. He was the house president at the time and the HSR was also at the meeting. They started talking to me about the re-entry program and how I could move in on a trial basis.

The Chapter 7 co-chair was also there and she helped me get into the Oxford House. I am grateful that I was allowed to move into that house. I was on the ropes about staying in recovery or continuing in the lifestyle I had always know.

I learned so much in Oxford, starting with the whole chore system. I learned how to be responsible as house treasurer and pay the bills monthly. I got to be House President and learned how to facilitate a business meeting. After attending the chapter meeting several times I was elected Chapter Co-chair, I really didn't have a clue what I was doing but I learned. I then became the Chapter Chair and was graciously allowed to attend the Oxford world convention in Washington DC. While living in Oxford I decided to go back to school and got an associate's degree. I learned how to have relationships with other people while living in Oxford and working the 12 steps. I moved out of Oxford after 2 years and got my first apartment; that was 3 years ago. Since then I got engaged, bought my own home and have started working on a bachelor's degree. Oxford house not only changed my life, it saved my life. While I was the Chapter 7 Chair, the Oxford House that I lived in was the only Oxford House that accepted people from the re-entry program in our chapter. I created a position of Chapter Re-entry person and helped him to get some of the other Oxford Houses on board with the re-entry program.

I have been pretty busy with life since leaving Oxford, but what I do know is that, without the re-entry program, I would be locked up or dead by now instead of getting ready to celebrate nine years of recovery. I know several other men that have lived in the Skagit Valley Oxford House that came via re-entry that are still clean and living productive lives in society. Thank you for giving me a chance, Oxford, when not even my own family would.

JOHN

Recently, after graduating from treatment, I was unsure as to where I wanted to live. There were multiple options available and after much thought I chose Oxford. Making this choice required me to challenge my thinking and interpretation of what I falsely believed Oxford could offer. Because of living in close quarters with 15 men while in treatment, I believed that Oxford wasn't the place for me. There would be too many people, too much chaos and I wouldn't have any privacy or autonomy. I was wrong in so many ways.

Most of my life revolved around my needs and I have been selfish and self-centered. It is one of the hallmarks of the disease of alcoholism and addiction. I never really felt like I belonged anywhere and only felt value for what I had or could offer. I had a history of manipulation, coercion and being less than honest most of the time. Truthfully, I didn't even enjoy my own company.

At Oxford I have an opportunity to be a part of something big! The House that chose me was in a state of disrepair due to relapse and attrition. There was only one core member standing and he was overwhelmed and needed help. I am grateful that I have had the opportunity to become an integral part of my House. We have worked diligently together to improve the atmosphere in our home with the goal of making it somewhere a man in recovery would want to live, not just a place he has to live. We are striving to live together in a supportive, therapeutic place that can grow as we each individually do along our own personal journey.

The men that I live with value my friendship, even though I didn't know it was possible to have friends that didn't harbor sinister motives. They trust me with our checkbook and have elected me as the Treasurer of our home, even though I haven't always been trustworthy. We work together to make life better, not to criticize or pass judgment. When situations arise, as they do in all Oxford Houses, we deal with these issues expediently and fairly. Simply put, we hold each other accountable with care and concern to the best of our ability.

When I look back at the decision that I made and the incorrect assumptions about Oxford, I know that my disease wanted to keep me separate from people that could help me and that, potentially, I could help. The addictive, dangerous part of my brain wanted me to be alone and miserable. I am so grateful that I was able to take a chance on the unknown and land in a community of like-minded individuals who are striving to become better people. I am not certain that I would be clean if not for this life-changing decision.

Some individuals, like me, have misgivings about jumping into service work in early recovery because of low self-esteem or a fear of commitment. My Oxford House has allowed me to be of service and feel necessary and needed, which I didn't believe was possible. We all have a story and Oxford House is now a permanent, vital component of mine. For that, I am thankful.

KEITH P.

I moved into an Oxford House in October of 2013 after having spent over 30 years in active addiction – 30 years of lying, stealing, deceiving and hurting those who loved and cared about me. Having moved in with 1 year of sobriety. I wanted more...I wanted to live again to become productive once again. I wanted to give back for what I had taken for over 30 years.

My story may be no different from yours. We all know what we did to live a destructive life. Today, it's about living right and being a better man today than I was yesterday. We, as addicts under the cruel grip of addiction, often forget how the little things in life can mean so much. Learning how to pay your bills on time....to clean up behind yourself...to be held accountable and responsible for your actions.

After being in Oxford for 4 months, the position for Housing Service Chairperson became open for my Chapter. I jumped in not really knowing what the position meant. With the help on my Chapter Chairman, and my Outreach Worker, I'm still the Housing Service Chairman. Our Chapter's attendance and participation in housing service has grown to 100%. I'd like to think it was something I did (maybe it's the fines) that has motivated others to give back.

Now that I'm the person with the most seniority at my house, I find the gentlemen count on me for guidance as to how Oxford works...once again giving back. At times it's very trying, and I'll admit there are times when I just don't feel like being bothered with anyone – least of other recovering addicts and their problems. Oxford has taught me honesty, gratitude, humbleness and, most importantly, patience. When living with as many as 8 other men, problems do arise. The great thing is that we talk about what's going on, how to resolve a conflict, and move on (I would have never done that in my active addiction).

In closing I would like to thank Oxford House for allowing me to mature and grow as a man, a human being, an addict in recovery. I'd like to also thank our Outreach Workers, Maria H., Jason J., and Mark S. Thanks for being patient with me, for allowing me to be an extension of this wonderful organization, Oxford House. See y'all at next year's convention.

KORTNIE SMITH

I grew up in a very broken home with a family full of addicts. My Dad took me from my mother's care when I was just a baby. For years, my sister, brothers, and I were drug through my father's addiction. We never had a place to live and were always at random peoples' houses. I remember sitting in the back seat of the car with a towel hanging up separating the front seat from the back seat and peaking around to see what was going on. For the first time, I saw my dad and his girlfriend shooting up.

Eventually my dad went to prison for bank robbery and my siblings got taken into foster care. I was fortunate enough to have my grandma take me into her care. I did really well when I lived with her, excelled in school and sports. I never felt like it was enough and I really struggled with feeling like I belonged.

I first started using drugs in high school. My life quickly spiraled out of control. I was homeless, in and out of jail with several felonies, overdosed from heroin 7 different times, and couldn't grasp the concept that there was a different way of life. In March of 2013, I got arrested for the last time. I was nodded out in the booking room of the Justice Center when I heard an officer say my dad's name. I woke up and looked over to see my dad sitting across the way. We both ended up getting sentenced to treatment; I thought that this was a God shot and that we were finally going to have a relationship that I always wanted.

I went to CSAP (Clackamas County Substance Abuse Program) where I was able to work on both my drug addiction and my criminality. To graduate from this program I was ordered to move into an Oxford House. I had no idea what I was getting myself into but I was willing to do anything to stay clean. In the meantime, my dad had relapsed and ended up back in prison. I knew that that wasn't the life I wanted to live.

I reluctantly moved into an Oxford House and it was one of the best things that happened to me. I am now 25 years old living in my first apartment and Oxford has given me the tools to make this possible. I got involved with chapter right away and was very involved with my house and was interested in learning the different positions.

I learned how to balance a checkbook, pay bills, be accountable/hold others accountable and, most importantly, I was able to build a family that I never had. Although I do not live in Oxford anymore (due to the fact that I have a baby on the way) I am still of service and strongly believe in what Oxford stands for. I am forever grateful.

LAURA D.

In the beginning Oxford was a mystery: I had no idea what it was about, how it related to me or what it was ultimately going to mean to my family. I moved into my home on October 23, 2013 and am still in the same house today. Oxford House Harmony Park in SE Portland has given me more than I could ever dream.

In the beginning, I pushed boundaries, challenged ideals and probably made a few people question themselves. I was given a shoulder to cry on, a billion warm hugs and limitless laughter. I became a core member of my house and began getting involved on a chapter level, eventually becoming Chair of Chapter 5 in Oregon.

Exposure to the family on a larger and grander scale enabled me to be of service in a way that not only met the needs of the newcomers in Oxford but also was able to satisfy a deep and personal desire to carry the message of hope that not only recovery brings, but that Oxford can magnify!

I am now the Oregon State Re-entry chair and I have the honor and privilege of being that contact for our brothers and sisters in custody. I am the definition of grateful.

LAURA JOHNSON

My name is Laura Johnson and I am a recovering addict. I have been clean and sober for 17 months now, and a lot of that is because of what Oxford has offered me. I will forever be thankful for the opportunities I have had with Oxford and I hope others are able to benefit from it as much as I have.

I have been battling addiction for 10+ years. Roughly 2 years ago I finally hit my rock bottom. I was facing years in prison for drugs and theft, and I was finally ready to make the changes. I had lost my family, job, and everything else dear to me. I was placed on Drug Court and was still struggling some with alcohol. Drug Court intervened and said I needed to move into an Oxford House. As much as I drug my feet getting here, now I can say I have never been happier. Oxford has given me the opportunity to build a support network, learn how to be responsible, and give back to others.

When I moved into Oxford I was able to learn from others who were making a new life for themselves and gather some of the tools I would need for life in recovery. I had several women who had been through the same things I was struggling with and they were able to help me through those situations. I saw something in these women that I wanted, and it showed me that it was possible for my life too. This did not come easy for me at first, it took the girls pushing me to go to several meetings a week, getting a sponsor, and working the steps.

After 17 months in Oxford I have seen the miracles first hand. I am able to give back by helping new women in my house get through struggles they are facing, and I have the women there to help me as well. I have been able to help open a new house, help with housing services, and give back in every way I can. Thanks to Oxford I have my family back in my life, I have a full time job I enjoy and I have a lot of lifelong friends.

LAURA S.

It was early January 2014 when I finally had been accepted into an Oxford House. About 2 weeks later was my first chapter meeting. I was in attendance and the meeting was about to be adjourned and everyone was packing up their paperwork when, all of a sudden, my Outreach Worker asked the Chapter "does anyone see the pink elephant in the room?" It was at that time I realized I was not fooling anyone, including myself. A Chapter Officer in front of the entire Chapter looked at me and asked me take a urine drug screen. I was reluctant, of course, as the results would show up positive. At that point I had to leave and there again I was homeless one more time.

It was at that point that I decided to ask for help. So, 5 weeks later, I was in detox going bed-to-bed for a 90-day program. Well, after 120 days, I was told to find an Oxford House. I was a nervous wreck as I had blamed my previous relapse on Oxford House. I then saw that same Outreach Worker at my treatment center. I reluctantly asked her if she knew of any Women's Oxford Houses that had openings. She told me that she was about to open the first women's house in Manassas,

Virginia. That weekend I met with her, she interviewed me, accepted me, and I was very excited to move into this new Oxford House.

I moved in as the only member; however, 3 weeks later I had 2 members move in who had been in the program for a year. At my third Chapter meeting, they had to elect officers. No one would step up and I had little knowledge at that time as to what was going on. That same Outreach Worker nominated me as Treasurer, indicating that service work would help my sobriety and she would take the time to teach me my position. I was all about that and had the willingness to learn and help this Chapter become a strong Chapter. I realized it was time to step up and I took the position. Getting involved with Oxford House was exactly what I needed to stay sober and busy, which helped me stay on track.

This year has been incredible. I have stayed involved with Oxford House, helped other houses not only in my Chapter but also in other Chapters. I was able to take what I had learned by stepping up and opening a house, becoming a Chapter Officer to help other houses become successful. The main component is that I stayed involved. I have gone to conventions, I help with presentations, I help with opening new houses and I help picking up donations. Service work is what has helped me stay sober. All of this and being a part of a great large family of Oxford House members has been a true blessing. Recently the house had another turnover, making me the only member in that house once again. I called my Outreach Worker, who again had faith that I was fully capable of getting over this bump life had thrown my way. She told me to get into the solution and fill the house. Well, 3 weeks later our house was full again. It was just a bump that I wanted to make into a mountain but she would not let me. I stayed strong, followed direction and I'm still living in a successful Oxford House that remains financially stable, and follows the Oxford House Model.

Thirteen months later and with seventeen months of sobriety, I owe Oxford House a huge amends, as this has been a key component in my sobriety. I have learned how to do many things that I didn't have a clue about when I was out there.

LEXI A.

Hey Y'all, I'm Lexi and I'm an addict. My drug of choice is alcohol, and I know I'm an "addict" because I want what I want when I want it, and when I get it, I want MORE.

My clean date is December 19, 2011 and, Oh, what a day that WAS! But, let me back up. I was born an addict, to an addict Father, and a Mother raised by addicts. I realized very early on that there was either something wrong with ME or something wrong with the rest of the world. The phrase "Ego Maniac with an Inferiority Complex" fitted me to a "T."

I am a Blackout drunk, so most of my past is hazy, to say the least ... but, I believe that I was 12 when I actively sought alcohol. Fortunately, due to my Father's problem with the needle and pills, I had told myself, (around the age of 6), that I would never do "Hard Drugs. I truly believe that if I hadn't stuck to that, I would have died by the age of 19.

My birth date is December 16, 1969, which means I was drunk for about 30 years. Well, before the age of 28 I was usually only buzzed after work or school. After 28, it was if my eyes were open: I was drinking, drunk, or riding on residual...and I hid it pretty well.... until I didn't. I'm not going to go into a "drunk-a-log" so, here is the nutshell and the end.

At 21, I married a man who I didn't like very much – step work alerted me to the fact that I did that to please my Father. The marriage was dead in 2 years, but not buried for 10. I then met a wonderful man, and proceeded to eat his soul like pudding for the next 7 years. When he threw me out for the final time, due to my drunken rages and severely injuring myself on numerous occasions, (such as falling down the stairs and ripping off my pinkie finger) ...I had a moment of clarity. But, when the dark forces are in control of every thought and action, clarity is skewed. I decided that I didn't deserve to be with a "good "man.... and I found EXACTLY the one my disease had been looking for my entire life -- the one who wouldn't tell me "NO", until he did with his hands.

On December 11, 2011 I moved him, myself, and our meager belongings into a Storage Unit. "Storage Unit" is a pretty description ... this place was a collection of containers, back ends of tractor-trailers and discarded garden sheds. The temperature that week was highs of 20 degrees, so we burned Kerosene inside it ... we didn't get sick from the fumes because the door wouldn't shut all the way. I turned 42 that Friday, and a party was thrown for me at the drug dealer's trailer up the street, (just because I wasn't smoking crack, popping pills or using the needle didn't mean my associates weren't). It was about 15 degrees that night, so I wanted to stay put. The boyfriend wanted me to go "home"; he left and I stumbled in a few hours later. The brawl that ensued was of epic proportions. Today, I can own up to my part ... I hit back and I pack quite a punch} ... We both blacked out and when we came to the following morning, he came at me,

grabbed me up by the hair and slammed my head into the wall. As I slid down, his foot came up and for a split second, I envisioned him breaking my neck. I rolled off to the side, grabbed my tote bag and bolted.... running as fast as I could, back to the dealer's trailer.

Regardless of the activities that happened in that house, I always felt safe there... the men were "good 'ole boys" who didn't take kindly to puttin' hands on women; and had, on several occasions, offered to "make him GO AWAY, permanently." I sat on the couch in a state of catatonia, holding a Teddy Bear –where that bear came from, I will never know – for the entire weekend.

On Monday morning, I had to be at a meeting with my Intense Outpatient Program Team... the purpose was to discuss me. (SIDENOTE: By this time in my life, I had 3 D.U.I's under my belt, had been through Intense Probation, was still on probation, had been through 7 months of I.O.P., disappeared from after care and had tried to slip back in, thinking no one would have noticed I'd been gone for 2 months ... How I'd managed to not get sanctioned for drinking OR a dirty drug screen for marijuana is beyond me).

When I got on the bus that morning, a man sat down beside me. I had seen him around. After looking at me for a minute, he said: "You look like Hell." I nodded. He was quiet for moment, and then said "I get a check every month, and I have 6 older sisters. I would never hurt a woman, I can get you off the grid. You look like you need a drink. We can get off at the next stop and go back to my place." I was hit with another MOMENT of CLARITY, only this time.... there was LIGHT. I clearly heard my Angels say: "You know who is speaking through this man." I thanked him and told him I had some business to attend to.

When I arrived at I.O.P. 2 hours early, my counselor was sitting at the reception desk, NOT behind closed doors where she belonged. She proceeded to stare at me. My heart was racing, my stomach was churning; I felt like a mouse in a box, scrambling to get out. This may have gone on for 30 seconds, or 10 minutes...I have no idea...all I knew was everything was coming to a head and I had to come up with something.

My whole life, I have managed to talk my way out of situations, or at least minimize the damage. So, I stood up, marched myself up to the desk and said, "I need to have a Word with you, privately, before this meeting." "I can't leave the desk," she said gently, her green eyes snapping with fire." What's up? I opened my mouth, fully expecting a fabulous tale to spill out and said: "I have been lying, and I need help. I don't care where I go OR what I have to do, BUT, If you don't help me, I don't know what today will bring but it is not going to be good."..... She THREW her arms up and shouted, "And the Angels SANG."

For the first time in my entire life, I was filled with peace. I didn't know it at the time but, in that statement, I informally worked Steps 1, 2 & 3. I surrendered, became totally honest, utterly willing and had a glimmer of HOPE. She took me to detox, where we discovered I was about to have a heart attack. My blood pressure had sky-rocketed to 180/120 and the D.T's had begun. I believe in "It is by dying that one awakens to eternal life."

From that day on, I have done as others have told me, I take "suggestions" as commands (as long as the suggester has significant clean time). I went from detox to a Domestic Violence Shelter, where I stayed while I waited for a bed at rehab. I stayed at rehab for 21 days, and would have stayed longer if I could have. I went back to the Shelter while I waited for a bed at a Long Term Facility – The First Step Farm. I lived at the Farm for 13 Months.

I knew that If I didn't reside somewhere where accountability was a priority, I probably wouldn't stay sober...or, at least, not sane. The Church Street Oxford House in Asheville, NC was strongly recommended, I didn't really know what an Oxford House was ... but I trusted the women who suggested it.

When I came to the house, I barely had a voice. I had been sober for 14 months, but all of that time had been very sheltered ... and living with 15 women in early recovery at the Farm was confusing at times. The Oxford House became my haven. No matter how scary the world was, I knew I had a safe place to go, AS LONG as I didn't give into MY DISEASE. In the beginning, the fear of homelessness and the love of my sponsor was all that stood between myself and a drink. Then my inner strength began to grow... nurtured by the (tough) love of my housemates. Church Street is known as the strictest Oxford House in our Chapter. The Probationary Period is 2 stages, each being 21 days; the first stage's curfew is 10:00. House Meetings are truly about talking about WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON.

Today, on August 1, 2015, I have been sober for 3 years, 7 months and 13 days. I have a sponsor, and I utilize her. I talk to my God continuously. I have worked the steps, and I apply their lessons in my daily affairs. I have a home group, and I do service work for my home group. I go to the Treatment Facility and share my story every other week.

Today, I have a voice. Today, I know who I am, and what I stand for. Today, I KNOW when my disease is talking, and I know how to stop it. Today, I am the Chapter Chair because I can only keep what I have by giving it away. Today, this Grateful Recovering Addict humbly thanks the Oxford House for allowing me the chance to learn to love myself.

MARIANNE FRIEDRICHS

I was born in 1958, the only girl in a family that had four boys, in a time when it was popular for women to be married off and the men were the ones who were the breadwinners. In Jr. High, drugs were getting popular with the kids, mostly pot, and I knew it was wrong for me. Instead, I got involved with the Jesus Freak movement and decided to reform my school friends. That lasted awhile until I, too, gave in. I got pregnant at 16, got married for a minute, and ended up a single mom. I met another man at 18 and got married, moved to the mountains on ten acres and went self-sufficient, like a lot of the post-hippie movement did. My husband left early every morning and returned late every night to support our lifestyle of chickens and organic veggies, and solar panels. I was pretty lonely. We had neighbors, even if they were a few miles away, and it was through them that I found speed, pot, and of course, alcohol. It didn't take long before I was engulfed. I could say the many reasons, but every alcoholic and user knows. This I share with them – the longing to escape, the loneliness, and doing all the wrong things to fill this void inside me. I was never sober, always drunk. I ended up in my first rehab when I was 19. I wasn't even of legal drinking age. My recovery did not last long, and I decided to move back to the city. The story doesn't matter – all of it insane, but it went on and on and on....

It took until the age of 55 for me to realize that life had to have more to offer than my pitiful existence. I didn't care what it took, I HAD to do something. I turned to God and cried out with everything I had. I was sick of it. I WAS the walking dead. I went to rehab one last time. I was told that people will only change when the level of pain is greater than choosing not to change. Oxford House came and did a presentation and I wanted to go so bad. Things happened that I can only credit to God.

I am able to live in a house that is heaven compared to the awful place I was. I feel safe here and it is beyond what I ever thought possible. Since then I have helped other houses with meetings and served as treasurer on a chapter level. I have found that I get the most satisfaction in my life by humbly trying to help others. Every day there is a lot to learn. I face every day knowing I have support. I only have to reach out and ask. We can't do this alone. It's a program of 'we.'

I owe my life to Oxford House, and it is there to save anyone who wants it bad enough. I wish, I wish, I wish. I know it's not possible to save everyone, but I have hope that some will choose life instead of death. It's up to you and how bad you want it. I am glad that God used Mr. Molloy to start this network of homes where people can grow and thrive. Words don't do justice to my gratitude. My God is awesome.

MICHAEL JOHNS

My name is Michael Johns and this is my Oxford House story. My clean date is April 1, 2013. I was born in Reno, Nevada Oct. 29, 1976. I was the 4th child of 6. I have 2 little brothers, 2 older brothers, and an older sister. My parents did the best they could while we were growing up. We never went without, although we weren't spoiled. We didn't have a lot, but we had more than some. I believe my parents did the best they could with what they had.

I remember my first traumatic experience as a child. I was 5 years old and was the victim of sexual molestation as a child by a male. This was a turning point in my life. I became a very angry rebellious child. I hated authority. I was out of control. I believe this is where I became diseased. My attitude, thinking, and behavior changed drastically.

As I got older I got in a lot of trouble at school. I got into a lot of fights with students and teachers. I was constantly in the principal's office for one reason or another. At the age of 12, my parents sent me to a twenty-eight day psychiatric hospital where I was diagnosed as manic-depressive. I was leveled on meds and went home. I remember my mom saying to stay on my meds and that they were helping. They didn't get me high so I didn't stay on them. Of course, my old behavior returned and I was off to the races with out-of-control actions.

At the age of 12 I started experimenting with alcohol. I liked it. I liked the effect it had on my mind. It relaxed me and made me feel like I was OK. I was drinking with my neighbor who was an adult. Eventually I started drinking with my friends. We lived in the country in Utah. My parents had enough of each other and divorced. My little brothers went with my Mom and I went with my Dad. My Dad worked 2nd shift in a coal mine. When school let out, it was 'party at Mike's house.' There was no supervision. At 15, I started smoking weed and huffing gas. The disease had progressed. We used to terrorize the neighborhoods by stealing out of cars. We stole to support our habits.

At age 16 I was arrested for 20 felony counts of possession of stolen goods. At that time my Dad let me leave town with the carnival. What an experience. I saw half the country and was introduced to meth at the young age of 17. I fell in love with it. Meth became my new best friend. I had to have it all the time. It took my life over. I worked the carnival about a year and came back to Utah to do my first jail sentence at 18 years old. After jail, I starting working in the oil field and meth was everywhere. I worked 7 days a week to spend every penny I earned on my meth habit. After a few years in the oil field and a few arrests, I landed a job at a wilderness summer/winter lodge in Colorado. I spent three years there drinking myself into oblivion. We also did meth as much as possible but it was not always available. The lodge burned down in a wilderness fire and I was forced down the mountain into a little town where I worked on the rigs and sort of functioned in society. I also worked at every restaurant in town. Finally I could no longer function. My brother invited me to North Carolina. He thought he could help me but he used too and we drank him and his family out of a home.

In 2011 I started thinking, "Could it be the drugs?" I had been to a few NA meetings but never took it serious. That's when I moved into the Oxford House Zmaura Way in Hickory, North Carolina. I can remember my outreach worker, Misty Wilkins, telling me, "Stay at least a year." Well I was hardheaded and gave it 6 months. I moved out on my own. In 6 months I was back to full-blown active addiction. I wound up losing the best job I ever had. I lost my girlfriend. I lost my home. I was staying with my little brother and his family again. The shame was eating me up. I walked away from my brother's house and became homeless.

I stayed on the streets about 2 months. I was in an abandoned building in March of 2013. It was very cold and I was praying to die. I stayed in the abandoned building for about 2 weeks and my legs became so exposed to the cold weather that, after I was found by a homeless man, the hospital had to amputate both my legs above the knee. Well, I guess you could literally say that using brought me to my knees. When I was in the ambulance on my way to the hospital, I knew I was going to lose my legs. During my surgery, I contracted the superbug. This infected my whole body with flesh-eating bacteria that defeats antibiotics. I went into a coma and had kidney failure. The doctors kept telling my family I was doomed to die. My Mom called our church elders and asked them to give me a blessing with oil to get better or pass on. I immediately came out of my coma and the bacteria went away. When I say immediately, I mean within a few minutes. This was a lifesaving blessing and a miracle. When I awakened and came to my senses I thought, "Damn it, God, why did I not die." Slowly, he was teaching me that I am worth more alive than dead.

I went from the hospital to a nursing home amongst the dying. I learned to have a lot of gratitude in there. Although I don't have legs, I realized I am very fortunate. I stayed in this nursing home 6 months. During the 6 months at the nursing home, I was on managed pain medicine. I talked to the old people and watched them die. This place was a sad place to be. I am grateful for this place though, because it could have been worse. I stayed there until I got my disability. I then applied for the same Oxford House I lived in before. I had left the house on good terms so they voted me back in without hesitation.

I moved back into Oxford House on November 17, 2013 and detoxed off my meds. I was already going to meetings from the nursing home. I started going to more meetings because I was detoxing. I found myself secure in the love of the fellowship of NA and the Oxford House. After moving in, I set some goals. I wanted to go to college for whatever. I wanted my driver's license. I wanted to work the steps. I have accomplished 2 out of 3 so far. I passed 2 semesters of college and got my driver's license. God told me to live and I will help you gain the desires of your heart.

Today I drive, cook, clean, do my own laundry, and whatever else I put my mind to. Living in a healthy Oxford House gives me freedom with accountability, which an addict needs to stay clean and change. I give other addicts rides to meetings, to work, to do their shopping, to their doctors' appointments, and to whatever else they may need. My life is so different and so much better. I have found the fullness of joy my God wants for me. It is simple if I surrender my will and get the heck out the way. Today I have lost the desire to use, thanks to the Oxford House Traditions and the NA steps. The best part about being here in an Oxford House is being a helping hand to the next sick and suffering addict or alcoholic. I believe in this process. If a man without legs can live in an Oxford House and change, any addict or alcoholic can.

I do a lot of things to stay clean. I stay on my meds, I go to a lot of meetings, I work steps, I pray, I go to church, and I reach out. In closing, I want to share that, while I was in this nursing home, a woman came in who went into a coma as I was coming out. I used to work with this woman. She suffered from a rare brain disease. I met her in NA in 2007. I was sad for her. She did not like this place. She left and moved in with her family and started using again. Well she is back and she lives in an Oxford house now. We hang out a lot and go to a lot of meetings. She has a hard time walking so she pushes me in my chair and it helps her with balance. We help each other out. Oxford House is truly God-given. If you get the chance, please take it, and at least "give it a year."

NICOLE BELLA

My name is Nicole Bella and I am an addict in long-term recovery. I am Wilmington, Delaware-born and raised and am truly grateful for Delaware Oxford House!!

I moved into an Oxford House with only 9 days clean and still withdrawing. It was my 31st visit to detox and I was completely beaten, broken and lost. I had been to long-term inpatient numerous times and didn't know where else to turn. It was suggested over and over that I try Oxford House and I finally said yes. Little did I know I was about to embark on the most amazing journey of my life.

I moved in and immediately had 'family.' My roommates were interested in me. They wanted to see me succeed. They believed in me. I was held accountable. They trusted me with our finances. I had no idea I could ever be trusted. I didn't know people could genuinely love me, and they did. When I had about 30 days, I was voted in as Chapter Chair and that's when my service work really kicked in. People came to me with their issues wanting my input and advice. It was the most rewarding feeling ever. As time went on, I celebrated a year clean in my second Oxford house, which I had been asked to open a few months prior. I stepped down from Chapter Chair and was immediately nominated as Housing Services, which, of course, I accepted. In this process I was taught assertiveness and I knew I needed to put that to good use!!!

I have held every position in my house. I have been signer on my accounts but by far the best position was being a friend. People search their whole life for what I have found in my journey with Oxford House. I've become the responsible daughter. The trusting friend. The willing servant. The honest housemate. On my third day in detox I thought I'd never stay clean. My desire to grow has completely destroyed my thoughts of using and I owe it to Oxford House by all means. It's taught me how to become a good person. That's all I ever wanted to be. To have some peace of mind. I have that today. I am coming up on 2 years clean, moving into my own place soon and it is the most amazing feeling, knowing that I made it this far and people loved me and believed in me. I am so lucky to have all of you. We are so lucky and blessed. Thank you all for believing in me. You will always be my home. I am forever grateful.

NOE SORIANO

I served a pretty lengthy sting in prison, 8 and a half years, and most of it in solitary confinement in McAlester; a.k.a., 'The Walls.' Out of those 8½ years, 6 were in the S.H.U, and 4 were single cell. So, yes, that time really went slow. I was charged with trafficking. I fought my case in OKC County Jail for 2 years, and finally took a 15-year sentence.

When I was paroled, I didn't submit an out-of-state package because: (1) I knew those took forever and, quite frankly, I didn't want to wait another minute in prison, and (2) I was under the impression I could go to a halfway house, which I thought were pretty common in Oklahoma the same way they are in California. But that was not the case.

I had hired a lawyer for my parole hearings; I had been denied 3 times but the 4th was a charm. I was slated to go to the Carver center. I walked out of The Walls on April 25, 2013 and was put on a Greyhound bus. I was in OKC terminal not knowing a single soul! Not knowing what direction to even head to.... I walked to a cab driver and asked him if he could take me to the Carver center. It was around 10 p.m. when I got there. I gave them my information and they had no record of me anywhere in their system; they was not expecting me. I asked them what should I do and they said, "I don't know but you can't stay here." It was 10 at night, in a city that I had only seen behind bars, not knowing anybody. I walked and I found a motel and stayed the night.

Early the next day, I caught a cab, went to the closest Walmart, bought some clothes, hygiene, shoes, and underclothes and a duffle bag and was back in the room in time to shower and meet checkout time. I went through my paperwork and saw the address of the P.O. office and walked there. When I got there I was told I was at the wrong place; that I had to first go downtown and get processed there, fingerprinted, mugshot, etc. I was bummed! I walked to downtown and went through that process, and when I was done, I walked back! I met my P.O and explained to him that the Carver Center

didn't have my paperwork and asked him if he could call them and fix it... No. he said, McAlester never arranged any housing for me. I was devastated, now what? He said to walk down the street, and there was a homeless shelter that could "probably" take me in... I went outside and sat on the curb and cried... I'm not ashamed to admit it. I really didn't know what to do, and then I made a decision right there and then. I would get on a bus to Mexico and reconnect with my family and old illegal business connections and never come back to the states, a decision I had said I wouldn't ever do.

Before I go any further, though, let me tell you a little bit about my background. I was born in East Los Angeles; my parents split up when I was a young kid. I partially grew up in the street, and was raised by them. My mom worked long hours just to try to make ends meet; she didn't have any idea about what I was becoming. I grew up in a time where street gangs were dominating the news. Everyday killings were a norm, the crack epidemic was at its peak, and my boogiemán was the night stalker, literally! Richard Ramirez was captured on Dittman Ave, just next block from where I grew up. Growing up, I didn't have any role models like Magic Johnson or Fernando Valenzuela; no, my role models were those big homies in the neighborhood, with all the respect in the world. When they spoke, everybody listened. Those were the carnales, or brothers, a handful of elite members of the Mexican Mafia. Membership was costly, and everybody knew that you had to earn your keeps in the streets. I was a kid full of ambition aiming to be somebody. I hooked up with a crew at a young age, 12, and become a stick-up kid. A simple operation, really, but I got a lot of recognition. That was my first hustle and one of the most dangerous. A big homie or drug dealer would buy a key from dealer, then they would then call us with the info saying they just made a purchase. We knew that what they were saying was that the dealer had 20k cash on him right that minute. We would suit up and handle up. It was never easy, but the job got done, and we would give them their cut for the info, in some cases most of it because of their status... in a sense we were working for them. Time and time again, we would hit licks and, with time, I got more and more aggressive. At the age of 15, I caught an attempted murder charge, and I was lucky for that... I did some horrible shit. I served 5 years in the California youth authority. While in there, my reputation grew; I was starting to be a name that people knew.

To make that long story short, I got to the point where I was calling shots for my street gang. In time I was offered a membership to la 'EME' The letter "m" for Mexican Mafia. I got into the drug game pretty heavy, pushing some solid heavy and making lots of cash... with that came me using, and I was using a lot. I was pushing out of state, as well. I was the type of guy who led by example... I got arrested and convicted for trafficking a quarter million dollars' worth of heroin... there was a reason why I spent a lot of time in S.H.U... My California jacket followed me to Oklahoma and I wasn't allowed to walk the yard 'cause of my influence with the Hispanics. While in prison, I kind of lived a double life. I was this bigger-than-life inmate to all the Hispanics in prison and I made a lot of decisions behind those walls but I knew, in my mind, I was done with all of it! I had left a family behind, including a 3-month-old little baby girl, and that absolutely killed me. Her mom got arrested with me, which why I made the decision to take that 15-year deal. My kids gave me a reason to live. Nobody wrote, nobody visited. I was 1,000 miles away from home; all alone. No carnales (brothers) wrote; nobody put money on my books; nobody gave a shit. I was done! I was done with everything, and I just knew I couldn't go back. It had always been the pattern, get out, meet up with the homies, get high, chase the money, and get in trouble.

This brings me back to the curb, just like that I had made my decision to run to Mexico and get back to my old ways, I simply didn't know what to do. I was tired of walking with no solution.... Then the supervisor there in the P.O'S office walks out and says, come in real quick. I did. I sat down and she tells me that my parole officer told her that I didn't have anywhere to go. I said yes. She then asked me if I had ever heard of Oxford House and I said I hadn't. She said she was looking at my file and knew I was an addict, on top of having drug charges, and that Oxford House was a perfect fit for me. She called the Ditmer Oxford House and they said for me to come down. I had no idea where that was at but she drove me there and wished me luck and drove away! WTF... I rang the bell and was led in, and I felt out of place. I had never really hung out with whites, let alone live with some. They explained what Oxford House was all about, and the whole process to getting in, along with the news that they didn't have room for me (that's still being disputed, they had room but they claim they didn't ☺). I didn't know what I was going to do. They made some phones calls and Lakeview Oxford House had room but I was going to have to be couched because their meetings were on Monday night. It was Friday and I cleaned that whole house all weekend and I got voted in!

I really didn't know what to expect; all I knew was that I was being given another chance at life and I wasn't about to blow it! I got involved and I put my all in it! First thing I wanted to do was bring awareness to my p.o about Oxford House. They were ready to send me to a homeless shelter? Really? That eventually lead to a big meeting with a lot bigwigs in the P.O. OFFICE, and Dan Hahn, Randy, Andy McElroy and Chad Miller attended as well. I meet Dan at the state convention, probably a week or 2 from out of prison. I remember Jackson announcing that he would be the new outreach in OKC. I walked up to him and said, whatever you need help with, I'm there. I got to working; all my energy

was focused on Oxford House and on paying my rent. I was shoveling gravel for 30 to 50 bucks a day, then the Moore tornado came through and leveled that town, and I was out there volunteering every day. I caught the eye of a construction crew that led to them hiring me. Word got out that I was a worker and, after the World Convention in D.C., Steve Blundell called on me to work for him. I noticed there weren't any Hispanics in Oxford house but David Martinez... It wasn't because they didn't get voted in; it was because nobody was doing presentations in any Spanish-speaking AA and NAs. I started going and, before you knew it, we had 3 in Lakeview Oxford House and in others. There were no Spanish manuals though and that got me to putting one together with the help of folks in Chicago Oxford Houses.

Oxford House has helped me a lot, and has made me the person that I am today. It taught me to value life! It taught me responsibility; it taught me self-respect. I have been clean for 10 years now; I haven't used since my incarceration in February 9, 2005. I'm a business owner and I'm in good-standing as a citizen of this country. I owe Oxford House a lot, and I'm grateful that I can call myself an alumnus. I'm going to D.C to hopefully learn about opening some Oxford Houses myself and giving back.... Thanks, Jackson, I still remember something you said in that State Convention (Tulsa 2013) that really impacted me. I can't quote you exactly but I'll try: "We can't just live in Oxford House and just get by; we have to be involved. I feel sorry for those that don't make an effort..." Thanks, Jackson, and to all of Oxford House.

RANDALL ANDERSON

My addiction to drugs and alcohol began in my senior year of High School back in 1966. At first, it started by drinking a beer or two every other day after school with the girls at beach parties, and when we went out to surf the waves. By the end of my senior year, I was indulging in marijuana, LSD and angel's dust, which we soaked the marijuana cigarettes in, before smoking them. I was eighteen years old when this all began to take hold of my life. As teenagers, one's emotions begin to change and the need for experimentation storms rapidly in our minds. Whether it is to find an escape or to just submit to peer pressure, the results are always the same. Eventually, you develop an addictive personality, and in the end, there is no way out. I was lucky to graduate with my High School diploma and, if you asked me how I did it, I wouldn't be able to tell you. It was all a blur.

After graduation, I began playing the guitar in Rock and Blues bands, attending college, and eventually three universities. I became a professional student. After earning an A.S. degree, a B.A degree, an M.S.C.P, and a Ph.D. in Psychology and English Literature, I worked at twenty different jobs and I was never satisfied with one of them. The reason for this is because I was still using drugs and alcohol. Addiction and seeking a career does not correlate. Addiction means failure at whatever you attempt to do and, until you realize this fact, you're not going to get anywhere.

Right out of High School, I fell in love with a sweet girl and I married her. Soon after, because of drugs and alcohol addiction, it ended in a divorce three years later. About two years later, I found another wonderful and beautiful girl, whom I also married. After two years, this marriage also ended in a divorce, because of my addiction to drugs and alcohol. Then over the next twenty years, I fell in love with three more women, who also loved me, and I married them too. Eventually, after two or three years, I got divorced because drugs and alcohol were more important to me than a family life. My marriages produced fourteen children, eleven grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren. To say that addiction ruined my life is too nice a way to put it. Addiction destroyed my life and my entire world. It created a living hell for me. Addictive behavior is a disease, and it has to be treated as such. It is the biggest problem you will ever have in your life.

In the middle of the nineteen nineties, my Mother passed away, so I left for New Mexico and decided to pursue a position as a Clinical Psychotherapist, since I possessed the degree to do so. After detoxing from drugs and alcohol, I set up shop with the help of my father and practiced for five years at my own clinic. In the sixth year, I went back to drugs and alcohol because of the pressures that I experienced treating too many patients. What made matters worse was that I began using heroin. Before long, I had become also addicted to heroin. Eventually, I entered into a rehabilitation center in Roswell, where I stayed for a year to detox from heroin. The treatment was successful but, when I began playing in Rock Bands again, everything went haywire. I started drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana again. You must remember that one addiction always leads to the next.

My good Father died in 2005 and left me a large accumulated inheritance from him and from what he had saved for me from what my Mother left me when she passed on. It included a large amount of money in a trust fund and a four-bedroom home on the beachfront. Four years later, I was broke, without friends or a home to live in, because of drugs and alcohol addiction. I lost everything because of poor choices. To make things worse, I not only smoked marijuana and drank alcohol, but I went back to using heroin. I also went a step further and began smoking crack cocaine. I ended up homeless and broke. After entering one shelter after another and going through detox again, I qualified for disability payments

because I got injured in a bad automobile accident, leaving me permanently disabled and in constant pain. Without any way to relieve the pain, I began taking OxyContin on a regular basis. After a while, I could not get by without it. I became addicted to my medication. Within the period of two years, my weight went from 164 pounds to 103 pounds. I was literally wasting away. My addiction and pain was killing me day after day. I had no respite or way out.

With nowhere to turn, I wrote a message on a piece of paper saying, "This is a stick up. Hand over some money!" I went to my own bank and a teller that I knew and handed her the note. She had been following my behavior over the years, and had an idea that someday I may end up doing just what I did. She handed me a two hundred dollar throw-down packet of ten-dollar bills. After I left the bank, I went to the bar and got skunk drunk and bought some homeless people drinks. Then I walked to the Police station and turned myself in for robbing the bank. They transported me to the cell block, and within a half an hour, the Federal Marshall showed up and took me to the Federal Detention Center.

While in federal custody, in which I remained for four years, I began to detox and to become a thinking human being again. As time passed by, and because of my education, I instructed GED classes daily, held Bible classes, and earned another college certification in writing patents, copywriting and applying for grants. I did this because my cellmate, who was a publisher from a well-known publishing company, had suggested to me to do so, after I showed him a sample of my short stories. When he was released two years later, he told me to keep writing, and that I had a hidden talent to share with the world. I started writing ten different fiction and fantasy books over the next two years while still incarcerated, and when I was released two years later, I had already accumulated synopses for ten novels.

I entered Oxford House Ku'oko'a in the beginning of 2012, and I have been here ever since. Sobriety has become a way of life for me. I love being high on life, without drugs and alcohol to control my every thought. I am presently working daily on the drafts of ten different novels in the works. With variety comes invention and with research and combinations of stories comes a renewal of interests. This helps me from getting writer's block, by not putting all my eggs in one basket. I have been in contact with my former English professors, who have promised to help me with the editing, as long as they are listed in the credits and the documentation section in the books. I also have a high school friend who is a well-known lawyer who has agreed to help me with securing an ISBN copyright number for all of my novels, as well as representing me to the publisher and sending my books to the press. It's been a long road and only now for the first time in my life, I can see the light at the end of the tunnel. All this happened for me, because I am clean and sober.

To sum everything up, my addiction to drugs and alcohol literally destroyed my life, my family, and my marriages. It nearly claimed my life. Addiction will eventually make you insane. It will eat you away like a cancer. No one can quit without help. It takes effort and determination. Once an addict, always an addict. In the end, addiction will take your soul. Drugs and alcohol are deadly poisons that affect the mind, body and spirit. Stopping is the only answer to becoming a successful person in whatever you do. There is no compromising. Remember your Higher Power. This could be the difference between success and failure.

Before stopping, you must follow these basic steps to recovery:

1. You must understand it will be a challenge.
2. You must decide you need help for your addiction.
3. You must want to change your life for a better way.
4. You must keep clean and sober company at all times.
5. You must always participate in clean and sober fun.
6. You must live in clean and sober housing for sobriety.
7. Transition from addiction to sobriety is the beginning.

Oxford Clean and Sober Houses promote clean and sober living. They have a structured lifestyle aimed at reprogramming the addicts' thinking, which eventually enables them to get refocused on reality and the more important essentials of dealing with society on a more informative level. Oxford House is transitional housing and a true Oasis for the addict, no matter where they come from. A life of addiction requires making sober choices, and continuing with AA and NA meetings. These meetings will help to reinforce in the addicts minds that they must be sincere, because relapse is just a step away. If you want to make a change in your life and you are tired of your alcohol and drug addiction, then you need to check into an Oxford House now. We offer clean and sober living for the addict. We offer a life away from drugs. We offer you a way back to reality. We offer you life without addiction. Oxford House is your answer to success and a bright new future. I was an addict, and now I am a dedicated writer seeking fame and fortune. Don't forget to pick up one of my

novels on the bookstore shelves, or get them downloaded on e-books when they are released. My authorship name on the covers will be Baron West. Oxford House has been my Saving Grace, and it can be yours too!

ROCKII Q.

My name is Rockii Q. and I live in Corpus Christi, Texas where I was born and raised. In the neighborhood I was from I was surrounded by crime and violence from a very young age within my community, in my school, and especially in my home. Growing up, chaos was all I knew. I knew how to be dishonest. I knew how to lie because I didn't want to get locked into a closet and beaten. I knew how to steal and rob. And I knew how to pretend I was fine and happy.

I started using alcohol at the age of 9 and, steadily, things got worse after I was raped at 12 years old. I started cutting myself and using prescription drugs. By fifteen, I was a constant runaway addicted to meth and I caught my second drug charge. I was sent to court-ordered treatment at a lockdown facility for adolescents in Taft, Texas. By then, I had just started; there was no stopping me even I loved you. It didn't matter who begged, who cried, who started to hate me. My addiction became a tornado in my life; therefore, I became a tornado in people's lives, especially the ones I loved the most. When things got lower, I dug deeper.

Eventually I was brought to knees from this disease to the point where I admitted that I was too sick for my own good. I accepted things for how uncomfortable they were going to get and finally surrendered. By this time, I was 17 years old and was already homeless once again, selling myself for drugs, addicted to heroin, living out of a trash bag and had recently been diagnosed with Hepatitis C.

My old sponsor got me an interview at the only women and children's house in the city because she knew someone who lived there. I didn't think I was going to get accepted because I had just turned 17 but they believed in me and saw hope that they could help me grow. Immediately upon my moving in, I felt glad to have discovered that I don't have to run and hide anymore. I started out as Treasurer and got more involved when I was made HSR. I really got to know Oxford House at a chapter level and eventually at a state level and, soon, at a national level.

SARAH C.

I grew up unfortunate, yet spoiled; abused, yet loved; and wise, yet naïve. I had no place in this world. I felt like I fit in nowhere and had no place to call home. I had a voice but wasn't sure how to use it. Drugs and whiskey changed all of that. I finally became the girl I wanted to be. I had found myself in a bottle and through a pipe. Years of numbed "happiness" went by before my life started crumbling. When it happened, it happened fast. Too swift to stop and pick up the pieces, so I let everything crash and burn to a point where I or no one who knew me thought I would ever be able to rebuild or recover. When the pain and suffering became too much to bear, I sought help. I tried church, anonymous programs, lavish residential treatment centers and even boot camp. It was never enough. I couldn't maintain sobriety no matter which route I took, no matter how high the stakes.

After another of my many stints in rehab, I had a family road trip to attend. I stocked up on some "maintenance medications" and headed west. Once I physically escaped my self-made hell and felt that some type of positive future was possible, I decided to stop using and try something different.

I moved into my first Oxford House @ 30 days clean. It was terrible... The women were overbearing and I couldn't even pee alone! But I stayed because I felt safe and, although I was smothered, I felt loved. Eventually I left that house and moved into another that was more my style. It was still stuffy but I could breathe easier. This is the place where I learned to be accountable, patient and self-sufficient. I was taught how to respect others, criticize constructively (and compassionately) and even mop the floor! I was not friends with everyone in the house but, when shit hit the fan and my darkest days of sobriety came, our differences were pushed aside. I was shown unconditional love and I learned how to love – just to love, not expecting anything in return. I didn't just make friends with these women; I found a family. The feeling of belonging I had been yearning for was finally found. I was home.

Oxford taught me how to be a friend, a leader and a woman with dignity. I've come much further in 2 years than I ever thought possible. Dreams are becoming reality for myself and my family that I've made here. Thank you to all Oxford members, leaders and supporters.

I learned what family really was in Oxford. I learned how to be honest when I was struggling. I learned how to not run and to stay in one place. I gained responsibility and accountability when I was wrong. I learned to maintain a strong foundation in my recovery through much of the structure that has been offered to me in my short time. I went to many places, thanks to Oxford House, and I plan to go to so many more.

Today I have 6 months clean and am waiting tables and planning to go back to school before I turn 18. I am grateful every day that I found Oxford House, Palmer Drug Abuse Program and NA. And I have people close to me who taught me so much in this self-discovery journey and in the Oxford way.

SARAH E.

In December of 2005, I was sitting in prison past my Early Release Date with nowhere to go. My family had restraining orders against me and I had no "friends" who could pass the DOC release address inspection. I was on DOSA and had about 17 months left. I was coming to terms with the fact that I was going to do all my time inside. I was also CPS involved and at risk of losing custody if I could not get out to fight to keep my parental rights. I heard about Oxford while ear hustling in the main line. I got addresses from the library for all the Oxford Houses in the county I could be released to and started writing letters. I looked crazy on paper- kidnapping/custodial interference, residential burglary, assault 2 and 3, forgeries, PSP's, but no drug charges – so I just looked like a psycho. Why would there be drug charges? I had done them all by the time I was out doing the crimes.

Anyhow, eventually I got a letter back from the Anoka Oxford House in Bremerton, WA around the middle of April 2006. They were willing to let me release there. I got approval from my CO and had a release date finally. But, I was shipped back to County on new charges that Friday. At court the following Monday, I was PR'd and allowed to travel from Whatcom County to Kitsap County. I finally got to Kitsap County about 2 am and made it up to the Oxford House. All the ladies in the house were waiting for me and watching Narnia. I knocked on the door; they opened it, showed me the couch and said, we will see you in the morning. The next morning I had a STRONG cup of coffee, then one of the ladies took me up to check in with my CO and to a noon NA meeting. That was the beginning. Had I not had the immediate support of a welcoming group of ladies, I am not sure what would have happened. I wonder sometimes what would have happened if I had served my whole sentence and not had supervision and Oxford when I got out, or if I had been released and gone to my old stomping grounds. I know now that I was lucky to get that group of women in my house, as I have been around long enough to know that not all houses are as good as mine was. I am still close friends with most of them and we are all doing well for the most part.

I celebrated 9 years clean in June of 2014. As far as my life today... I am a real estate broker/property manager and I work for an attorney. I worked in a treatment center for about 5 years but I switched gears about a year and a half ago. I have most of what I want and everything that I need. I have an amazingly strong support network and am an active member of my 12-step fellowship. I have been carrying the message of recovery into treatment facilities and DOC institutions for years and have been asked to speak to members of the TC programs a number of times. I believe in the power of addicts helping addicts and have nothing but evidence that it works.

Thank you, Oxford, for taking a chance on me and giving me a home when no one else would.

SANDY G.

My name is Sandy and I am an addict. I am 37 and my clean date is 1-21-2010. I have 2 teenage children and in February, 2016, I will have my first grandchild. I am the 3rd child of 4 and my parents divorced when I was 9 or 10 because of my father's drinking problem and the man he turned into. I moved around a lot after that and I changed schools at least once a year. When I was about 12, two big things happened in my life. I started using and my mother married my first stepfather. Because of the strained relationship I had with my father, I thought this was the answer to our prayers. I truly loved having a man in the house and seeing my mother happy. The honeymoon phase didn't last long for any of us. My stepfather was an abuser. He started with just losing his temper quickly and then his anger got more intense. Our lives soon turned into a guessing game of what we did wrong this time and how severe the punishment would be. We lived this way for a few years; my sisters and brother would move in and out but I stayed with Mom.

When I was 14 my stepfather asked me if he could take a shower with me, I went straight to my aunt and told her. Within a few hours I was kicked out of my mother's house. I moved in with my grandmother and for the first time I could ever remember I felt safe. My grandmother was a very important person in my life. She is the one that tried to teach me values

and morals. She loved me unconditionally and tried her best to build up my self-esteem. I would have told you before that I only left her house because she lived so close to my stepfather and that I couldn't take walking by his house anymore.

Having been clean for a little while, I have learned some things about myself and the truth is that I moved because I couldn't handle the emotions I felt after my uncle died. That is what I was taught that worked. You feel too much, you run. So I ran to my sister's house in another state. I didn't like the conditions at her house so I ran to my boyfriend's house. I didn't like the way our relationship was going, so I decided we needed a baby. I loved my daughter with all of my heart and I felt like I was finally getting my happy ending so we got married. The next year was baby number two. The following year, I found myself pregnant again. While I was in another state visiting my grandmother, I had a miscarriage. When I called my husband to tell him, he informed me that I would be ok and that was the end of talking about it. The next year or so was a bunch of chasing men, drugs, Internet friends and anything that did not involve my husband and children. That marriage ended and I moved out of state and left my children behind. Over the next several years I went from man to man, found some new drugs to try, stayed in the messed-up as much as possible and tried to present that I was handling everything just fine.

As each situation came up in my life that I couldn't handle, I would get help and a nice label to blame my behaviors on. My second husband believed in mental health help and, by this time, I was able to express my thoughts and feelings. I was able to talk to the doctors and get most any medications that I wanted. I never was able to get honest about the drugs I was doing. This created a lot of labels for me. I was bipolar 1 rapid cycle, borderline personality, intermediate explosive disorder, social phobia, PTSD, and alcoholic without dependency. I took more medications than I can begin to count, overdosed a few times and have had a few involuntary commitments. I learned to rely on these labels to explain why I was the way I was and why I was never happy.

My second marriage ended around the same time that my using turned to a higher degree. I spent the next couple of years in a new abusive relationship and chasing stronger drugs. I went from being a full time CNA to being a stripper to being a prostitute in a matter of 1½ years. The last 6 months of my using was a fast paced downhill dive. I shut off all contact with all my family, my children and anyone who wasn't using what I was. I lived in my van and turned tricks almost non-stop. On Christmas in 2009, I got honest with my family and tried to get clean on my own. That did not work either.

I remember the day that changed my life. I was sitting in front of my mother's computer and had two little letters pop in my head: NA. I looked up the meetings and went that night. I don't remember much of my first meeting other than someone gave me a hug, someone bought me a book and I was mad as hell when I walked out because I couldn't understand what all those people were so happy about. One person talked to me after the meeting and that person gave me a ride home. It was in that ride that I got my first glimmer of hope and identification. That person became my sponsor and, to the best of my ability, I took suggestions, went to meetings and called whenever I needed to talk (which was a lot). Life was good for the first year. Everything was new and I was not using and I walked around in awe most days. I ended my abusive relationship, got a job, and started to build relationship with my kids and family. I lived with my mom and my new stepfather. I was active in the program, working steps and making new friends. It was with a new friendship that Oxford House came into my life. I developed a very close friendship with a guy from the only house in Salisbury, NC at the time. It was in our conversations that we decided that our town needed a woman's house. He got in touch with his Outreach Service Worker, Misty, and we started looking for a house. Walking to my sponsor's house one day, I noticed the house next door was up for rent and we told Misty. Things happened pretty fast after that. We were busy finding donations and feeling good because there was finally going to be something to help the women in our town. About a month before the doors opened, I decided, after talking to my sponsor and my mother, to move in.

When I left my parents' house, they changed the locks. I didn't understand why. I had 18 months clean and was working and helping other but I didn't see how self-centered I still was. I didn't see how I was in relapse mode. Living in an Oxford House and having honest communication with my sponsor, I found out pretty fast that I was in relapse mode. I grounded myself and started my steps over and learned how to go deeper inside myself for my real truth. I learned that I am going to make mistakes and not to expect perfection out of myself or anyone else. I learned that I was a great big control freak and that is never a good thing in an Oxford House. I stayed for 18 months. I learned so much in that time. I developed great relationships with other women. I learned how to clean up after myself, how to think about other people and how my choices affect others. I learned how to follow rules and pay bills and have open communications with others. Then, with 3 years clean, I decided that I was ready to live away from the house. So, one night, two other women and I got our stuff and left in the middle of the night.

I had all these plans of being an alumna and being involved with helping our town become more recovery-based through Oxford and I let my self-centered choice take that from me. I lived in one house for a few months, but when one of the girls decided that she didn't have to pay any bills and I had no rights to make her pay or leave, I decided to move again. In the next house, I stayed for about a year. I tried with two other women but, for their own reasons, they couldn't stay. I couldn't afford to live on my own so I had to let it go. The night I had to re-interview, I was broken and lost. I had lost my home, lost my sponsor, and really just wanted to run. It took every ounce of faith I had to believe that this is where my HP wanted me to be.

I was welcomed home with more love than I could handle at the time. I had women holding me up over the next several weeks while I rebuilt my foundation. I was told that I was going to be ok. It has been a year since I have been home. While there are more days than I like that are House meetings and chore days and days that are full of stuff that I'd rather not do, there are even more days when I get to walk into a house and hear laughter, I get to share my real feelings with people that actually care. I have gotten the privilege of being involved in service again. I have developed more relationships; some that will carry me through the rest of my life. I feel secure and safe again like I did when I first moved into my grandmother's house. I know that I am home. While I don't plan to live here forever, I do plan to live here until my HP tells me it is time to move on. I do plan to do it different next time and leave in a way that reflect who I am, not on an impulsive thought. I do plan to do my part in upholding what Oxford House stands for and, to me, that is second chances, empathy, love and understanding. Thanks for letting me share.

SHAWN

My name is Shawn, and I am an addict. For me, that means that I have not used any mood or mind-altering substances since July 27, 2011. I had a pretty normal childhood, and made some poor decisions after graduating from college. I thought I lived a normal life of people in college and didn't think I had a problem. I played football in college and had 5 surgeries in the 5 years I was in school. The drugs for me numbed everything and I was able to run from everything that had ever bothered me. I know for me that, at the end of the road, I woke up every day asking, "Why is this my life?" After asking that question every day, I continued to do the only thing I knew how to do to take the pain away. I went into Detox for the final time on July 26, 2011 and I was finally beaten down and had enough. I went to treatment in Wilmington, Delaware and, when I finished treatment, they offered me a job to stay as the resident supervisor. I agreed to work there and I lived in the treatment center for a total of about 15 months.

When it was time for me to transition out, I interviewed for Oxford House Capitol Trail. I knew some of the guys who lived there and they welcomed me into the home with open arms. I was immediately interested in the service aspect with Oxford House and was willing to help out anyway that I could. When I went to my first Chapter meeting, I was nominated and elected to be the Vice Chairperson. I was not really sure what that meant but I was willing to take on the role. While living in the house, I found that family atmosphere that I felt that I was missing. I lived with 5 other guys and we all meshed very well. We went through our ups and downs and were ultimately able to put all differences aside when it came to the wellbeing of our home. We had a mixture of guys in the house who were part of AA and NA. We were always there to support one another in our recovery process. I attended my first Oxford House World Convention in Washington DC in 2013, and really learned so much that I really wanted to be a part of everything that Oxford House had to offer.

After that convention I was asked to help open a new house that was further from where I was working at the time, and I thought this would be a great opportunity to help out and take my experience with Oxford House to help out new members. We opened Oxford House Academy Hill in Newark, DE in November 2013. I also took part in the start of the State Association in Delaware and was elected to be the State Housing Service Chair. During my time as the State Housing Service Chair, I started to become more familiar with the Oxford House Model and wanted to lead by example for the other members throughout the state. I attended a lot of house meetings all throughout the state, to help out in any way I could. During this time, we were getting Chapter 1 back up and running down at the beach and I would take the trip down after work to help out with their Chapter and also with the house meetings as well. I made myself available as much as I possibly could with my work schedule and maintaining my personal recovery. I was able to attend and represent Delaware at the World Convention in Portland, Oregon last year and continued to get all the useful information that I would need to continue to help out.

Oxford House has taught me so much and has given me some amazing relationships. I have learned how to be a productive member of society through the fellowship and Oxford House. For me, that Oxford House was there was a blessing because I felt returning home to New Jersey was just not going to be the best option for me. I made sure to make the most of the opportunity that was given to me when I was accepted into my first Oxford House.

SHELIA LLOYD

My name is Shelia Lloyd and I am a woman in long-term recovery; that means that I have not found it necessary to take a drug or a drink since 4/15/03. My story begins with a strong woman in my life, my mother, Est'a Thay Winston. She worked hard so I would have everything I needed. Now, I could not get the top brand shoes or anything, but she made sure I was clean and full. My dad lived in NC and I was raised in Newark, New Jersey. So that I knew who my dad was, I was sent to stay with him in the summer. And it was ok, but I always felt out of place when I was there.

I started drinking at a very early age (12). My mother and her friend used to start drinking at home and it would end at the bar. My mother's friend had children and, of course, I was the baby sitter and I was good at it, I must say. Anyway, when it was time for them to go to the bar and finish the night up, I had to clean up the mess that they had left behind. Well I gave the children a bath and put them to bed. And then I returned to the mess to clean up. So, I would pour the drinks they had left behind in one glass, my glass, and I would pretend I was their mother. I want to say I did a lot of pretending back then, so I would drink up the liquor and made sure everything was in place and clean. Then it was time for me to go to bed and be asleep when they came home so they would not know that I had be drinking. This went on for a long time; every weekend I knew I was going to get my drink. I can remember one birthday when my Mom said, "Shelia, what do you want for your birthday" and I said, "A 5th of Johnny Walker Red and a six-pack of Miller Light." Now, that said, the only thing I needed to ask for was something to drink. See, I started wearing a mask at an early age.

I went on to other things that took me out of myself like smoking crack marijuana and sniffing heroin. That took me to a whole different world. Now I had all these habits and no support for getting them. Then the little people in my head said become a bartender; that was it. I had hit the jackpot. I was making that long money, of course, my so-called friends benefited. They would drink free. It was really too much going on. Between the crack and the alcohol I was losing weight and didn't even know it. People around me kept telling me, "Shelia, you need to take a look at what's going on, this is not you." I said: "I'll let you know when I need your assistance and, until then, don't say anything to me about what's going on in my life." Well, things got really bad now. I had the dope man crack in my house and was selling all that I was not using. People were staying in my house; OK, it was a smoke house; let's just get real. It got so bad that I had gotten depressed. I was crying all the time and I asked my friends for help and the only way they knew how to help me was to go get me some more dope. I needed help and didn't know where to go get it. I had lost so much weight that my boss told me I look like some stirred-up s---. I had a good boss and he tried to help me but I didn't want his help. I had lost everything; most of all I lost myself to the world of addiction.

My life was in a whirlwind and I couldn't get out no matter which way I turned. Now, since my friends could not help me, I turned to God and I asked him to please take this; take whatever; take it away; please help me. Two month after I asked God for help, I went to a phone booth and I called 911 and told them I needed help; that I felt like I wanted to kill myself. When they got there, I was standing, waiting to be taken away to get some help. I did a 28-day program. And I remember they said I had to change people, places and things. All I knew was that I did not ever want to use again. I did know this. If I would have stayed in NJ, I wouldn't be alive today. So I moved to NC; that is where my family is from. I was ready to start my new life.

Today my life is wonderful. I am grateful that relapse is not part of my story. I do know that it could be but, for right now, it is not. Since moving into Oxford House North Hills, I have been all over the world, seen things I thought was just something to dream about. I have also learned how to be a real friend to people. I live for that newcomer who comes through the door scared and confused and who has nowhere to go. I can say, "Welcome", and hug that person as tight as I can and let them know that I am here with them and that "I'll love you until you can learn how to love yourself." The reason why? Because someone loved me until I could learn to love. Today I still live in Oxford House North Hills. I do service work; I share my story and I tell everyone that it can only get better; you just have to stick to it and stay. I'd like to thank Kathleen Gibson for all she does. She's the "lady whose pocket I jump into." They say, "Stick with the winners." I have hit the jackpot again. If Oxford House was not here, I don't know where I would be and I do not want to find out. Thanks for being my friend.

STACEY

My name is Stacey and my clean date is January 30, 2011. When I hit bottom, I drove to Austin, TX from Atlanta, GA and checked into a hotel room with a large quantity of my substances of choice. I was intent on coming out in a body bag. When I regained awareness several days later, I was in the ER of a local hospital – I have no idea how I got there. The

police officer at the door informed me that it was against the law to attempt suicide in the state of Texas so I could either go to treatment or jail. I chose treatment and off I went to San Antonio, TX in the back of an ambulance.

Early in treatment, I decided I would ride out my 21-day stay and then find a freeway overpass to jump from because, if the overdose didn't kill me, I was pretty sure an 18-wheeler would. A lot of people in treatment talked about going to recovery homes when they got out and at some point I thought that might be a viable option. When I was released from treatment, I was taken to a local homeless shelter where I was given a list of phone numbers and told to "try scheduling an interview at an Oxford House" before trying the other houses on the list.

I set up two interviews at two Oxford Houses. When I showed up for the first interview, one of the women told me that since my name wasn't on the board they wouldn't interview me. The other house rescheduled my interview, held an emergency meeting and voted me in. One of the questions I was asked during my interview was, "What are you willing to contribute to Oxford House if you are voted in?" My housemates held me to my answer of "Whatever I'm asked to do." The day after I moved in, I attended a chapter meeting, was nominated and voted Chapter Secretary and got sucked into service from that point forward. The women of the first house I lived in helped me navigate early recovery. They showed me where NA meetings were, helped me through the process of getting a sponsor and were instrumental in saving my life.

After living in that house for just under three months, I moved to be a core member at a new Oxford House two hours away. At the end of that summer, I moved back to San Antonio, TX to open another house and 9 months later, a third house. During the opening of the third house, I was offered the opportunity to take an Outreach position and move to Houston, and my journey truly began.

Oxford House has always been more than just a place I lived. It became my family, my safe haven and always my home. Without Oxford House, I wouldn't have found recovery through the 12 steps and would've returned to the miserable existence I was barely scratching out for myself. I have always believed that the reason I survived the suicide by overdose attempt is because my higher power had a greater purpose for me and that purpose is to help others find recovery through Oxford House and the 12 steps.

I have an immense amount of gratitude for every member of an Oxford House who steps up to be a core member of a new Oxford House because it is such selflessness that gave me an opportunity to change my life.

TOM HARWOOD

"Whatever you put in front of your recovery, you will lose." I was told this frequently while I was in rehab – several of them. I can personally verify that this is the truth.

At one point in my life, I had it going on. I had a successful business as a real estate broker, a nice house, luxury cars, expensive vacations, a beautiful wife and more. Alcohol is a great solvent – it managed to dissolve this life in a very short time. Each time that I came out of in-patient treatment, I returned to a toxic environment, trying to get my life back much too quickly and, of course, I relapsed again and again. Finally, as my time in the Salvation Army rehabilitation program was coming to an end, I found myself wondering where I could go to concentrate on my recovery. The business was gone, replaced by tax liens. The house was in foreclosure. Bankruptcy and divorce were on the horizon.

Fortunately, I heard about an Oxford House that was opening located reasonably close to the job that I was able to find. Upon moving into Oxford House Quincy on December 12, 2010, I found myself in an affordable and comfortable place where recovery was the priority. I had 6 brothers in recovery in that house. We took seriously the responsibility of making this new Oxford House work, as none of us wanted to return to the life that we were trying to get away from. Each of us brought skills and backgrounds to the house, which we were able to blend through communication and compromise to make the house financially solid. This house became our sanctuary, where we had the environment of time and mutual support to allow us to heal.

As we grew to appreciate our house, many of us became active in the local chapter, trying to help other houses develop so that they could enjoy the blessings that we were finding in our living environment. The men in our house grew in their personal lives as we grew in our sobriety. One guy got his GED. Two other guys started taking college courses. New jobs and careers were started. Men moved on as their lives improved, and new residents were able to move into a house that offered recovery and personal development.

I was able to improve my employment situation, and was able to start rebuilding my finances and to arrange repayment plans for my tax issues. Finally, I was blessed with the opportunity to go to work for Oxford House as an outreach worker and have relocated to Texas, where I have the opportunity to help men and women find the gifts of recovery that I have found through the Oxford House experience. I have also found that when you put your recovery first, you are blessed with opportunities to grow in ways that you could have never dreamed of.

ZACHARY BULLARD

My name is Zachary Bullard. I was born in Houston, Texas and, after my parents got divorced, I began to do things that were not like me. Eventually, my drug and alcohol abuse led to a jeep accident when I was 16 years old that nearly killed me and five of my best friends. After that, the State of Texas insisted that I become familiar with the rooms of recovery.

I spent the next 24 years in and out of homeless shelters, jail, and recovery programs – never completing any of them and never taking the suggestions presented to me over the years. I was in Lufkin, Texas, homeless at the age of 40, and I had just been told I was no longer welcome at The Salvation Army Lounge due to excessive nights out. I begged for help and the next day I was driven to Houston to enroll in The Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Program. I was tired. I knew I could not go on like this anymore and I immediately got a sponsor and took the steps. I completed the program and moved into transition where I began to isolate.

A friend in San Antonio kept talking about Oxford and sending pictures of “Chapter Meetings” and all these smiling faces of people in recovery. I began to ask questions and learned as much as I could about Oxford and I decided that was the next step in my road to recovery. I had a phone interview from San Antonio to Houston with guys from the Fred Road Oxford House and I was accepted. I knew pretty quickly that it was the guys in the house who were helping me to grow and holding me accountable, I remained at the Fred Road Oxford house for 9 months.

Then I had the “Brilliant” idea that I was ready to move in with my girlfriend at the time. In less than a month I noticed my connection to the people in recovery was declining rapidly and, for the first time in my life, I chose fellowship over a relationship. I made one phone call to 2 of my closest friends in Oxford and I was on my way to Meadow Park Oxford House where the guys were kind enough to let me hit the couch until I figured something out. I was then asked to be a core member of Oxford House Florencia and being a part of that is something that I carry with me every day. I remained in Oxford for over 14 months and today I have my own place.

I credit Oxford with teaching me how to handle the responsibilities that come along with being on my own and I frequently visit Florencia Oxford House just to remain grateful. I am a member of Oxford Alumni here in San Antonio and my recovery family continues to grow beyond my imagination. I have a sobriety date of 5/7/12 and I have no doubt that without Oxford that would not have been possible.

Remembering Ron MacMillan and Jerry Gillen

Oxford House Loses an Oxford House Champion in Canada



Ron MacMillan with his wife Eve at the Oxford House World Convention in Portland on September 13, 2014.

Ron (Lucky) MacMillan, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Executive Director of the Oxford House Foundation of Canada, died on December 6th after a long battle with cancer.

A regular at Oxford House World Conventions, Ron MacMillan provided an inspiration to everyone he met. His stories of moving from town to town in Canada during his drinking days made the traditional American western movie seem very calm and docile. He finally got sober and while his life stayed full and exciting it was a different type of excitement. He reached out to hundreds and changed their lives – just like his had been changed – from addiction to sobriety.

Ron had been working in the addictions field in Canada for many years when he came across an article about the US Oxford House program in 1994. He immediately called the Oxford House office in Silver Spring to find out more information. He stayed in touch regularly over the years as he began establishing Oxford Houses in Canada. The first Oxford House in Canada opened in 1996 and soon there were more than two dozen houses. We offer our condolences to his widow, Eve, and we will miss Ron's enthusiasm and joy of life at this convention. Ron contributed his knowledge of recovery housing on

many breakout panels and, in 2008, he was awarded Oxford House's highest honor – the Tom Fellows Award.

Jerry Gillen – An Oxford House Alumnus Who Made a Big Difference

Jerry Lynn Gillen, Jr. died August 4, 2015 at his home in Washington, DC. Jerry was only 44 years old but had accomplished a lot in his short time among us. His wisdom, organizing skills and great common sense will be missed throughout the recovery community. As Operations Director of Faces and Voices of Recovery since 2011, he brought expertise and skill to the recovery movement in general. He will be greatly missed.

He was a founding member and alumnus of Oxford House Military Road, and served for two years as a Regional Chairperson of Oxford House's Washington, DC and Maryland Chapters providing planning and oversight for training, workshops and conferences. Jerry was also on the Board of Recovery Africa, a grassroots organization bringing recovery and Oxford Houses to Ghana and other African countries.



Oxford Houses Receiving the 2015 Directors' Hundred – Year Award

Arkansas

Oxford House-Brookside

Colorado

Oxford House-Alameda
Oxford House-Andes
Oxford House-CO Springs
Oxford House-Fort Carson
Oxford House-Independence
Oxford House-Kenton
Oxford House-Longmont
Oxford House-Murray
Oxford House-Sable

Delaware

Oxford House-8th Street
Oxford House-H. New Castle
Oxford House-Ida B. Wells
Oxford House-Monroe
Oxford House-New Castle
Oxford House-Valorian

District of Columbia

Oxford House-R Street

Hawaii

Oxford House-Alaume
Oxford House-Ulupaina EW
Oxford House-Braeburn
Oxford House-Chautauqua
Oxford House-Dunsworth

Kansas

Oxford House-Lane
Oxford House-Meadowlane
Oxford House-Metcalf
Oxford House-Midtown
Oxford House-North Ash
Oxford House-Village
KS Heartland Chapter

Kentucky

Oxford House-Greenup

Louisiana

Oxford House-Acadiana
Oxford House-Beaureve
Oxford House-Belle
Oxford House-Boxwood
Oxford House-Bruce 2
Oxford House-Bye-Water
Oxford House-Comal
Oxford House-Creole
Oxford House-Crescent City
Oxford House-Dena Lynn
Oxford House-Dulles
Oxford House-Essen
Oxford House-Flannigan
Oxford House-Gilbert II
Oxford House-Journey 2
Oxford House-Kenner
Oxford House-Lafayette
Oxford House-Lafitte
Oxford House-Le Grand
Oxford House –Louisiana
Oxford House-Mandeville
Oxford House-Maplewood
Oxford House-Metairie
Oxford House-Mint House
Oxford House-New Leaf

Oxford House-Old Hammond
Oxford House-Pinhook
Oxford House-Pontchartrain
Oxford House-Prien Lake
Oxford House-Protege
Oxford House-Shawn
Oxford House-St. Tammany
Oxford House-St. Thomas
Oxford House-Stockton
Oxford House-Tams
Oxford House-Uptown
Oxford House-Village Creek
Oxford House-Waterfront
Oxford House-Wenham
Oxford House-Whittington
LA State Association

Maryland

Oxford House-Bethesda
Oxford House-Cheverly
Oxford House-Fredale
Oxford House-Galvez Street
Oxford House-Lewis Avenue
Oxford House-Silver Spring

Mississippi

Oxford House-Bienville
Oxford House-Big Lake
Oxford House-Rodenberg
Oxford House-Sunkist
Oxford House-West Jackson

Missouri

MO Chapter Seven

Nebraska

NE Chapter One

New Hampshire

Oxford House-Manchester

New Jersey

Oxford House-4th Avenue
Oxford House-5th Avenue
Oxford House-Anchor Ave
Oxford House-Bay Lea
Oxford House-Bayshore
Oxford House-Boardwalk
Oxford House-Bradley Beach
Oxford House-Brick
Oxford House-Cardinal Court
Oxford House-Carnegie
Oxford House-Cedar Bdway
Oxford House-Claire Drive
Oxford House-Clairmont
Oxford House-Cornwall
Oxford House-Disney
Oxford House-Dudley
Oxford House-East Broad St.
Oxford House-East Brunswick
Oxford House-Evesham
Oxford House-Fischer Blvd
Oxford House-Fletcher Lake
Oxford House-Forked River
Oxford House-Frankfort
Oxford House-Freehold
Oxford House-Galway Place
Oxford House-Haddon
Oxford House-Hazelwood
Oxford House-Hearthstone

Oxford House-Hiddenway
Oxford House-Hillridge
Oxford House-Howell
Oxford House-Jarvis
Oxford House-Jersey City
Oxford House-Kendall Park
Oxford House-Kingston
Oxford House-Langford
Oxford House-Lexington Ct
Oxford House-Linwood
Oxford House-Long Branch
Oxford House-Lookout
Oxford House-Madison Court
Oxford House-Marine Street
Oxford House-Matawan
Oxford House-Medford Blvd
Oxford House-Melbourne
Oxford House-Melody Lane
Oxford House-Milltown Road
Oxford House-Monument
Oxford House-Moorestown
Oxford House-Myrtle
Oxford House-Nylund
Oxford House-Patcong Creek
Oxford House-River Road
Oxford House-Rockefeller Pk
Oxford House-Somers Point
Oxford House –S.Toms River
Oxford House-Southport
Oxford House-Stratford
Oxford House-Suffolk
Oxford House-Tennent Ave
Oxford House-Thompson Ave.
Oxford House-Troy
Oxford House-Vassar
Oxford House-Victorian
Oxford House-Vineland
Oxford House-Waters Edge
Oxford House-Wesley
Oxford House-West Orange
Oxford House-West Ridge
Oxford House-Winchester
Oxford House-Woodbrook
Oxford House-Woodbury
NJ Chapter 2
NJ Chapter 3
NJ Chapter 9

New Mexico

Oxford House-Candelaria
Oxford House-Eubank
Oxford House-Juan Tabo
Oxford House-Morris
Oxford House-Pennsylvania
Oxford House-Snowheights
Oxford House-Turquoise

North Carolina

Oxford House-Asheville
Oxford House-Askham
Oxford House-Bluff Wood Cove
Oxford House-Brentwood
Oxford House-Camden Circle
Oxford House-Carolina Ave.
Oxford House-Carrboro
Oxford House-Cary
Oxford House-Cayshindren
Oxford House-Cedar Hills
Oxford House-Christopher Rd
Oxford House-Church Street

Oxford House-Covington
Oxford House-Daley
Oxford House-Dellwood
Oxford House-Dinglewood
Oxford House-Dunn
Oxford House-Durham
Oxford House-East Westwood
Oxford House-Estes
Oxford House-Euclid
Oxford House-Ferris
Oxford House-Firelight
Oxford House-Fleming
Oxford House-Fox Road
Oxford House-Franklin Street
Oxford House-Gardenview
Oxford House-Glenwood II
Oxford House-Grace
Oxford House-Guess Road
Oxford House-Harvard
Oxford House-Haymount
Oxford House-Hearth
Oxford House-Holly Drive
Oxford House-Homestead
Oxford House-Irving Park
Oxford House-Jones Franklin
Oxford House-Kings Mill Rd
Oxford House-Mantua
Oxford House-Mendenhall
Oxford House-Mordecai
Oxford House-Morehead
Oxford House-Morgan Creek
Oxford House-New Bern
Oxford House-New Hope
Oxford House-North Hills
Oxford House-North Raleigh
Oxford House-Oakridge
Oxford House-Ocean Acres
Oxford House-Old Winston Rd
Oxford House-Peace Street
Oxford House-Piedmont
Oxford House-Pinecrest
Oxford House-Pond
Oxford House-Quail Hollow
Oxford House-Red Banks
Oxford House-Repon
Oxford House-Round Top
Oxford House-Sharon-Amity
Oxford House-Shirley Street
Oxford House-Smith Creek
Oxford House-Soundside
Oxford House-South Hills
Oxford House-Spray
Oxford House-Spruce
Oxford House-State Street
Oxford House-Steeds Run
Oxford House-Stockton Drive
Oxford House-Swann
Oxford House-Triangle
Oxford House-Viewmont
Oxford House-Weatherhill
Oxford House-Willow
Oxford House-Wimbleton
Oxford House-Wyoming
Oxford House-Zmaura Way

Oklahoma

Oxford House-Ada
Oxford House-Boomer
Oxford House-Briarwood Park
Oxford House-Bricktown

Oxford Houses Receiving the 2015 Directors' Hundred – Year Award

Oxford House-Burning Tree
 Oxford House-East Moore
 Oxford House-E. Wedgewood
 Oxford House-Apple Wood
 Oxford House-Elmhurst
 Oxford House-Enclave
 Oxford House-Fontana
 Oxford House-Grove
 Oxford House-Integrity
 Oxford House-Lakeview
 Oxford House-Leisure Lanes
 Oxford House-Leslie Leigh
 Oxford House-Meadows
 Oxford House-Millwood Est.
 Oxford House-Pennville
 Oxford House-Rockwood Hills
 Oxford House-South Hill
 Oxford House-Shadow Mtn.
 Oxford House-Shirley Ann
 Oxford House-Southern Hills
 Oxford House-Southern Plaza
 Oxford House –Terr. Manor 2
 Oxford House –Tul Mid-Town
 Oxford House-Woodridge
 NJ Chapter 2
 NJ Chapter 3
 NJ Chapter 8

Oregon

Oxford House-Burkhart
 Oxford House-Glencoe
 Oxford House-Powell Butte
 Oxford House-Steve Harris
 Oxford House-Water Park
 Oxford House-West Howard
 OR State Association

Pennsylvania

Oxford House-Cecelia
 Oxford House-Donna J
 Oxford House-Eau Claire St
 Oxford House-Orchard Ave.
 Oxford House-Third Avenue
 PA Lehigh Valley Chapter 1

Tennessee

Oxford House-Meridian

Texas

Oxford House-Beaver Run
 Oxford House-Bellaire
 Oxford House-Brettonwood
 Oxford House-Carson
 Oxford House-Carvel Lane
 Oxford House-Catalpa
 Oxford House-Florenca
 Oxford House-Fort Bend
 Oxford House-Grayson
 Oxford House-Leon Valley
 Oxford House-Lugary
 Oxford House-McCart
 Oxford House-Meadow Park
 Oxford House-Mistletoe
 Oxford House-Rolling Oaks
 Oxford House-Stepping Stone
 Oxford House-Woodside
 Oxford House-Yorkwood
 Austin Chapter 1

Virginia

Oxford House-Amherst Street
 Oxford House-Annandale
 Oxford House-Apple Blossom
 Oxford House-Bayview Gdns
 Oxford House-Beall Drive
 Oxford House-Beau Lane
 Oxford House-Belle Haven
 Oxford House-Berkley Park
 Oxford House-Brandy Jo
 Oxford House-Briarwood 2
 Oxford House-Brilyn
 Oxford House-Brookfield
 Oxford House-Buckroe
 Oxford House-Chamberlayne
 Oxford House-Chapel Hill
 Oxford House-Chesapeake
 Oxford House-Chester
 Oxford House-Church Hill
 Oxford House-Clay Street
 Oxford House-Coral
 Oxford House-Diva
 Oxford House-Dudley Court
 Oxford House-Edgehill
 Oxford House-Elm Street
 Oxford House-Fair Oaks
 Oxford House-Fairview Park
 Oxford House-Forest Glen
 Oxford H.-Forest Hills Park
 Oxford House-Fredericksburg
 Oxford House-Fry's Spring
 Oxford House-Glebe Road
 Oxford House-Glebe Wood
 Oxford House-Glebeview
 Oxford House-Glen Carlyn
 Oxford House-Golden Maple
 Oxford House-Hampton
 Oxford House-Hermitage
 Oxford House-Hill Top Hhts
 Oxford House-Horizon
 Oxford House-Hunter Street
 Oxford House-James River
 Oxford House-Jamestown
 Oxford House-Kenwood
 Oxford House-King's Manor
 Oxford House-Lake Smith
 Oxford House-Lemon Road
 Oxford House-Little Creek
 Oxford House-Little River
 Oxford House-Lynnhaven
 Oxford House-Manor Road
 Oxford House-Mill Mountain
 Oxford House-Moseby Court
 Oxford House-Mt Vernon Sq.
 Oxford House-Neptune
 Oxford House-North Ave
 Oxford House-North Loudoun
 Oxford House-North Upton
 Oxford House-Norview
 Oxford House-Old Town
 Oxford House-Orchid
 Oxford House-Pembroke
 Oxford House-Piccadilly Pl.
 Oxford House-Pike Place
 Oxford House-Plaza
 Oxford House-Pleasant Valley
 Oxford House-Pollard Park
 Oxford House-Prosperity
 Oxford House-Ramekin
 Oxford House-Randolph-M.
 Oxford House-River City

Oxford House-Salem
 Oxford House-Shenandoah V.
 Oxford House-Shiloh
 Oxford House-South Cameron
 Oxford House-Springfield
 Oxford House-Star City
 Oxford House-Sterling
 Oxford House-Thomas Street
 Oxford House-Tidewater
 Oxford House-Valley View
 Oxford House-Victoria
 Oxford House-Wakefield
 Oxford House-Wasena
 Oxford House-Washington Pk
 Oxford House-Waverly Hills
 Oxford House-West End
 Oxford House-Williamsburg
 Oxford House-Woodland Hgh

Washington

Oxford House-Adams
 Oxford House-Addison
 Oxford House-Akona
 Oxford House-Anderson
 Oxford House-Apple Valley
 Oxford House-Bachelor Creek
 Oxford House-Ballard
 Oxford House-Betty Miller
 Oxford House-Bill Wyze
 Oxford House-Bridgeview
 Oxford House-Brockman
 Oxford House-Burien
 Oxford House-Cannon
 Oxford House-Cascade View
 Oxford House-Catlin
 Oxford House-Central Park
 Oxford House-Chestnut
 Oxford House-Columbia River
 Oxford House-Connelly
 Oxford House-Crown Hill
 Oxford House-Delaware
 Oxford House-East Side
 Oxford House-Echo Lake
 Oxford House-Erlands Point
 Oxford House-Felida Ridge
 Oxford House-Fern Hill
 Oxford House-Fisher Park
 Oxford House-Franklin
 Oxford House-Freedom
 Oxford House-Gracy's Lake
 Oxford House-Grammer
 Oxford House-Greenwood 2
 Oxford House-Gregory Way
 Oxford House-Heaven's Park
 Oxford House-Heights
 Oxford House-Hendrick
 Oxford House-Hilltop View
 Oxford House-Historic Flynn
 Oxford House-Inglewood
 Oxford House-Interlake
 Oxford House-John Harrison
 Oxford House-Journey
 Oxford House-Juanita
 Oxford House-Kennewick
 Oxford House-Kings Pond
 Oxford House-Laurelwood
 Oxford House-Longview
 Oxford House-Madrona
 Oxford House-Mahan
 Oxford House-Matthew Beach

Oxford House-Mirror Lake
 Oxford House-Neel
 Oxford House-North City
 Oxford House-Northgate
 Oxford House-Oaktree
 Oxford House-Olympic View
 Oxford House-Orchard Hgts
 Oxford House-Pacific Terrace
 Oxford House-Park Hills
 Oxford House-Parkside
 Oxford House-Peabody
 Oxford House-Pinecrest II
 Oxford House-Portia Park
 Oxford House-Prasch
 Oxford House-Ridgecrest
 Oxford House-Rosemere
 Oxford House-Rowland
 Oxford House-Ruston View
 Oxford House-Sandalwood Ct.
 Oxford House-Shattuck Creek
 Oxford House-Shorewood
 Oxford House-Silver Star
 Oxford House-S. Bay Trails
 Oxford House-South Tacoma
 Oxford House-St. Edmonds
 Oxford House-S. Timberlake
 Oxford House-Stark
 Oxford House-Summitview
 Oxford House-Sunrise Hgts
 Oxford House-Tekoa
 Oxford House-Tenny Creek
 Oxford House-Thompson
 Oxford House-Tieton
 Oxford House-Tobias
 Oxford House-Truman Place
 Oxford House-Upland
 Oxford House-Vista
 Oxford House-Wellesly
 Oxford House-West Seattle
 Oxford House-White Pine
 Oxford House-Wide Hollow
 Oxford House-Yakima
 WA Chapter 5
 WA Chapter 6
 WA Chapter 7
 WA Chapter 8
 WA Chapter 26
 WA State Association

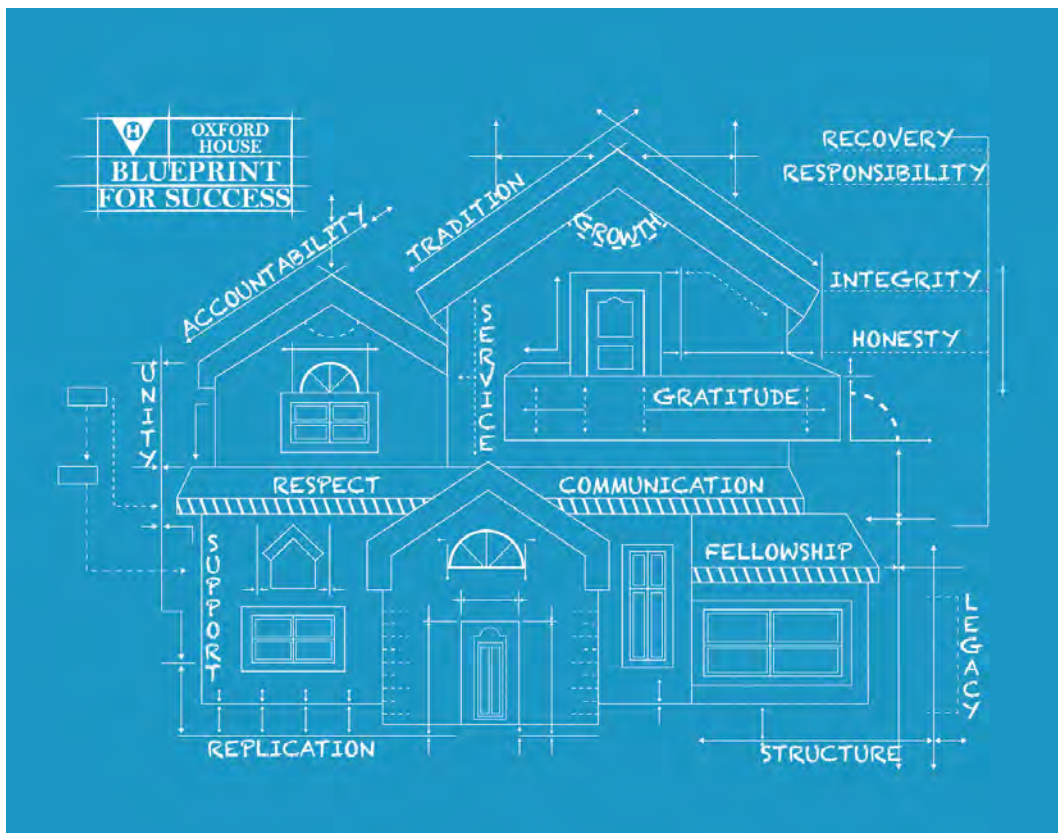
Wisconsin

Oxford House-La Crosse

The recipients of the Directors 100-Year Award all voluntarily donated \$600 or more to Oxford House, Inc. in FY 2015. Donations support expansion in areas without other funding.

474 or about 25% of the total number of Oxford Houses made donations in FY 2015.

Notes



OXFORD HOUSE TRADITIONS

1. Oxford House has as its primary goal the provision of housing for the alcoholic and drug addict who wants to stay clean and sober.
 2. All Oxford Houses are run on a democratic basis. Our officers serve continuous periods of no longer than six months.
 3. No Member of an Oxford House is ever asked to leave without cause -- drinking, drug use, or disruptive behavior.
 4. Oxford House members realize that active participation in AA and/or NA offers assurance of continued sobriety.
 5. Each Oxford House should be autonomous except in matters affecting other houses or Oxford House, Inc. as a whole.
 6. Each Oxford House should be financially self-supporting.
 7. Oxford House should remain forever non-professional.
 8. Propagation of the Oxford House, Inc. concept should always be conceived as public education.
 9. Members who leave an Oxford House in good standing should become associate members
-

Oxford House™

1975-2015

40 Years of Organized Self-Help To Enable Alcoholics and Drug Addicts to Recover Without Relapse

- Providing Sole Authority for Oxford House Charters
- Providing Technical Assistance to Establish New Oxford Houses
- Providing Technical Assistance to Keep Existing Oxford Houses on Track
- Providing Organization of Chapters to Help Oxford Houses to Help Themselves
- Providing the Time, Living Environment and Support to Enable Alcoholics and Drug Addicts to Achieve Recovery Without Relapse
- Providing the Legal, Philosophical, and Scientific Framework for a Cost-effective, Worldwide Network of Supportive Recovery Housing.

Write or Call

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