

ALABAMA

Shane Solowes – Resident

Oxford House has become my family and it's taught me how better myself while working with others who have the same common goals. While serving as Chapter Chair, I learned how to handle responsibilities again, while also helping others as they start their journey of sobriety. Oxford House has helped to give me my life back while living in a safe and sober environment. It's also taught me how to love again – which I had forgotten while in active addiction. I found the woman I love now in Oxford House and will always be grateful for that. I've also been learning to care for all members of Oxford House and to lose that selfish, self-centered mentality I had carried for so long.

ARIZONA

Chandra Sturdivant – Resident

Oxford House is really changing my life. It's the most amazing experience I've ever had in my life. It's taught me accountability. It shows you what family feels like! The love and support that we can have with one another is amazing. I'm truly forever grateful for Oxford.

Andy Dearing – Resident

After my last stint in treatment, I went into a traditional sober living house. Soon after I moved in, they made changes that made it feel like I was back in treatment. I had to make a choice and I chose Oxford House. I had a couple of interviews, got wait-listed at one house, then was accepted at Goldwater.

Attending the new member orientation was critical as it gave me an understanding of how Oxford House should function. At Goldwater, I met a group of recovery-minded guys who helped me settle in and feel at home. This was what had been missing in my prior attempts at sobriety in other sober living environments.

The guys in my house made it clear to me on Day 1 that my voice mattered and that we did things democratically. Although active in my AA program, I had never really worked with newcomers. Living in an Oxford House, there wasn't a choice but to interact with newcomers. This was a blessing. When I felt AA wasn't working for me, Goldwater was there with supportive sober members and new members needing assistance. I have since found a balance between my program and Oxford House.

I've been active in all the house positions at Goldwater and have held the Chapter Treasurer

position in my area. I enjoy actively helping my house come together to achieve it's goals. I have helped other houses with their audits. I have been blessed to have attended the AZ State Convention as well as having been a delegate to World convention.

At Oxford I feel at home. There are members and staff who are strong examples of sobriety, always willing to be of service. There are always new members to whom I can be of service. I live in gratitude that I have a nice affordable place to live as I clean up some wreckage and get my life back on track.

Adriana Flores – Resident

Hello, my name is Adriana. I was born into a crazy family. Addiction runs on both sides of my family. From a young age, I remember going to bars, and random houses with my dad and getting rides home from the local sheriffs and, when my dad spent nights in jails, having his friends babysit me so that my mom could work.

Moving from AZ to CA helped my family for the better but I was out of control – buying bottles, stealing, and not listening. My parents tried everything to help me but nothing worked. We moved back to AZ and life was still better until my dad passed away and my life went downhill. I was trying my best to be the best until I tried to take my own life and was not opening up about my feelings. I graduated from high school and left home. I started to party more and more but, of course, I didn't realize I had a problem. I tried to take my life again; that's when my mom and aunt decided it was the best thing for me to leave Pinal county and move to Prescott.

When I first moved to Prescott I didn't know anyone and didn't know anything about recovery. When my family said I had a problem, I didn't listen to them and I did what I wanted to do. I left my aunt's house and I decided I wanted to be homeless. In July, 2019, I got arrested and got onto probation. I went to treatment and got discharged because I didn't listen. Back at Square One again and I begged to go back to the same treatment center again but my addiction was getting worse. From having sex with strangers, thinking I found love with my dealer and just barely surviving. I went back and I graduated this time but I relapsed and probation was tired of me and I was tired too. I went to a sober living facility and got some clean time but relapsed so many time there. I finally got off probation, left the sober living house and decided I'm not an addict and I can do whatever I want. It was a fun weekend until I realized I was making the same mistake again. I realized that I do have a problem and need help again.

I reached out to my friends who were living in an Oxford House and asked them how do I get accepted into a house. They told me what to do and I got into my first house. The night before was the last time I used and drink.

I moved in and the House was welcoming and I felt like I belonged there. I got voted as female HSC for Chapter 7, and life in general was getting better. However, I noticed that my addiction behaviors were getting much worse and I was listening to the wrong people again. I stepped out of my position in chapter, not being the core member I know I am. The house got flipped and I didn't get accepted back in. The next day the outreach came over and talked to me and encouraged me to do an interview at her house. I got accepted into OH Iron Springs and, the first few months, I listened and learned and slowly became the core member I was once and better than ever. I ran for a Chapter position and got it, Chapter 7 treasurer; then, the northern Arizona group started their interchapter and I ran for a position in that and got it, Interchapter treasurer. Then the Yavapai County Houses got split into three chapters; I'm currently Chapter 14 chair. I helped with binders, setting up for our first chapter meeting and encouraging members from my house to be of service. I am currently doing step works with my sponsor and am involved with NA. I looked back at my old life and realize that the Adriana I was in the past fought so hard for the person who I am today. I surrendered to God, and humbled myself. I have so much gratitude for Oxford House for supporting me and showing me love. Love Adriana

Amber Yanez – Alumna

My name is Amber and I am 39 years old. I live in Mesa, Arizona with my 17-year-old son and my boyfriend. I currently am employed as a Case Manager at a behavioral health facility. I am a certified Behavioral Health Technician and Peer Support Specialist in the State of Arizona. I help people daily with mental health and substance use disorders. I tell you this because this has not always been the case.

In January of 2022, my life of addiction to drugs came to an end. I decided to get clean and I had no idea where to turn for help. I was placed in a homeless shelter after reaching out to the local shelter line. I began working in behavioral health on the crisis floor at Community Bridges at just two months sober! There, I learned about Oxford House through a co-worker. I was able to move out of the homeless shelter and into an Oxford House the same day.

Not only was this an affordable and supportive environment free of the drugs and alcohol, but it also allowed me to learn responsibility and take pride in helping run the house with others who were trying to stay sober. It was located in my childhood neighborhood – so close to my parents and my son that I could simultaneously rebuild my relationship with them that I had damaged in my addiction. The Oxford House model not only gave me a place to stay, but held me accountable in my recovery. Thanks to Oxford House, I am now two and a half years sober. I was able to move out of Oxford House into my own apartment after living there for 7 months. I was able to repair my relationship with my family, and get my child back into my care.

Today, I continue to volunteer my time to Oxford House as the model allows for Alumni to continue to stay involved. I am able to continue my connection to others thorough this community. I currently hold the position of the Central Arizona Alumni Chair. Our Alumni are a group of individuals who freely give back our time to the current residents of Oxford House out of gratitude for the positive impact it has had on us.

As a Case Manager at my job, I frequently refer clients to Oxford House because they are able to provide a safe place for people to recover that is affordable and has a model that works! I am extremely grateful for the impact Oxford House has had on my life. I wouldn't be where I am today without God, and this organization.

CALIFORNIA

Jamillah Wesley – Resident

Hi. My name is Jamillah Wesley. I am 46 years old. I am a single parent of five children - ages 27, 26, 25, 23 and 17. I am currently a member and resident of Oxford Summers House in Antioch, California. My clean date is February 13, 2023. On August 13, 2024 I will be celebrating 18 months sobriety. I moved into Oxford Summers House on May 1, 2023. After completing a 90-day inpatient program at La Casa Ujima in Martinez California. I love Oxford House. I am grateful to be a member and resident of Oxford. I live in an amazing environment where I am provided tools to maintain my sobriety and be a functional citizen of society.

Before coming to Oxford, I was running amuck on the streets. I was committing crimes and was in and out of jail and prison. Since coming to Oxford, I've been given a second chance at a first-class life. I would recommend Oxford House to any addict/alcoholic trying to recover. THE OXFORD MODEL WORKS!!!!!! OXFORD HOUSE GIVES YOU TOOLS TO RECOVER....SUPPORT TO MAINTAIN A FUNCTIONAL LIFE AND SOBRIETY!!!!

COLORADO

Caitlin E. – Resident

I came into Oxford House Serenity in June of 2023. Initially, I moved in to get probation off my back and take a break from using. At Oxford House Serenity, I found a tribe of women who encouraged and inspired me to lean in to this recovery life. Every day, my life began to feel a little less chaotic; I repaired some former relationships and built new ones; and I honestly found so much joy. I eventually decided to stay at Oxford House for longer than I initially planned because I wanted build a foundation for a lifetime of recovery.

Living with 6-7 other women for over a year has positively changed my view of female friendships, and made it obvious that success in recovery is built around having a recovery community.

As time went on in my recovery journey, I felt like I was missing something. I wanted to get into service work so I became a Chapter member and I started volunteering at a Peer Coaching Services organization. Shortly after, I decided I wanted to create a therapeutic art group centered on recovery. I partnered with The Phoenix Recovery Gym and Serenity Recovery Connection to hold space for creative sessions. Eventually, my Art in Recovery groups made it into other treatment facilities, community corrections, and Wellness Living Centers like Edenology. I am now a Peer Recovery Support Specialist and Certified Therapeutic Arts Practitioner and I plan to bring my art groups into more parts of the recovery community.

I certainly would not have had the same successes or opportunities had it not been for the stability and recovery community that Oxford House provided. Oxford House gave me access to a safe environment to grow in recovery, build a community of support, and realize my goals. I am so thankful for Oxford House and the friendships I'll take with me.

Justin Blaylock – Alumnus and Outreach Worker

I moved into Oxford House New Dawn 2 on December 22, 2022, and was only planning to stay for a couple of months; just long enough to get myself on track. What I felt there was something that I hadn't experienced in a very long time. I felt safe. I had found my tribe!

I quickly fell in love with the Oxford House concept and, at my first chapter meeting, I raised my hand to be of service. Oxford House saved my life, and I knew that I needed to give back any way I could; and I didn't stop there! At the first State meeting that I attended, I raised my hand again. And when I heard that there was an Outreach Worker needed in an area desperate for hope, I raised my hand again.

Over the past year and a half, I have had the opportunity to truly inspire change, not only in my area, but across the state of Colorado. I have had the chance to provide more beds for people who desperately needed them. I have been able to speak with our lawmakers to inspire long-lasting legislation. And I have been able to deliver hope when it was needed most.

Oxford House has been a safe place for me to find myself after 9 years of active addiction. Today I have a sense of pride, I have true and life-long friends, I have a recovery program that works for me, I have family, and the list of what has been restored in my life is endless. I truly believe that, without Oxford House, none of this would have been possible.

Dorothy Sims III -Alumna

Hello, my name is Dorothy. I was born in Iowa and raised in South Dakota. I started drinking at the age of 12. I never thought about the consequences that could happen because of my addiction. My life became unmanageable and I wasn't living, I was just existing. I wasn't happy the way life was going. I was at the peak of my addiction and I thought the only way to get out was to take my life. On March 5, 2020, my life changed when I did try to do just that. I was arrested for the first time in my life and spent 13 days in jail. When I was released, I went to rehab to find recovery for the first time. Needless to say, it took two times going to rehab to be able to find recovery. After the second time of going rehab, I found Oxford House. On December 23, 2020, I entered the doors of Oxford House Fair Haven in Grand Junction Colorado. The unknown of what to expect walking through those doors scared me. I told myself I was only going to stay for three months and move on. I quickly realized that Oxford House was my family and I was grateful that I learned recovery and how to be of service. As I got involved with my recovery community and Oxford House. I realized that I wanted to work in the recovery as much as I could. I believed that being of service to others was my purpose in life. I made a vision board and on it in big bold letter it read "Oxford House Outreach Worker" I had a goal, and I wasn't going to give up until I accomplish it.

After living in Oxford House for two years later I moved out and the Ninth Tradition was in full effect. I stayed involved with my family as active alumni. I wanted to give back to the new members and seasoned members of what Oxford House had given me over the course of two years. In December 2023, even as an alumna, I missed my family and was debating about moving back into Oxford. Another outreach worker started reached out and told me about an opening for an outreach position in Colorado Springs. So, I got the courage to apply for the outreach position and January 1, 2024, I officially started working for Oxford House Inc. I accomplished my goal and was so excited because I going to get an opportunity to do what I wanted to do.

Thank you, Oxford House, for showing me what family really is and how to live a new way of life in recovery; not just existing but teaching me how to live a purposeful life today.

FLORIDA

Lindsey Bates – Resident

My name is Lindsey Bates. My addiction started almost 30 years ago when I was 13. I started shooting dope when I was 17 and using every and any kind of dope that I could get my hands on. I suppose at that young age I was searching for a place to fit in, a group where I felt needed and

special. My recovery journey started when I went to my first treatment center at 19. I returned to use. My introduction to Narcotics Anonymous kept me on the right track for almost a year but I fell back into what I had grown to love, which was my addiction. This type of proverbial roller coaster was my life for the next 20 or so years. I was in and out of jail, rehab and, by age 24, I had had two boys, both whom I lost custody of, each when they hit the age of five. Thank God that they were raised close by family and have turned out to be outstanding young men. The damage and distance I caused in those relationships, I am able to mend today.

I moved to Florida at age 26. I tried the geographical change, thinking that if I moved over 3,000 miles away from the demons that had me in their grip that I would finally be OK. It wasn't until I began using again, that I realized that my demons were inside me. They followed me wherever I went. I again started the cycle of jail, rehab, streets, jail, rehab, the streets and I overdosed twice in that time. My bottom came one day when I was sitting in the woods, surrounded by piles of trash and junkies just like me, with so much damage done to my body that I will always have the scars of my addiction, both inside from the guilt and the shame, and on the outside too from the endless nights and days I would stay alone, high, and picking so much my fingertips hurt. These scars are constant reminders of where I have been and also where I never want to return. I went to treatment and concurrently was placed on drug court after obtaining 15 felony theft charges.

I made the best decision of my life upon leaving treatment. It was something I had never tried and that was to give sober living a try. I called Oxford House Sapphire and was accepted on August 2, 2023. I have been here for almost a year now and it has been that place that I was always searching for since I was a little girl. I found somewhere I fit in... a group to be a part of...and a place where I can be myself and I am loved. This place has given me a home to take pride in, responsibility, accountability, and a place to give back what so freely was given to me...help and hope through suggestions and experience from people who could empathize on a level no one had really been able to do for a long time. My family loves me today and they trust me today. I have been able to put together almost 2 years of continuous clean time and that is huge. For a long time, I thought it just might have been my destiny to die a lonely junkie. Because of Oxford House, I know that helping others is my destiny....and I am forever grateful and thankful that there is a place for all of us who are trying to reach our full potential.

Shawn Driscoll -- Resident

I have been clean for three years. However, 34 months of that was in prison and another 7 months of that was in a strict, structured transition program. Since entering Oxford House Improv, I have been given the freedom to test my disciplines with the liberty to make my own choices. Thankfully, I am surrounded by like-minded men who all choose to be clean for themselves and their lives, rather than because the rules of their current housing requires them to be – unlike the forced structures of my past environments. This gives me the opportunity to build

and use my network and to voluntarily work the steps for myself, not for the rules and consequences of a program.

With Oxford House, I feel I am one small step from complete independence and am being given the final test before I am completely on my own. This not only helps me to develop the tools I will need with my complete independence, but it also helps me to gain confidence in the A.A. and N.A. structure already established.

I am grateful for the uniqueness of the Oxford House structure and boundaries. Here I know I can gain all the tools I will need for the best opportunity for long-term sobriety and success. I would highly recommend the Oxford House to anyone transitioning back into freedom from rehab and reentry programs.

Kenia Perez – Resident

Before moving into an Oxford House, I was lost and had no idea where I was going in life. Upon arriving to the house, I was nervous and filled with different emotions as the fear of the unknown took over me. The very first thing that caught me by surprise was the ‘Welcome home’ greeting I got, along with hugs and smiles from the girls at the house. I must admit that the warm embrace gave me some kind of comfort and put me at ease as I decided to trust this new journey I was about to begin. Once settled in the house, I was feeling a little overwhelmed by all these “Rules and Regulations” as I used to call them. At first, it took some getting used to and I will admit I was hesitant to the idea of living by the Oxford House model. The more I saw the outcome of what following the model did, the more I wanted it. I put my Ego and pride to the side and started to work a program of recovery. I started taking suggestions from other members in the house whom I saw were living by the Oxford House traditions and way of life. The house which I live in was not always run as it should have been and I learned that later when an outreach worker from my region took initiative and showed us how the house should and would be run.

I am very grateful for Oxford House and all the members who are a part of this huge family. Because of them, I have learned a new way of life and without the support of my roommates and those I met along the way, I don’t believe that I would be where I am today. Today I know what it is to be a part of something as big as Oxford House and I now have the tools that I need and the proper foundation that it takes to live a happy, peaceful, fun life all while being sober and clean. I have Oxford House and all its members, outreach workers and alumni for believing in me and giving me the chance that no one else did. A year later, I am still living in the same Oxford House and every day I continue to grow more and more. I now know what a sisterhood means, thanks to the girls at my house, and I will forever be thankful and grateful for Oxford House Inc as a whole.

Katie Barnett – Resident

Hi, I'm an addict named Katie. I can honestly say that Oxford House Cabana saved my life. I spent the last four years in and out of jail. I was lost in my addiction and had forgotten how to live. When I got out of jail on Dec 4, 2023, I almost repeated the cycle but, instead, I called a good friend of mine who then made a couple of phone calls. That got me an interview and I was accepted into Oxford House Cabana.

I'm so very thankful Oxford House gave me another chance. Oxford House gave me structure and purpose that I did not think I could ever have again. It was tough at first because I still had the "street" mindset but I was determined not to go back to my old ways.

Oxford House showed me recovery can be done; it just depends on how badly you want it for yourself. I recommend Oxford House to everyone I talk to. Eight months later, I am the House Comptroller and also the Chapter Vice Chair. I have two jobs, I'm back in contact with family, and I'm doing great in my recovery. All thanks to Oxford House. Being a member of Cabana has taught me how to be accountable and hold other people accountable. It has also taught me a new way of life. Oxford House saved my life and I am very thankful for it.

Kathleen Starbuck – Resident

My Oxford House journey began in September of 2022. My sober date is 09/08/2022. Oxford House literally gave me a second chance at having a happy and productive life.

I arrived at Oxford House with a backpack and a bicycle. After 35 years of active addiction I was homeless, living on the streets and barely making it. Oxford House offered me the opportunity to relearn what life is all about. I had a real home, a support team of women that understood what I was going through and the security of knowing I had a chance to change my life.

I attended AA and N.A. meetings, got a job in a Nonprofit Service Industry, reinstated my driver's license, got a car, paid my bills, got CPR-Certified and Mental Health First Aid-Certified. The group living gave me the opportunity to learn from other people and get the support that I desperately needed. I finally had people in my life who cared and understood what I was going through. The friendships I have made while at Oxford House have shaped me into who I am today. I am forever grateful.

Justin Cassell – Resident

My name is Justin Cassell, and I am, without a doubt, an Alcoholic. I grew up in a "normal family." I had 1 mom, 1 dad, 1 brother, 1 sister. Oh, and one arm. People talk about feeling

different in AA growing up. I certainly relate, but today I sleep easy knowing there are millions of people just like me who suffer from Alcoholism/Addiction. Las Vegas is where I was born and raised. It wasn't like the movies; I grew up in the suburbs part-time and the 'hood' part time. Yes, they have those in Las Vegas; it's not just The Strip. The first time I tried drinking was when I was very young, probably around 5 or 6. I had some of my Pops' beer. I did not like it at all. Thought it was disgusting. Then, at around the age of 9, I tried hard liquor with my cousins in Montana. They were older, and I wanted to fit in with the cool kids.

I was off to the races. We smoked cigarettes, drank, skated, and went to the waterpark. That's what I remember doing that summer. When I got back to town, my parents divorced, and I couldn't help but feel like it was all my fault. That's the ego of alcoholism. I always had a giant ego. I still do, but it's something I worked on and continue working on. When I was on that trip to Montana, I tried to try smoking weed. Didn't work, as in I felt nothing. I probably did it wrong. I smoked a bowl out of a tin can behind my grandpa's truck with those same cousins while he was busy fishing. I didn't try marijuana again until way later, when I was in full blown alcohol addiction at 15 or so. I was in Carpentaria, California and my uncle asked if I had ever smoked weed. I was like yeah dude of course. I was trying to fit in with the "cool kids" again.

I fell in love with Mary Jane. She was my DOC, along with alcohol. But I actually preferred weed. I don't know why but I always enjoyed smoking. Cigarettes, Hookah, Weed, and Dabs is what I relied on to get through every day. I'm so glad I don't live that way anymore. I moved out to Florida in 2021 with a girl with whom I thought I was in love. I say thought I was in love with her but that wasn't true. I was just using her, to have a place to live, and to have sex, and to live somewhere I could smoke weed freely. It was the most toxic relationship I've ever been in in my life. I was "California Sober" when I met her and, by the time we were moved in together, I was back in full-blown alcoholism. We moved out here, I got progressively worse and she made the best decision someone's ever made for me in my life which was breaking up with me. At that point, my family was done with me, my "love" and her family were done with me, and honestly, I don't think anyone anywhere wanted any part of me. At least that's how it felt.

So, what did I do? I did what I had done several times before. I got hospitalized due to wanting to kill myself. This time was different though; they suggested rehab. I had nowhere else to go, and I did not want to be homeless AGAIN. So, I said. "Sure, why not?" Somewhere between my leaving the hospital and my going to rehab, I decided I was going to give sobriety another shot. That's the best decision I've ever made for myself. I'm now over 2 years sober.

In sobriety, I have gained so many healthy relationships with sober friends and restored so many loving relationships with family. I just got back from a trip to Carpentaria, California a couple days ago. My family, all of them, even the addicts, support the hell out me and my decision to be sober. I just went to the place where I started smoking my DOC, and I actually didn't even want

to drink or smoke despite it being around me. I went to a few meetings out there and they were different from the one's we have here. Honestly, I felt kind of strange in the first one but they were so welcoming that I made a friend out there too. I'm excited to go back and attend meetings there at my next family reunion. I got to see my grandma whom I haven't seen in 3 years.

I took a trip to Las Vegas for Thanksgiving to see my mother. There was a point in my addiction where she told me to never contact her again. I was able to, between the gifts of sobriety and God's grace, make amends to her and other people. If you had asked me 10 years ago how I saw myself in the future, I can guarantee that I would not say I'd be working a job I love, owning the things I own, and sleeping peacefully at night without feeling like hurting myself throughout the days. To the Newcomer, that's how I live now, and I do think that can happen for you too, if you're willing to do some work. Staying sober isn't easy, but I can 100% guarantee it's so, so much of an easier, softer way than my life was when I wasn't sober. That's my story. Thank you for letting me share.

James Donaldson – Resident

My path to recovery is marked by resilience and commitment. After achieving six months of sobriety and stability on probation, my life was upended by the death of my father in mid-2020. This immense loss led to a relapse in early June, which resulted in a probation violation and a subsequent month-long stint in jail before I was released back on probation.

Following my release, I moved in with my brother in Palm Coast, FL, and began working in assembly. However, due to domestic issues, we lost our apartment. I then relocated to Mondex and stayed at a sober house. Unfortunately, false accusations led to homelessness and additional legal troubles, even as I remained committed to sobriety. These challenges exposed me to individuals who were detrimental to my recovery, resulting in further legal issues.

Confronted with the possibility of over a year in prison, I chose to enter the SMART program to reduce my sentence. Fully dedicated to my recovery, I completed the first six steps with a temporary sponsor and participated regularly in Bible study. This commitment helped me build a robust recovery network through Palm Coast Transitions, Open Door Recovery, AA, and Oxford Houses.

Joining Oxford House proved to be a transformative decision. I began as a reentry officer in Chapter 12, a role that allowed me to support individuals transitioning from jails and rehabs. My involvement grew as I took on multiple positions, eventually becoming President of a House in Chapter 12. When Chapter 12 split into Chapter 24, I assumed the role of Chair. As a core member of our Chapter, I played a crucial role in opening a new house, further expanding our recovery community and providing ongoing support and guidance to others in need.

Erin Bigler – Resident

A little bit about what it was like... My days consisted of using, finding ways and means to get more, and fighting sleep. Sleep deprivation was a normal state I induced in myself. I have always been an extremist. If something makes me feel good, then "more" would make me feel "better". I even planned on using successfully. I was in jail and the court offered me a program. I declined because I was obsessed with getting out, knowing my tolerance was down to nothing, and getting high as a kite for close to nothing. If I could only keep my tolerance down; If I could only smoke crack and fentanyl like a normal person; if I could work on the street, be homeless, but save some of my money up, I could master this addiction.

The first time I remember looking a person in their eyes was when I would ask strangers if they were sent to kill me. It was also the first time in my addiction that I remember openly crying. After the second time I got the life choked out of me, what I referred to as an "occupational hazard", this is how I vetted the strangers I was hopping in and out of cars with. The men who came to harm me, surprisingly, could not look me in the eyes and answer "No". The flaw in this vetting system was that it didn't matter if they could or couldn't answer, I was already in the car. Any normal person would have stopped after the first time waking up, seizing. But I couldn't stop after it happened twice. I was so lost; I remember asking a man "Is this Hell?" He answered, "It is what you make it". I thought I literally died and gone to Hell.

What happened? I got arrested around my fourth time in a few years and finally started to become willing. I accepted a program and found religion. I was raised Catholic, and the guilt and fear were ingrained in me. The religion I found was more extreme. I started reading the Holy book like it was my new addiction. With this new outlook, I took my will back, left the program, and was back on the street where I left off within a few days. I was arrested April 4th, 2023, placed in a different program, started taking suggestions, and currently have a year and just over four months of sobriety. My sober birthday is April 5th, 2023. I go to four or five AA or NA meetings a week, I've worked all twelve steps, I do a weekly inventory, I pray, meditate, and currently have the honor and privilege of walking another girl through the twelve steps to recovery from alcoholism.

Learning to live without my coping mechanism and numbing agent has not been easy. At eleven months sober, I was miserable. I did something about it. I talked to my sponsor's friend and his sponsor. They asked me how my prayer and meditation life was, and I replied "non-existent". I believed God knew what I wanted and needed, so I didn't need to ask. I started praying, thanking God for another clean, successful day at night and asked to find joy in my day in the morning. The weight of these prayers was astonishing. I felt better almost immediately. I couldn't wait to see the guys, tell them my results, and thank them for their suggestions. I've learned balance, as well. I learned how to notice character defects and promptly ask God to remove them.

I am grateful and indebted to the treatment center I went to. They suggested I get a sponsor and they also suggested I move into Oxford House when I left. I'm grateful to the girls who were so welcoming to me. I am grateful to the outreach worker who moved into our Oxford House, turned it around, got the house on the right track, and gave me the tools to find and utilize my voice. I love the Oxford House I live in, love how the democratic process allows everyone to have their voice be heard, love the voting process, love the house meetings, even love holding people accountable. At first, I was intimidated by the thought of holding people accountable. Now, I feel a sense of accomplishment after having a long, difficult house meeting. I will be forever grateful for the tools for living a sober life that Oxford House has given me.

Elizabeth Palmer – Resident

Upon my getting out of treatment, I had very few family members and sober friends with whom I could stay and, with me not too long into my recovery, my trust with them had not been built back up yet. Someone came into the program and did a presentation for Oxford House, and I scheduled an interview soon as my out date was set. I had no clue what I was walking into at first. Here I was, once again having to start over. I came into the House with nothing but a few outfits, my ID, a lot of fear and “what ifs”, But I quickly discovered I wasn’t starting over on my own, or without help this time.

All my past sobriety attempts going back to family or friend’s houses didn't keep me sober long. I was lacking the accountability I needed, along with the support from other women on the same path as me. And that’s exactly what I found here at Oxford House. For once in my life, I felt I was somewhere I belonged; I had found my people!!! Everything about Oxford House has helped set me up for success. Since I came in, I have held my job going onto a year and a half now, (the longest job I’ve ever had), I finally got my license for the first time in my life at 29 years old, I earned trust from my family back enough to be given a vehicle, I have successfully completed probation for the first time in my life, paid off all my court cost with my own hard-earned money and I learned how to write a check and actually balance a check book.

The list goes on and on with what I have earned. But the most important thing I have gained is a family that loves and supports me without questions or second doubts. I will forever be grateful for my interview and acceptance into my first Oxford House. I was given the opportunity to move into a new women and children’s house and open it, showing women coming in how Oxford House run and giving them the guidance and love I was given upon moving in. I have been in Oxford for over a year now, and I am thankful for each day I continue to stay involved. It has truly changed my life, and me as a person.

Aspasia Gatchell – Alumna and Outreach Worker

When Oxford House first came to the area where I was struggling to get sober, I was lost and desperate. I had relapsed countless times in halfway houses where I thought I was safe. My last stay ended tragically—I overdosed, and they refused to take me back. I was detoxing alone, filled with hopelessness, abandoned even by the recovery community. Going back home wasn't an option; I knew if I didn't change, I would die. Desperate for a different outcome, I followed a suggestion and called Oxford House Epona for an interview. I was nervous and felt exposed as I answered their questions with raw honesty. When they said, "Welcome Home," I broke down in tears. The next day, I moved in, greeted by women who embraced me as if they'd known me for years.

Despite being in this new environment, my old thinking and behaviors were still there, and I had a lot of work ahead of me. Years of failed attempts at sobriety had left me with a "know-it-all" attitude. The first 90 days were tough, and I was put on contract. But the women in that house didn't give up on me. They taught me to love myself, to be accountable, and to give selflessly to others. Oxford House didn't just provide a roof over my head; it gave me a safe space to grow into my sobriety and discover a sense of purpose by helping others. My outreach worker, Summar, played a crucial role in my journey. She pushed me to be better, to do better, and for that, I'm forever grateful.

After six months, I moved out of Oxford House but stayed deeply involved. I continued to serve in chapter positions, attended house meetings to support newcomers, and helped foster unity and organize fundraisers. Oxford House gave me something I had never found anywhere else—a sense of belonging, a purpose. When I learned there was a possibility to work for the organization, I knew instantly that was what I wanted to do. I continued to work closely with my outreach worker, staying committed to my recovery while also helping others. My life transformed in ways I never imagined. I earned my GED at 40, began managing my finances, and before I knew it, I had a full year of sobriety. The day I was hired by Oxford House was a dream come true. It meant leaving the area where I got sober, but I welcomed the discomfort because I knew it meant growth.

Today, I'm over three years sober, bought my first car, and have been promoted to Training and Education Coordinator. My life now is beyond anything I ever imagined, and I am eternally grateful to the women at Epona and to Paul Molloy for starting this incredible movement.

Cynthia Johnson – Resident

Greetings, my name is Cynthia Johnson. My sobriety date is January 5th, 2024. My drugs of choice were meth and alcohol. After battling addiction for over 30 years from ages 17 to 45, I

entered rehab for the first time. Upon completion of rehab, I found myself without a place to go. I knew going back home to Georgia would lead me to relapse. I decided to do something different and reached out to someone for help.

The person I reached out to referred me to Oxford House Cabana. At Cabana I received a comprehensive newcomer packet. It outlined the guidelines for my new journey and I eagerly began my new life. I found a sponsor, employment, and a trusted position in the house. Oxford House provides me with a structured environment that encourages me to continue in regularly attending my meetings and growing in my recovery. I am currently the President at Oxford House Cabana, and I am the Chapter Chair for Chapter 17.

I found solace in Oxford House. I embraced this journey of self -discovery. Oxford House offers a compassionate environment that continues to nurture and encourage my growth. I'm very grateful for the unwavering support that empowers me to maintain my sobriety. I embraced the transformative journey in Oxford House, and look forward to what the future holds for me.

Quote of the Day: "Transforming my life with hope and resilience at Oxford House Cabana."

Charles J. – Resident

Oxford House is the blessing I didn't want. In need of a bed after doing three and a half years in state prison, a friend suggested I look into sober living. She also found me an opening as well as a new lease on life. The rest happened so fast I couldn't explain it.

Seven months later, I'm still here. I hold the House secretary position as well as Reentry Coordinator for our Chapter (Chapter 16). I've dealt with the passing of my mother, gotten my license back, and got my old job back from before my tailspin into incarceration. None of this would have been possible without Oxford House.

Thank you, Oxford House. I look forward to seeing where this goes.

Timothy Pankop – Resident

I first came to Oxford in December 2023. I left a sober living in Denver where I went to recovery. I wasn't happy in that sober living so I filled out an application with Oxford House and was accepted into Oxford House Manatee. I didn't know anyone in Florida but my aunt and I came here with little money. The guys accepted me for who I was and were very supportive of me. They introduced me to a whole new life of being sober. I didn't know how much fun and unity there was in the sober community. It opened my eyes up to a new experience in life and a whole new purpose to recovery.

In the first month I wasn't really involved. I was focused on getting on my feet and the House was very understanding. After my first 90 days, I got a vehicle and started visiting other Oxford Homes. Shortly following, I was presented with the opportunity to become a Chapter officer and I accepted.

I have learned so much in the time I have been in Oxford. I am very involved in all the Houses in my Chapter. Before, I wouldn't go out of my way to help people; now my recovery is doing service work and being involved with other Houses and trying to educate them and share my experience, strength, and hope. I learn something new every day.

I have recently opened a new house with the Oxford community. It was a new experience for me and it will be a new journey and a chapter in my life. Oxford is a wonderful opportunity if you listen to what the core members say and what they guide us to do. I have come a long way in my recovery. This sober experience has led me to the true understanding of addiction and what it does to us. I know I want to be perfect but, I believe in myself. Oxford has given me hope at the end of the day because they are my new family. It's a wonderful feeling knowing I can help change people's lives and that's more important.

The thought that we can help give people their lives, their families back, a whole new family and a way of life to have is truly where it's at. There is fun out there without drugs and a way to have fun; Oxford House is proof of that.

Steven Marks – Alumnus and Outreach Worker

I'm Steve, I'm a drug-addicted alcoholic. For years, I blamed everyone and everything else for my problems. I felt like I was a victim of life from a young age. That changed when I had my first drink at 13. It was like a switch flipped—I felt on top of the world, full of confidence, and like I finally belonged.

But that feeling didn't last. My life quickly went into a downward spiral—blackouts, waking up in strange places, broken relationships, and shattered trust. I tried to run from my problems, moving around the country, and even ended up in Israel in 2013. But my addiction followed me there, evolving from alcohol to heroin. I came back to the States in 2016, and for six years, I was in the darkest place imaginable, bouncing in and out of treatment without finding lasting sobriety.

On November 28, 2022, I used for what I hope will be the last time. I entered treatment feeling defeated, but this time, I was ready to listen and learn. After 60 days, I moved into Oxford House 417 in Orlando, FL. The support from the men in the House and getting involved with Bill W. became my lifeline. This connection gave me the relief and healing I so desperately needed.

Today, my life is incredible. I stay deeply involved in the recovery community—attending about five weekly meetings, taking on two H and I commitments, and chairing a meeting at my home group. On the Oxford side, after serving as Chair of Chapter 20 in Orlando for eight months, I'm now an Outreach worker for Oxford House. My relationships with family and friends have never been better, and I have an amazing girlfriend.

If you're still struggling, know that recovery is possible. It's often easier than we think if we're willing to let go and follow some simple principles. Recovery is within reach for anyone ready to take that first step.

Desiree Rioux – Alumna and Outreach Worker

Upon moving into Oxford House I was a broken and sick individual – constantly getting in trouble with the law and had no family that would trust me. After the completion of a 45-day program in rehab and on felony drug probation, I moved into Oxford House Magnolia Park the day I was released from rehab. That day just happened to be the day before Thanksgiving. I was worried that I was going to be alone on a Holiday, which everyone knows is not the best situation for someone new in recovery, but I wasn't.

One of my new sisters and my Chapter Chair at the time invited me to go to another House that was hosting a dinner and so I got in the car and went. A couple of days later was my first Chapter and HSC meeting. There was a secretary position open for the HSC and my outreach worker at the time pointed to me and said, {She wants the position.” Confused as to what he just volunteered me for, I said: “Sure but what do I have to do?!” From that day forward I will forever be grateful and thankful for my Outreach worker, Andrew Ward. He continued to push me and encourage me to take service positions and help whenever a House needed the help or training. I would go on to become the State of Florida State Association Secretary and I would hold that position for 2 years before ultimately getting hired as an Outreach Worker myself!

I never expected to be the person I am today. I help people who are in the shoes I was once in. I do the things that my Outreach worker did for me to other people when I see the potential in them! Without my program of recovery and Oxford House, I don't think I would be here today. I now have a new family who love me no matter what; I have built my own family with an amazing fiancé who is also an Outreach Worker and we have two beautiful little girls, Olivia (2) and Lillian, who just joined the OH family this year! Without my commitment to Oxford House and the service work I put into helping others achieve what I now have,” none of this would have been possible! Keep Fighting!!! Your Life Matters!!!

ILLINOIS

Kameron Townsend – Resident

Let's start with: if it wasn't for Oxford and my being accepted in October of 2023 while in jail, I don't know where I'd be right now! This is my first time in sober living and I'll never regret this in my life. This and the NA program I'll never be able to pay back. I can only give what I've received. Long story short: I started with DCFS and, in the time since I started my recovery, I have completed gateway outpatient and inpatient, parent classes and anger management classes. I'm working now and keeping the job. I have a sponsor, a homegroup and I chair meetings. I'm now over 1 year clean and, most of all, I am within 3 months of having my family back together after 2 years with DCFS care and I couldn't be much happier with my life and how life is going! I hold an officer position at Enos and I'm Chapter Fundraising chair for Oxford.

I could go on and on. I absolutely love service work and never thought over a year ago I'd be where I am at now. I have such a huge support system including DCFS all around me that I call my family now, especially in Oxford Chapter 12. Thank you so much. Oxford, for having me!

Michael Smith – Alumnus

For years I was happy being miserable because I thought that was what I deserved, or so my addiction told me. I finally found happiness on March 11, 2022 when I moved into my first Oxford House. I relapsed shortly after because of issues I wasn't ready to deal with yet but Oxford gave me another chance and I moved back in with a new lesson learned and an even greater willingness to be taught how to live clean and sober. After over a year in Houses, I'm now a proud alumnus of Illinois with over 2 years of sobriety. Today I have my own home, cars, a wife, and am months away from having custody of my kids. I learned how to be an adult, a friend, a brother, a son, a leader, and a husband because of the things I got to learn in these homes. I owe my future to Oxford House and the people who showed me a better way to live.
100 HOMES STRONG IN ILLINOIS!

Lou Goode – Resident

I started in Oxford in 2009 in Colorado and opened a few houses for Oxford but, in 2018, I decided to move back to Illinois where I was born, mainly because a family member was sick; and I relapsed after having 6 years clean. When I relapsed, it happened fast: first, it was alcohol and, before I blinked, I was shooting dope all over again. July 22, 2023 was the worst night for my family. I was so high and drunk that I became so intoxicated beyond reason and was arrested for battery and assault on a police officer. Thankfully, I was able to go back to treatment after jail and my wife and I decided Oxford House was the way to go after treatment. I was accepted

in the Bjorn house but was given an opportunity to move into Chapter 10's new men's house in Joliet. Since March 15th, I've been our president at Novak and am teaching 10 new guys how to do all of our jobs, make bank deposits and I help anyone who needs it. My goal for my future is to continue opening houses for Oxford and make myself available anywhere they need me. One day I would love to be an outreach worker for them but, for now, God's plan is for me to open houses, stay sober and help another in need.

David Runge – Resident

Oxford House has given me the stability and accountability I need to work my program. My first experience in an Oxford House lasted about 18 months and, unfortunately, I relapsed. It took me a few months to regain my footing and complete treatment. I knew that I was not strong enough to go back in the "real world" so I contacted Oxford to see if they would give me another chance to allow me to heal. I interviewed and was accepted at Oxford Legacy Place in Granite City!

I love that I was welcome back with open arms despite my past. I love that no matter what background you come from, you are not discriminated against. I love that I was given the chance to heal in an amazing house with amazing brothers. I love that I am regaining the skills and the confidence I need to go back into the "real world". I love Oxford House!

Christina Lawtum-Torres K – Alumna

I was scared about moving into a home with others. I was afraid that I was going to mess up. And I was afraid that I wasn't going to be liked since it was hard for me to open up to people. When I moved into Novak (my first Oxford House before we moved into Adira), I was greeted by an outreach worker/member who was helping the House out to get it up and running since it was new. She showed me the Oxford House Manual and gave me the newcomers packet and we sat and read it out loud together. Someone was taking the time to make sure I was feeling welcomed and it was really nice. I had lost everything due to my addiction but I gained a new home. A new beginning.

Novak allowed me to heal somewhere safe with women who cared about me. I was willing and able to do whatever it took to change my life; to get my kids back and to begin living my life. My way wasn't working. The Oxford model made it easy for me to try things differently. By sticking with this new way of life, I've been able to build my recovery up and to gain special people who want the same thing as I do in my life. I got my children back. And I am now working in a drug and alcohol treatment center so I can give back what was given to me. I have always wanted to make a difference. Living in an Oxford House has given me that chance. I will forever be grateful for being accepted into one of these homes!

Chad Cavenaile – Resident

My name is Chad Cavenaile. I am a 42-year-old grateful recovering drug addict. I began my journey into the world of drug addiction at the ripe young age of 13 and, from that first high, there was no turning back for me. My substance abuse and addiction progressed at an extremely rapid pace and, before I knew it, I was on the path to being completely engulfed within a criminal lifestyle, which ultimately led me to the Department of Corrections.

Going to prison was a turning point in my life. Inside those walls, I experienced what is commonly referred to as a “spiritual awakening”, and it was only by the grace of God that I was paroled and accepted into an Oxford House upon my release.

Since coming to Oxford House Cresthaven here in Decatur, IL., I have been awarded opportunities I never would have thought possible. I am currently enrolled in a pre-apprenticeship program for the construction trades and plan to join the Laborers Union when I graduate. I am in the process of getting my driver’s license for the first time. I am the HSC Rep for my House, as well as the Re-Entry Chair for the Chapter 15 Oxford Houses of Illinois. I have built back healthy relationships in my life with people whom I love and who love me.

I have been given the gift of happiness, peace, and serenity and, today, it’s those things that I truly cherish. The ability not only to give, but to receive love is the most precious treasure in the universe. I was locked inside of an invisible cage for over half my life – afraid to live, afraid to love, afraid to feel. Today, however, I am awake for the first time in my 42 years of existence. Today I can process my emotions with a sense of clarity and understanding that I never before possessed. I’m living my life as a happy, productive member of a society that I had once never wanted to be a part of, and none of these blessings taking place in my life right now would have been possible without the Oxford House Organization. Sincerely, Chad Cavenaile

INDIANA

Dustin L – Resident

I moved into Oxford House Sage in Bloomington IN from the state of Florida. I heard a lot about Oxford House when I lived in Florida. I moved back to Indiana to be closer to my kids so I put an application in at Oxford House Safe. It was the best decision I have made. From the time I moved in, the members of the House were more than welcoming. I got involved with Oxford House from the start. I took a position in my chapter as Reentry Chair. I wanted to help people who wanted to live a better life. I lost my brother from addiction. He was in and out of prison his whole life and there wasn't much help back then. So I told myself, if I got a chance to help people coming out of prison or jail to live a clean and normal life, I would do what I can. So now

I am the Indiana State Reentry Chair. Oxford House has helped me continue to be accountable. On July 21st of this year, I will have 3 years clean. I moved to Oxford House with clean time. I have witnessed what Oxford house can do for someone wanting to get clean and stay clean and help other people do that same. I plan on staying in Oxford House for a while. I am the type of addict who, if I'm not around people or living with other clean addicts, I don't do very well. Oxford House gives me a purpose today.

Trista Atkins – Resident

Oxford has shown me how to love myself, how to pay bills, and how to hold not only myself but also others accountable. I've become someone people can count on, and not flake on them. I have learned how to sit back and open not only my mind but also my heart to a new way of living. I have met some amazing people while being here; I not only call them my friends but they are family.

Michael Drury – Resident

Coming out of prison, I was hopeless and believed that incarceration and street life were my only paths. I struggled to envision a different future for myself, trapped in a cycle of despair. However, my journey took a pivotal turn when I joined the Oxford House re-entry program. This opportunity was exactly what I needed to break free from my past and start rebuilding my life. The supportive environment and structured living provided by Oxford House Irenic were crucial in my transformation.

The Oxford House re-entry program taught me invaluable life skills that I had never learned before. Living in the house with others who were on a similar path, I learned the importance of responsibility, accountability, and cooperation. These experiences helped me mature and understand what it means to be a man in today's society. The program instilled in me a sense of integrity and showed me how to carry myself with dignity and respect. This personal growth would not have been possible without the opportunity and support offered by Oxford House Irenic.

Today, I am committed to treating others with the same compassion and open-heartedness that I received. I remember vividly what it felt like to be in their shoes, and I strive to provide the same welcoming and supportive environment for those who are now starting their own journeys. The Oxford House re-entry program not only gave me a second chance at life but also inspired me to give back to my community. My name is Michael Drury, and I am an alcoholic and a proud member of Oxford House Southern Indiana House Irenic.

Brianne Charles – Resident

My name is Brianne. I am 26 years old. I have an 11-year-old son. When I came into Oxford House, I came after doing 3 years in prison. I was looking for a recovery family and support. The amount of those things I found inside this place is beyond words. I am now a behavioral health technician for a rehab center, and a certified peer support specialist. Without the encouragement and love I found inside Oxford, I would never have made it as far as I have. Oxford House is the best place to come when you just need stability and love!

KANSAS

John Agnew – Alumnus

I remember interviewing at Waco prior to the official opening. I had in my mind that I didn't want to stay but my future best friend was there, so I agreed to stay at least six months. John Paul (during an outreach training, he started calling me by my name John Fitzgerald and I started calling him by his name John Paul) and James McClain were in attendance to our first State Convention. I was awed by the stories they told about recovery and Oxford House. I ended up staying in and opening another House in my second year. I stayed 4 years and had the opportunity to help start the first Alumni Association in the country. I helped open multiple houses in Kansas and 20 years later I received the prestigious Tony Perkins Award. The list goes on for what God as I understand Him and Oxford House has given me. Thanks, John Paul and James McClain, for inspiring me to the service I still perform for our Oxford Community.

Tamara Bridgman – Resident

I'm here to say that if I did not have Oxford brought into my life, I would not have accomplished so many things. I have completed multiple advanced recovery classes; completed drug court; obtained a legit driver's license and got a vehicle. Also, I completed probation and did all of this successfully. Thanks to Oxford giving me a sober safe and supportive foundation and for teaching me a new way of life. The unity and support of Oxford and the people of Oxford is just phenomenal. We all know recovery is no walk in the park but having support from F.O.R.A. and Oxford community has completely changed my life for the better. I am a better person; a better mother, , daughter, and everything. And I know when I'm in need, I can reach out and there will be help. So, thank you, F.O.R.A. and Oxford. You all made me shine. And I am forever grateful!

Nathan V - Alumnus

Being of service and involved with Oxford House changed my life. I was on the brink of death when I decided to make a change for my children and myself. I went into treatment completely

broken, not knowing how I would ever be able to survive. I knew immediately that I was going into Oxford House. I immediately got involved in my house and my sponsor put me into service. He gave me the opportunity to open up the first men and children's house in the Topeka Kansas area. I ended up opening this home and taking my 2-year-old daughter full time. The opportunity of being able to have a safe place for me and my daughter was life-changing. This all led me into opening the second men and children's house in the area! I took on positions in my Chapter such as treasurer and chair. This rewarding experience led me into a career of social services and education based on my lived experience in life. I currently bring fatherhood-specific programs to my community! I kept telling myself, "Just stay another year and see what happens." Words can't describe where this has led me. None of this would have ever been possible without Oxford House and my sponsor putting me into a position to be of service to others. I am forever grateful for the life I have today.

Brian Fraser – Alumnus

In the depths of despair, sitting in jail in Beloit, Kansas, facing charges of intent to distribute and possession, I discovered my rock bottom. However, a phone call to a friend in Oxford House Tharros in Salina, Kansas, became my lifeline. After making that call and Tharros conducting a phone interview with me while I was still in jail, I was accepted into Oxford House and, within 2 weeks, I was on my way to Salina, leaving my family and my old life back in Concordia.

Once I arrived at Tharros, they welcomed me with open arms, providing solace and support like a long-lost brother. Two weeks later, I moved to Oxford House Wildcat after hearing about the need for members in that house and again, after being accepted, I felt part of something special. I held positions while at Wildcat that consisted of Treasurer, Comptroller, and Housing services.

Within the walls of Tharros and Wildcat, I experienced camaraderie and support unlike anything I had encountered before. Encouraged by this newfound unity, I became more involved in the Oxford House community. From being the chapter loan officer to ultimately being chosen as co-housing services officer, I embraced my role in guiding and supporting my fellow members in their recovery journeys.

Oxford House taught me invaluable life lessons, fostering accountability, integrity, and responsibility. Through their guidance, I rebuilt my life and created a healthy, sober, and productive existence. During my time at Oxford House, I met Brylee, the mother of my daughter Teegan, and together, we embarked on a new life filled with pride and joy.

Now an alumnus of Oxford House Wildcat, I continue to fulfill my duties as co-housing services officer until the end of my term. The growth I have experienced and the lessons I have learned

are immeasurable. I owe my newfound success to the unwavering support of Oxford House and their blueprint for a solid foundation in recovery and personal growth.

Remember, no matter how dark the present moment may seem, there is always hope. Through the support of others and our own resilience, we can rise from the ashes and create a purposeful and fulfilling life. Embrace your inner strength, surround yourself with uplifting individuals, and seize the transformative power of second chances.

Tina Smittle – Alumna

I am free! Free of the darkness that I endured for the last 30 plus years. I was sexually abused at a very young age; in turn, I felt a darkness and sense of evil I never knew existed. So, the only thing that comforted me at the time I felt was sex and I became very addicted to it. After years of this addiction, I had nightmares every night; I still do to this day, and the pain was horrendous. I always felt worthless, like a piece of meat. I always felt like I didn't belong and I felt like I always had something to prove. After years of feeling this way and turning to men, the pain just kept growing and growing. I was introduced to methamphetamines – oh, the numbness I felt. So, for 20 years after that, I continued to use. I stayed numb; I stayed in the dark; I lost custody of my kids and I sunk even further into the pits of hell. I was dying, literally dying, so I reached out and someone got me into Oxford House on August 12th 2021.

Three years later, I'm clean and sober. I have learned how to love myself; I have become humble and so very grateful for life. I have learned to be an adult again and how to mother my children again. Oxford has given me a second chance at life -- one that I am so blessed in. Today, I understand that what happened wasn't anything I did. Today, I share my story with the girls in my house, and have helped so many. I can't thank Oxford enough for helping me find myself again. Thank you. Today I am the Chapter Chair, and alumna of Deliverance Oxford House. Today, I have my own house and my own truck. And, I have my kids back. I am so eternally grateful for the tools and experience and strength I have gained. Thank you. I am Free!!!!

Kasia Hoover – Alumna

Coming into the House, I was a few months clean. I was still very much disconnected from the present moment and very unsure of my purpose in life. I had lost myself. What I did have was hope and that was given to me from the members during my interview. It was only a few days before I knew I belonged right where I was. The lessons I learned from my experience in Oxford House are countless and immeasurable. With Oxford House, I had a safe place to work my program and practice being responsible and I was held accountable when I wasn't. I rebuilt relationships with my children, my husband, and my parents. I had support throughout my time on Corrections and encouragement to uphold my commitment to my recovery plan. I stayed in

the house for three years. I've been an active alumna for almost three years. Staying connected with Oxford House is the gift that keeps giving.

Krissy S – Resident

I came to OH Monarch in Pittsburg, Kansas on December 21, 2021, broken and with nothing. The girls welcomed me so warmly that "Welcome home" truly was my saving grace. The requirement to attend 12-step meetings in my new member period developed a habit of attending. Soon, I would learn about chapter and would attend every chapter meeting. I was soon given my first service position of Chapter Treasurer. It lit a fire in me. I have since been secretary of both my chapter and my state association and, in being on my state association, I was blessed with the opportunity to go to the 2023 World Convention where I would learn some chapters had a comptroller; I brought that back and have held that position for the year of 2024. I have also had the opportunity to open two new houses in Chapter 12. A friend at our CMHC saw my progress and approached me to work in the recovery field at our women's reintegration. When I say Oxford opened the doors and saved my life, this is why. I now have purpose and a beautiful life on the path for better.

Bobby Whittle – Resident

It all started 26 years before this; maybe even before that. I had lots of growing up the wrong way with drugs and alcohol. I had no knowledge on how to live life like a normal human. People all around me had given up on me – family, friends and the law. By the grace of God, I had one last fight in me; this one I went all in on. During my fight for a normal life, when I needed help the most people whom I'd never met called me brother and let me live in their home.(Oxford House Tree). Then they introduced me to their brothers and sisters. They showed me a family that is ever-growing that had my back. I've been in that spot where I thought I was in too deep and there was no turning back on the life I created. Oxford saved my life from addiction. Oxford gave my little girl her dad. I owe to the program :).

Nathan G – Alumnus

I had been in two Oxford houses over the years before moving into the Holliday Oxford house. Knowing a little bit of Oxford already and what it could do for me, I moved into the house with no guards up and open ears for I knew that I needed to live differently. Starting off fresh in the house as a couch member and moving towards finishing my treatment obligations, I was able to find myself becoming more passionate about recovery and wanting to get more involved in the recovery community. I made it my purpose to learn all that I could about the Oxford story and model so I could be a replicator and supporter to the chapter community. My housemates made it easy to find unity in the home and we worked as a team to get things accomplished. I worked to

learn all the positions of the house. Half way through my one-year term, I gained a leadership role and a seat at the chapter table. I was growing more and more passionate about helping others. Oxford helped me find purpose in what I can do with my life. I found that I always have had passion for helping people but was doing it in the wrong direction. In September of 2022, I became eligible to become a peer support worker in the state of Kansas and have been involved with the Oxford community as an alumnus ever since. Oxford has helped make me the man I am today and, most importantly, have helped me find myself.

BURNS – Resident

My life was in shambles until I was arrested on 2/19/23/ The Pittsburg police department saved my life. I was on a ‘suicide by cop’ mission and headed for disaster. After a small stint in County, I was released to go to rehab. While in treatment, I heard about Oxford House and it peaked my interest. I knew I needed structure; I’d tried many times to stay clean and failed after leaving treatment. I was interviewed at Iliad Oxford House and accepted. Since being in Oxford, I have completed Corrections and was released from all legal required paper time. I’m a free man and productive member of a growing recovery family. Thanks to Oxford and my higher power for my new life!

KENTUCKY

Jaime Keen – Resident

Oxford House has saved my life. I was in an Oxford House years ago and it led me to being an Outreach Worker and I loved the job. I resigned for wrong reasons. I came back to Oxford House again after having over a year sober because – it’s home. It’s where my family is. It taught me to be a woman, a mother, a friend, and a member of society. And I am forever in debt to them. I am proud to be an Oxfordian.

Tommy McDaniel – Resident

I came to Oxford house when I got out of jail. The house I went to was Dokimos and I was the second person in that house. I was in drug court and still uncertain about a lot of things. Two weeks after being in my house I joined Chapter as the comptroller and dove in. I lived at Dokimos until I was asked to move to another house that was having issues and couldn’t fill their beds. I went. We busted our butts filling all 8 beds and, in two months, the account had tripled the beds were full and I became Chapter Vice Chair. I was then asked to open a brand-new house in January of 2024 and I said yes. At the same time, I was voted in as Chapter Chair and moved into the new house. I ended up stepping down as Chapter Chair because I was voted in as the Kentucky State Chairperson and stepped back down to Chapter Vice Chair. I’m still at the

Hiraeth house and now I'm 2 years into my recovery. I graduated drug court. I'm almost done with probation. And, now, I've had my second kid since coming to Oxford House. Oxford House has given me the chance to stay sober and help others while I do it. It has given me the chance to be a father to my kids. It's given me my life back and I couldn't be happier.

Kim Shady – Resident

I first came to Oxford in November of 2021. I had spent the last 6 months miserable in my boyfriend's basement. I was going to meetings only occasionally. I was 5 months pregnant and scared to death of the future. I had already lost custody of my firstborn due to my addiction. I was grateful to still be in his life but without having him to care for. I had no real plans to stay sober until I found out I was pregnant. I was not happy; fear was all I felt. My boyfriend abruptly broke up with me, a blessing in disguise. I was told I could stay but I was tired of being places where I wasn't wanted. So, I started reaching out to people in my support group and, within the same day, I had a phone interview with Oxford House. I was so heartbroken to be left at such a vulnerable time, I didn't realize that God was placing me right where I needed to be. I was surrounded with recovery now – around like-minded people. I was going to meetings more. I was feeling more connected to the God of my own understanding and I was working my ass off in a pizza kitchen up till the week I gave birth.

I learned how to manage money; how to take care of a home; how to use my voice and advocate for myself and other people. I learned so much about integrity and accountability. I have grown legions from the first day I arrived. Most importantly, I am a good mom today, and a great friend. I even moved out into my own apartment in August 2023. I became an alumna and was a great deal of help for the women at Moyo.

Unfortunately, my firstborn's father passed away of an overdose and I fell into a dark place mentally. Isolation and depression were at full force, I was dangerously close to a relapse. I packed everything up and terminated my first lease early and moved back into Oxford. We have been back at Moyo for about a month now. It just wasn't my time yet and I'm okay with that. Some of us need more support than others, especially when going through a hard time. Oxford is my family. I cannot tell you how much it means to know I always have a place to go. There's something so special about this thing; how everyone has a part to play in making it work. Everyone is useful. Everyone has a purpose. And everyone's vote counts.

Amber Prather – Resident

I moved into Oxford House from a relationship that had failed. I knew it was home because that's where I was before I moved out. I came from a halfway house in the beginning. And I instantly was blessed with all the women, and the way Oxford House showed support.

Without Oxford House I know I would not be here today. The girls in my houses have taught me responsibility, how to love myself and how to be a mom. I've learned how to speak up and find my voice. I've learned how to support other women. And now, through growth and humility, I am now about to get my son back -- whom I have not seen in 12 years! All of this is, by the grace of God, a wonderful fellowship and Oxford House members who never stopped believing in me. I now know what it means to have a family and joy in my life no matter what struggles I have faced in my recovery the women around me have always supported me and my daughter. What a beautiful life I've found with a recovery tribe!

Kelsie Gilley – Alumna

When I got clean in 2014, I had no idea about Oxford House. I went home from treatment and, by 2017, I was back drinking. By 2019 I was back using. I lost my home and my family by 2020. I tried to get sober on my own in February 2021 but I couldn't manage. Finally, after I gave my kids away in March after several attempts of getting sober on my own, I went to treatment in May. This time someone mentioned Oxford House. They said I could take my kids there, they also mentioned something about a grant that would help me until I got a job. I didn't have a dollar to my name or anything.

I got sent to an Oxford House in Germantown in Louisville, KY. I was not familiar with the town at all. I hit the ground running. I found the closest A.A. clubhouse and got familiar with the bus route. I lived at the Icehouse and got a job at Auntie Anne's. Time with my kids in the beginning started out as supervised visits. Then I found a better job that fit the schedule I working toward with my kids. I started working at Cardinal Aluminum Monday through Thursday, making the same amount I did at Auntie Anne's in two weeks, in one week.

I moved out of Oxford House after 14 months. I have not lived in Oxford House in almost 2 years and I still stay involved. Oxford House gave me an opportunity to be an adult, a parent, a productive member of society. It gave me a safe, clean, sober environment to have a fresh start for me and my children. I will never be able to repay Oxford House for what it has given me!

Amanda Snawder – Alumna

Coming out of treatment, I knew I couldn't go home if I wanted any chance of staying sober. I also had sole custody of a daughter. I worried about where we would go when I completed treatment. That's when I learned about Oxford House.

Once accepted, I knew that would be my forever family. Not only did they give me and my daughter a fighting chance, but they were patient with me. They taught me how to be of service, be responsible, and most important, take accountability for my decisions in life.

Today I'm living independently with a career and I'm a present mom. I'm an alumni member from House Keeneland because Oxford House helped give me a new life, and for that, they will always be in my life and my heart. I'm grateful for and love Oxford House!! #OxfordStrong

Heather L. – Resident

At was 26 weeks pregnant with my baby girl, I was diagnosed with Stage 2 cervical cancer that later spread to my lymph nodes. Chemo & radiation was awful. I was prescribed Fentanyl patches along with several other opiates to manage the pain. After treatment was completed, it was to late.... I was hooked. I managed to detox myself, only to fall into the pits of Alcoholism. For the next 3 years, I had became the lowest version of myself I had ever known . Family, career and friends that I cherished more than anything – gone . I was a shell of the mother, daughter, wife & friend I once was. Thankfully, one day I woke up from a 3-year nightmare that had become my life . I went into treatment and slowly started coming back to reality. After completing treatment, I was desperate to find a HOME . A place where people just like me flourished ... an Oxford House.

I've lived in Oxford House for 7 months now and, for the first time, I actually feel hope! The women in my house are my family! I wouldn't trade them for anything in this world. Oxford House has provided me with a community, support, and resources to help reach my goals. More than just a roof over my head – a real HOME ! A sober home, a happy home!

LOUISIANA

Meghan Richard – Alumna and Outreach Worker

I moved in on Nov 1,2017, straight out prison. Now, mind you, this was my second time out of prison. My parole officer said I could not go back to my home state of Mississippi. Now, I had no family, nothing in Louisiana. I am so grateful she handed me a pamphlet for Oxford House. In my interview, the house asked what was my DOC and gave them my DOC number, I had no idea of recovery but because Oxford House showed me the way to not only be a responsible women but also showed me a 12-step program to live by. Today I get to work with this organization that showed me a better life . I am truly grateful for my recovery and Oxford House.

Brandie S. – Alumna

Oxford House helped me grow up and learn to be a productive member of society. At age 33, I had never had to take care of myself and pay my own way. I took the suggestions of my household and got a job and a sponsor in my first two weeks. I began working a program of recovery. I walked to work and meetings every day. As a result, my life began to come together

better than it ever had. My relationships with my children were rebuilt. I bought my very own car. After 2 and a half years I was able to rent my own place. Alumni status!!

I continue to apply recovery principles in all my affairs and serve Oxford House in any way I can. I'm a proud homeowner and business owner today and I give credit to my Higher Power and my Oxford House for showing me how to live sober. I will forever serve so other get what I get... A happy, joyous and free life!

MISSOURI

Aron Hill – Resident

My name is Aron Hill, and I owe my life to Oxford House. Before discovering this supportive community, I was spiraling down a path that seemed destined for tragedy, struggling with addiction and facing bleak prospects. Oxford House provided me with more than just a home; it gave me hope and a second chance at life. Without the structure, camaraderie and accountability fostered by Oxford House, I firmly believe I would have ended up dead or serving a life sentence in prison. Instead, through the guidance of the Oxford House manual and the fellowship of others on a similar journey, I found the strength to overcome my addiction and rebuild my life. today, I am grateful for every moment I spend as a testament to the life-changing impact of Oxford House. It is not just as shelter; it is a beacon of hope and transformation for those of us who have battled with addiction. I've held every position in the House and was Chapter Chair and Chapter HSC Chair in St Louis, Missouri. I moved to Carthage to help replicate the process within a new house full of new members.

Rachel Johnson – Alumna and Outreach Worker

My Name is Rachel. I am a woman in long-term recovery and ,what that means to me is that I have not found any reason to put a mind-altering substance into my body since 4-4-22! My journey started in 2016 when I left my ex-husband, with whom I had been for 14 years. I had never been independent and I tried to get my place with my two children; it quickly spiraled out of control. Due to my mental health and stress from my divorce, I picked up drinking until I was black-out drunk, then, next was meth! I lost my place to live, then my children, then my family and friends. My vehicle was my only safe place until that was stolen from me, too.

On April 3, 2022, I was in County jail for a month. I continued being homeless until, one day, my lawyer suggested I get into sober living. I had no clue what that even meant but I needed something to get off the streets so I wouldn't return to using. Along my journey, I had heard of people in Oxford House a few times but still didn't know what it was, so I looked it up and immediately got an interview where I was accepted into Oxford House Triumph! Little did I

know that Triumph Oxford House would become my first place that felt like home in over six years. I felt safe. I even unpacked my things and didn't worry about anyone stealing my belongings! I gained so many sisters and best friends I love and care about. Since being in Oxford House, I have taken care of all my legal stuff; I see my kids as often as possible. I have gotten myself a legal vehicle and found my self-worth.

For the first time, I'm finding my independence. On September 9, 2023, I had to say goodbye to my father. This was the hardest thing I've ever had to do in my life but, because of my Oxford family support, I was able to get through it completely sober. Also, because of Oxford House and working a solid program, I made a living amendment for my father; I am genuinely grateful for that! On February 16, 2024, I started my new journey as an outreach worker in Southwest Missouri. I found my true purpose: to help save lives one bed at a time!

Perry Goss – Resident

I have struggled with addiction for over 30 years. I have tried some successful and some not successful treatment options. Upon coming to Oxford House, I was able to focus on my own recovery as I saw fit and it worked for me. I am now more involved in NA than I ever was and am now thus doing the 12th step. I am in charge of the intakes at my house and am a Chapter level officer. Oxford has done so much for me but has made me be the one to do it, thus really teaching me.

NEBRASKA

Jeff Burns – Resident

I moved into Oxford House on April 15, 2023 from another recovery house agency. At eight months sober upon arrival, I felt the need for a longer-term recovery setting. My track record with alcohol was not pretty. I could string together 6 months, yet I always went back. On August 1, 2022, I woke up with a failing liver, blood down my leg, and in a pain that I had never felt before. Detoxing myself for three days, I attended a meeting and found a sponsor. Praying and step work were the beginnings.

My recovery today is centered around continued step work and service work. God has put me in a place to be of service to others. When I moved into Cole Creek Oxford House, I did not comprehend the sunken level this house had reached. Rebuilding this house from the ground up has been one of the most rewarding and fulfilling aspects in my recovery. We fought, we struggled, we bore down and went for it. "Keep on trudging" is my motto. Today, I am of service at the Chapter level, I attend Interchapter and HSC; I want to be part of the organization at the State level. There's no end to where my purpose stops. My life, my recovery, is all intertwined

with Oxford. We truly are on the front lines of addiction and alcoholism. We carry the message and lead by example. The newcomers learn the model, and are able to carry that on to the next. Truly blessed and truly sober, God has done for me what I could not do for myself.

Kelsie Replogle – Alumna and Outreach Worker

My Oxford journey this go around started out in Omaha, Nebraska at Oxford House E Street. After completing treatment, I ended up at a Christian-based sober living house where I was soon kicked out for swearing and not participating in church. I reluctantly got onto the Oxford Vacancies website and started calling houses in town while I sat on the sidewalk with a tote of my clothes. Lucky for me, a young woman answered the phone and said she would come pick me up in a few minutes.

I had lived in Oxford before and I wasn't too happy to be going back, but it's better than being homeless. At first, I didn't want to do anything these ladies were requiring of me to live there. But, after a while, I saw how well it was working for them and how genuinely happy they seemed so I thought I'd give it a try. These ladies surrounded me with love until I learned to love myself and others. They always gave me great advice, and taught me how to be a teacher.

Troy Jass – Alumnus and Outreach Worker

I spent 21 years in active addiction, becoming addicted to fentanyl. My life bottomed out in 2019 and I found myself homeless on the streets of St Louis. After overdosing twice and ending up in the hospital, I decided that this isn't a way to live, it's a way to die. I started my recovery journey at the St Louis ARC for a 6-month treatment program, graduating right in the midst of the Pandemic in 2020. I found Oxford House River Bluff and was accepted as a member. The guys there wrapped me up like I was family. I slowly got involved in the chapter and state association. I learned how to be a leader and master long-term sobriety. None of this would've been possible without Oxford House.

Wanbli H. – Resident

I was released from prison and had nowhere to go. If it wasn't for Oxford House Boxelder in Norfolk, Nebraska, I wouldn't be where I am today. The Oxford community is a blessing to have. If it weren't for the Oxford community I wouldn't have had a second chance. Being here has helped me sustain my recovery. I am working steps; I chair my home group meeting, the "hug up" every Thursday night. And I have over 3 years clean. I'm blessed to be a part of the Oxford House community. Thank You!!!

Jessica Eriksen – Alumna and Outreach Worker

When I first became a member of Oxford House, I was without a family. My family told me they didn't want me home. Not knowing what to do, I reached out to Oxford House. In October of 2021, the women of Lake Castle in Omaha, Nebraska voted me in as a member of their family. That weekend before I moved in, I spent some time with the one family member who was still in my corner, my brother. He knew what I was going through and was my support before I started my new life. When I first stepped into the Oxford House, I knew that I had found a safe place to begin my recovery.

The time I have spent in Oxford House has shown my family that, this time, my recovery is real. It took a little time but, soon, my son and daughter were willing to spend time with me. Now, at 19, my kids love doing things with me. They constantly tell me they are proud of what I am doing and love me.

Had I not come to Oxford House I would not be where I am . I have had the chance as a member to open a new house, Oxford House Imagination, in July of 2023. Shortly after, the opportunity came and I was soon hired as Outreach in Omaha. I truly love what I do and Oxford House has shown me that we can have fun sober. Imagine that!

NEW JERSEY

Christina Gary – Resident

I have been in Oxford House Melody Lane for almost 2 years now. I still remember the week leading up to my first day too. It was during Christmas and I was in a motel I used to use in. I wanted a new life so badly; I didn't leave that motel room for 7 days. I reached out to Oxford House in pure desperation because I did not want to die. I remember how nice and reassuring the girls were whom I spoke with for an interview . I called or texted almost every hour to make sure I would still have the bed the next day. I barely had anything when I moved in on December 31, 2022. My mom wasn't speaking to me and I wasn't allowed to see or speak to my children. I did everything I was supposed to even though I felt defeated.


Once I got a little bit of time, my attitude completely changed. I became grateful and wanted to give back or help in any way that I could. I first started out by taking a House job as Secretary. I realized our house wasn't doing well. We had loans, outstanding bills, and owed so much to the landlord. At one point, our water even was shut off. I didn't want this to keep happening so I took action and began to set up payment plans with all our utility companies and the property management. Eventually we were able to fill the house and keep the same members for a long time. We went from a struggling Houseto a house that now donates to Houses in need. And when

the opportunity came to get on Chapter, I jumped at that chance. I loved helping the houses and the members in the houses. I saw what we were able to do with just our house and I wanted to do the same for other houses in our Chapter and even houses not in our Chapter. Seeing the houses go from struggling, to Oxford Model houses, gave me such joy & accomplishment.

To this day, being a part of Oxford still excites me and I want to keep doing more and more. Oxford House saved my life. I am now reunited with my family and see my kids regularly. My mom now has trust in me and sees what a difference being here has made. I had tried to get clean for 15 years on and off, but this time was by far different. I am held accountable every day and honest with myself and others. I paid off my fines at my Oxford House and I am now going for my license this week. I have a great job, finished my steps, sponsor women, became Chapter Chair, and I am now giving back what was so freely given to me. I have nothing but great things to say about Oxford House. It has been such a great experience and has given me a life beyond my wildest dreams.

NEW YORK

Laura P – Resident

I came to the Oxford House because I needed the accountability and I wanted to build a sober network. My life was a mess. Going to rehab and having the Oxford House has given me the tools to live a healthy and sober life. I was always living in the problem and not the solution. The Oxford House is helping me to live with others and maintain my sobriety. This house has offered me so much love and support. It gave me my life back. It helped me work my program in Alcoholics Anonymous, in getting a sponsor and in working my steps. What a gift I had been given!!! I will be forever grateful 

Kyle Miller – Alumnus and Outreach Worker

In the early Spring of 2023, my addiction had such a grip on me that I became homeless and was living in my car. By that Summer, I felt hopeless and knew for the first time that I had to arrest my addiction for nobody or anything but myself – whether it was my 9th time in rehab or not. Knowing that I could not go back to the same environment I had been in, I heard about Oxford House and decided to look into it.

After finding out about Oxford House Reynolds I knew it was exactly what I needed in order to have one more shot at life. After hearing "Welcome home" by the men in the house at the time, I knew there was a bigger picture to my story and most of all my story wasn't over yet. I immediately got involved with the rooms and knew the men at the house were going to hold me accountable throughout my journey in recovery, which is exactly what I needed. After having six

months clean, I was then voted in as Chapter Chair at our Chapter meeting. I was also my house contact at the time and it always felt good being of service and spreading the word about Oxford House. Before I knew it, in February our new Regional Manager asked me to become part of the team and I have not looked back since. Oxford House has saved my life and it's an amazing feeling knowing I'm a part of an organization saving lives throughout the world and for that I'll forever be grateful!

Jamonte Johnson – Alumnus and Outreach Worker

My recovery journey commenced on February 7, 2018, a pivotal moment that reshaped my life. The significant change began on January 15, 2019, when I found solace and support in Oxford House Atlantis Abroad, a community that offered me hope and direction.

The transformation I experienced has been profound; I'm deeply grateful for the opportunity to give back and assist others who face similar challenges. My journey has also allowed me to achieve long-held dreams of living in places I once only imagined. I attribute my progress to the guidance of my Higher Power, the support of Alcoholics Anonymous, and the nurturing environment of Oxford House.

With immense gratitude, I'm committed to continuing the vision of our Co-founder, Paul Molloy, striving to extend the same support and hope to others that helped me in my own recovery.

NORTH CAROLINA

Daimon Jackson – Resident

Oxford House has changed my life in many ways. I walked through the door afraid, willing to do whatever it took to get my life together and in good order. I walked up the sidewalk unsure but optimistic, I took a deep breath and reached to ring the doorbell but, before I could, a man who is now my favorite old guy opened the door and said, "Come on in, let me grab you an application." He remembered me from my brief stay before; he reminded me of the rules and money I owed and what I need to do to make things right with the House.

I told him what I had been through after leaving before and what I had done to get my act together and my willingness to make amends to the House if I were accepted back into the fold. He understood and offered me a cup of coffee and a cigarette and he talked and I listened, but more importantly I heard him. He looked me square in the eye and said, "All right, Daimon, I hope you got yourself together this time. You didn't do so good before, you gotta do better, your life depends on it!"

I was accepted by the guys with open arms, forgiveness and a contract to pay what I owed and my EES which I did and do faithfully and proudly on my payday because I went out and got myself a job in the first week. Not only did I need this, but I wanted it with every fiber of my being. The guys made it clear that it was imperative to do the right thing and then the next right thing, I agreed and thanked them and proceeded to make sure I didn't disappoint them or myself. I was and am very happy to be with people like me who walk a dedicated path of recovery, that have real goals and a positive attitude and outlook.

My prayer was answered. The House answer was, "Yes." I belong here and the guys love having me and I love being a part of something greater than myself. I get to walk with men who have goals, priorities and have taken on their responsibilities in life with courage, willingness, newfound strength and a determination to live a better way of life far from the lives we all once lived and miraculously escaped from; a life where we were no longer people, but zombies surviving on an animalistic level living second to minute any way we could think of

I began to realize that I was much more than I thought I was and was encouraged to do and be my best to my fullest potential and to do it every second of the day, every minute of the hour, every day of the week and that by doing so good things would happen, I would begin to recover and life would get better and the guys were right, life gets better. They were right, great things keep happening. I made meetings and make meetings regularly, I go to work consistently, I come home to the Oxford House. Thankfully, these suggestions, along with continuing to change people, places, things, thinking and behavior are and have been the greatest suggestions that my sponsor and the men of the house could've have ever given me, bestowed upon me, gifted to me.

I take my recovery very, very seriously and thank God that He placed me around a group of like-minded people that have become family to me that I care about, that care about me, that understand my laughter, my tears, my pain, my struggles, even the things that make no sense at all to the rest of the world but make all the sense to recovering addicts and alcoholics like us.

Oxford House has blessed me with the opportunity to thrive as a responsible and productive member of society as well as the house we share.

My name is Daimon and I'm a recovering drug addict.

My name is Daimon and I'm the house secretary.

My name is Daimon and I'm Dad and a better big brother to my little brother.

My name is Daimon, at work I'm Mr. Daimon.

My name is Daimon at church I'm Brother Daimon.

My name is Daimon and I'm 7 Months clean, one day at a time.

My name is Daimon and I'm a better person because of God, NA and Oxford House. I am so much more than the hopeless crack addict I once was, so much more than what I was when I walked out of the desperation and destitution of active addiction and into rehab, so much more than I could've ever imagined. Because of this blessing I'm no longer a big, scary, black guy with no smile or any love left in his heart, I catch myself smiling more and more, most times I'm just smiling and don't even know why...lol! I've become a smiling teddy bear with a good heart, a faithful spirit and a brand new lease on life. Thank you to the men and women of the Oxford Houses! 😊❤️

Jessica Miller -- Alumna

I received an early release from Federal prison due to First Step Act credits going into effect and was told that I got immediate release and had to leave. I was expecting to have many more months and then be sent to a halfway house. As crazy as it sounds, I begged them to let me stay because I had nowhere to go and no family willing to take me. I was scared to return to the "real world." Someone mentioned Oxford House to me as an option and the case worker helped me get in touch with a house and set up an interview.

I was accepted and moved in to Indra in Hickory NC. I am truly grateful for my time at OH. It taught me how to be an adult again, pay bills, get along with different personalities, and to put my recovery first. My life has grown tremendously since Jan. 12, 2023. I have my own home, I work as a social worker in the mental health field, I chair and participate in service in NA, I am allowed in my family's home, my daughter stays with me every weekend, and I still help out with OH service. Oxford House is a blessing and an inspiration in my life and I have seen it help many others as well. I am truly grateful to be a part of such a wonderful organization that not just helps those in recovery but also teaches and nurtures us on how to be productive members of society. Oxford House took me from survival mode to 'how to thrive' mode. Thank you!

Jada Al-Abbad – Resident

Oxford House has shown me grace, love, commitment, accountability, responsibility, forgiveness, determination, and a chance to have a completely different life. Application is the main ingredient to my having a different life. I stuck with the winners and saw people get what I wanted, which was to be clean and have a whole new way of thinking and living. I sat back, observed, and went and chased it myself. The journey to learning what has to be changed, what I could change on my own and then my struggles with certain things has been a lot easier because of the amazing women I live with. It's very important to me that I put myself around people who know me, notice things I sometimes can't and hold me accountable in a loving way.

Then, November 13, 2023.... I got to move upstairs to the mommy and me room because I got

custody of my daughter. Not only do I get to live here, I get to share this amazing-ness with her. And it's such a privilege to be able to have my child here. It has definitely been a positive change for my life and hers and I just didn't think I would ever get my kids back or be coming up on 18 months clean. I dwell on when the day comes that I'll be moving out and into my own home. Beaumont is my heart and I'm grateful for this amazing experience I've had since being here.

Cynthia Staten – Alumna

I was going to SAIOP (Outpatient program) and there was a young lady who lived in an Oxford House. I shared with the group about my living situation (I was getting evicted due to my drug use). She gave me a number and told me to call. I did on about the 15th of July and got accepted and moved in 13 days later. All the ladies were pretty nice and welcoming. After two weeks of being there, three of the women were voted out due to drug use (including the one who told me about the house) I felt horrible, but I had to push on. Anyway, I started to get involved.

House & NA gave me my life back. I learned every position in the house. I became Chapter Chair; stayed for about 7 months; then I moved out. I still volunteer. I'm also the Secretary for our State Association. I will forever be grateful for my time at Oxford House Pasteur!!

OKLAHOMA

Miranda Smith – Resident

I'm reentry from prison. I helped open the first women's Oxford House in Ardmore, Oklahoma. ... However, my past caught up to me and I went to prison for 7.5 years. When I got out, this Oxford House accepted me back in. I had relapsed in prison and was very much institutionalized. I've been here for 9 months and I've learned how to reintegrate back into society. There were many times the world was overwhelming; I forgot how to balance and my Oxford sisters were there to help me through the struggle so I didn't have to drink to sleep or get high to keep up with the world. I'm forever grateful for Oxford House giving me another chance.

Sara Drinnon – Alumna and Outreach Worker

I moved into Oxford House Linwood Hills out of pure necessity. I had two children and nowhere else to go. I was lost, broken, scared but, more importantly, I was desperate. I would later find out that being desperate was a gift and something with which my Higher Power could work.

I did not care for women and certainly couldn't fathom that as a collective, they would have my best interest in mind or would love me and my children and show grace. Much to my surprise,

living with women who were not only struggling with the same things that I was, but also striving for more, was the missing piece in my life. The structure, support and love we received inside of that house was beyond anything I could comprehend at the time and it ultimately led me to meetings, which in turn, led me to a spiritual program and healing. Oxford House was the safe foundation where my feet could land so that I could walk out my recovery.

Dale Claxton – Resident

Oxford House has given me a safe place in which to do my recovery. I don't have to worry about judgement as long as I do some step work. I love what the Oxford House does for people like me. It gives addicts a chance when, without Oxford House, there wasn't much of a chance and it shows us there is a different way to live.

John T – Alumnus

I was coming out of rehab and extremely apprehensive as I had never heard of nor experienced sober living outside of a facility. The local outreach of the area assured me that everything was going to be fine. He was right. I had the great experience of moving into a newly-opened House and took off into learning what I could about the Oxford House model. I trickled into Chapter positions and HSC. Replicating the model and creating lasting relationships to this day will always be a contributing factor to my recovery.

Whitney Anderson-Gore – Alumna and Outreach Worker

I can recall sitting in jail and yearning for freedom. I had heard of Oxford House but my knowledge about it was limited. After some persuasion, I convinced my mother that if she secured my release, I would make an earnest attempt to enter an Oxford House. She thoroughly researched and arranged my interview for the day of my release. Remarkably, the ladies there accepted me on the basis of a phone interview. I relocated to a town where I was a stranger. I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity they granted me. I moved in and was welcomed with open arms. The accountability they demanded was unprecedented for me. Previously, if things didn't go my way, I would flee to someone who would accommodate my desires. My outreach worker became my roommate, and if I wasn't at work, I was with her, immersed in service work.

When I truly began working a recovery program, I discovered much about myself. Though it unearthed painful memories I had long wanted to forget, confronting and working through those experiences allowed me to grow and release resentments. The constant support from those around me was invaluable during this process. Oxford House imparted numerous life lessons, and I am genuinely thankful for my experience.

Chris Montgomery – Alumnus and Outreach Worker

After 17 years and 7 deployments, my military career came to a halt when, on the 7th deployment, I endured an injury that left me unable to continue service. I lost the structured environment I had been so accustomed to and I slowly stepped into alcoholism, until I found my new home and second family in Oxford House Royal. With a stable, safe & structured environment, I came into my own again and it is an honor to be of service to the people and community of Oxford House.

My time in Oxford House has been one of absolute content, every day's a new opportunity to help the recovery of those within its walls – seeing the changes in real time of a member getting his or her life back and realizing they do not need substance or alcohol to live a peaceful and thriving life by practicing a solid program of recovery coupled with the foundation of the house and Oxford House model.

Dan Hahn – Alumnus and Outreach Worker

I am one of the lucky ones. I moved into Oxford House College Hill, Wichita, Kansas, in 2008 after a short time in a managed sober living facility. I had spent 20 years as an alcoholic/addict and had spent 34 months of my life in jail/prison. I was in and out of incarceration over & over. Moving into Oxford House changed my life. I learned self-responsibility and, most significant of all, I was helping others. Since moving in, I have had a great experience seeing new members experience what I did. I have been involved with Oxford House for 16 years and will continue to do everything I can to make a bed in Oxford House available for anyone who needs it.

OREGON

LouCinda Owen – Resident

I left an abusive situation back in January of 2024. I went to the mission and I heard about the Oxford houses. I got in by the end of February and I've been in the Oxford program ever since. I'm at the second house I've lived at and it's the absolute best support for recovery than you could ever imagine! I didn't do treatment; and the House I'm at and all the other Houses in our chapter are the best support system I've ever seen. We come together no matter what – through thick and thin – and I highly recommend it to any person who is in the early stages of recovery.

Lucas Young – Resident

I started using meth when I was about 14 until June 2, 2023. I spent most of my life homeless or sleeping on different couches. My little girl was born 08/13/2021 and that's when I knew I had to

change my life. I spent a little time in inpatient, then moved straight into the Crenshaw Oxford House. My whole life got so much better from the time I moved in and recently I had my daughter returned home to me at the Crenshaw Oxford home. This Oxford House changed my life around I am truly blessed for Oxford.

Tonya Hill – Resident

Since being voted into the Maple Park Oxford House, I had hit the ground running. I first started out not knowing anything about an Oxford House. All I knew was that I wanted to stay clean. I became the House Secretary after being there for less than 30 days. I've been a receptionist before, for years, so I figured it would be a piece of cake! After being thorough and very detailed in my notetaking, a housemate suggested to me that they needed a Chapter Secretary and thought I'd be great for the position. I became the Chapter Secretary a couple of weeks later. I then began to expand my network of people and got involved. The outreach worker for the area, had clearly seen something in me, because then I quickly started being "volun-told" to do tasks.

Since this has happened, I have gained TONS of knowledge and learned the Oxford House model. I now hold secretary positions in multiple committees throughout the state of Oregon. I am also the current OHO State Secretary. Being of service and being a part of something that is bigger than myself has helped me continue my sobriety and has helped me help others during the process. A lot of people look up to me and consider me a role model for their recovery paths. I am always willing to be of service and to lend my hand to anyone in need. I'm grateful for Oxford House and what it's doing in my life. □ □

Nick Hodges – Resident

I showed up to Eugene broken and lost – spiritually and mentally. I had lost everything once again and worst of all I had lost myself and run with a crowd I hope I never see again. I have struggled with my disease ever since I first picked up in 2002. I have been in recovery since 2019 and got introduced to Oxford down in Medford in 2020. I have been a member of four different Oxford Houses since. I would only make it about a month – maybe two tops – then relapse and get a 24. Then back to it full bore.... I have been to inpatient treatment 7 times, graduated 6. Every time I graduated, the staff would highly and strongly suggest Oxford House. It took what it took for me. Through all the different trials and attempts, I finally found my HOME! Thanks to Oxford. I have a new life!

Alisha Golding – Resident

Oxford House recovery housing has been a transformative experience for me, fundamentally changing my life for the better. Before entering Oxford House, I was caught in a downward

spiral of addiction, feeling hopeless and trapped. However, since becoming a part of this supportive community, I have found the strength and resources to break free from the grip of addiction and embark on a journey of recovery. Oxford House has provided me with the tools and resources necessary to rebuild my life. The house provides a safe and stable environment where I can focus on my recovery and personal development. The help I have found within the house has helped me rediscover my self-confidence and believe in my ability to overcome challenges. The friendships and connections I have made with fellow residents have become an invaluable support system, providing encouragement and understanding during difficult times. Beyond the tangible benefits, Oxford House has given me a sense of purpose and belonging.

Andrew Benson – Alumnus

I came to Oxford house straight from prison not knowing anything about life outside the walls clean and sober. I was very much institutionalized and knew that I needed to do something different with my life to become who I wanted to be in life.

I had some friends who got clean while I was incarcerated who helped me get into Oxford house upon my release and they helped me get adjusted. I took it all in and did everything suggested to becoming a member of society. I got a sponsor, got a home group and got a service position at my home group. Most important to me was that I wanted to grow as a person and I wanted to be the best Oxford House member I could and that started with me going to Chapter and HSC meetings just to learn what Oxford house was about and how it operated. In doing this, I met some of the most amazing people who, to this day, are still part of my support group.

I spent over 2 years in Oxford house and have so much to thank Oxford house for. I have become a peer support specialist; I have my children in my life; and I have learned accountability. There are many things I can list and I can go on for days about how much I have now due to joining Oxford House.

Kendall Morris – Alumnus

I was very sick in my addiction and I was homeless and hopeless. I knew that a house on Beverly was an Oxford House and I decided to walk up to the front door and knock. A girl answered the door and I could barely muster up any words. My eyes filled with tears and she hugged me and told me to come in. All I wanted was to be clean. She let me stay as her guest for 3 nights until I found a place to spend my first 2 months clean and safe. When I was ready, I was voted into the House as a new member. Oxford probably saved my life and I am forever grateful. I was able to learn how to live again and today I'm over a year clean! Thank you to Oxford and all the members of Oxford.

Seth Combs – Resident

I spent thirty plus years in the triangle of self-obsession, not knowing that there were people in Oxford Houses holding themselves accountable, working on themselves and trying to be better than they were the day before, every day. I went through treatment twice, and the second time I figured I would give House a try.. I have been pushing along ever since. I'm so grateful for Oxford House teaching me how to grow, show up, and be an adult, and so much more. I owe Oxford House a great deal in how far I've come. I'm proud to have helped spread Paul Molloy's legacy and I will help Oxford House the rest of my life..

Annie Soisson – Alumna

In 2019, I went to treatment for 90 days. When I got out, the idea of going back to Portland was really scary. But I came back and moved directly into an Oxford House. I learned a lot about myself and about living with other women. I was, unfortunately, asked to leave that house and I moved to a different house, which would quickly become the house that I grew in and found a family. I lived at that house for three years and I grew into the woman that I am today. The women in the house have supported me through college, through the death of my son, and all of the positive things that I have gained as a result of Oxford House. I have been involved in Oxford House for 5 years. It's stability, it's safety, it's family! I am so grateful.

My encouragement to you, the newcomer: "Stay involved. Lean in when it gets hard." Watching people grow in their recovery is beautiful and I am so lucky to have a family in Oxford House!

Duwayne (DJ) Morris – Resident

On April 20, 2023, I was arrested by the DEA and sent to Sheridan where I spent 8 months in Sheridan Detention Center. On November 16, , I was given pre-trial release and went to inpatient treatment at Willamette Family Carlton House in Eugene where I spent 70 days. Upon release from inpatient, I was welcomed with open arms at Oxford house-West Howard. I was taught how to start living an accountable and responsible life as an adult, something I have never done before. After spending 3 months there, I was blessed with the opportunity of becoming a core member at Oxford house Coburg, a brand new men's house in Eugene. I have been able to help many men in their recovery since we opened up; it has been such an eye-opening experience.

Since being out of Sheridan I have been able to graduate not only inpatient but IOP and regular outpatient; I have obtained the best job I've ever had; I have gotten off of state probation, which was not supposed to happen until 2025; I have gotten involved with a fellowship and have worked my steps and am now working with other men and taking them through their steps, I

have never been happier in my entire life and now I will be going to sentencing for federal prison in a few months where my mandatory minimum of 5 years is no longer a thing so I have the opportunity to (hopefully) get probation and continue to be of service to men and women in the community. I never believed in myself, I never thought I'd be where I am at today and it's only been 9.5 months. I can honestly say none of this would have been possible without the love and support of my family at Oxford House. Miracles happen daily in my life and they can in yours as well. Thank you for taking the time to read my story, I hope it is able to spread hope and encouragement to someone as hopeless as I used to be. Remain teachable and you, too, can change your life!

Marty Nelms – Alumnus

So, my story is like many others, I came from family of addicts and alcoholics, I was born in Texas in 1979 and, when I was 4, the domestic violence got so bad that my mom, my twin brother and I rode a Greyhound bus to Albuquerque in the middle of the night, in great secrecy as we feared worse if my biological father ever found us. Then, in Albuquerque, I was quickly indoctrinated in the gang life, with all the crime and drugs that comes along with that lifestyle. My incarceration journey began with a shoplifting charge at 7 years old, then at 14, my first felonies for graffiti, and all the while I was drinking and drugging. My use, I know now, stemmed from trying to deal with what at the time was undiagnosed trauma and PTSD from the domestic violence and PTSD of that situation. Then it was rapidly compounded with gang violence, inner city crime, lifestyle choices, and incarceration as a result of those choices. At 17, I was tried as an adult for Armed Robbery and I thought my life was over. I practiced good old jailhouse religion and promised my higher power that, if he got me out of this one, I'd go straight, never to return to my old ways! My prayers were answered and the charges were dropped after some insane situations in Albuquerque's juvenile justice center. I never even thought to stay sober; my goal was clear: get loaded and forget my problems.

While in jail, my twin bro had moved to Oregon so I followed him up there, and thought I had a new lease on life. Surely, things would be better cause they can't get much worse. Right? Within a year, I had found heroin and it had become my everything. I somehow made lifelong friends and met the woman who would become my wife and mother of my daughter but the only sobriety I had was countless trips to the county jail and then finally 2 trips to Oregon State Penitentiary. I did in Custody treatment while there and thought I had things figured out, only to learn that my mom died while I was on the transport home and I was quickly back in prison.

The next few years are a blur of drugs and crime and then my twin brother came home and he had found AA and was staying sober. I was like, "What is wrong with this guy?" Then, one by one, my street buddies started following his lead. And the one thing they kept talking about was this strange house where they were allowed to live even though they were derelicts and drug

addicts, something called Oxford House? I wasn't impressed and kept on to the bitter end or so was my intention, and then my girlfriend got into serious legal trouble over drug dealing and opted into treatment. While at treatment, some people from this strange house came in to talk to them about their program, and when she finished up, she moved into Oxford House Dillard in Eugene. And, all of a sudden, all my friends were clean and in Oxford Houses and I knew I would die alone. But, the next time the cops chased me, the voices of my friends were in my head: "Man, you can do this, get into a Oxford House" rang in my head, and I turned around and went back to the officer, let myself get arrested, and admitted defeat. I was powerless, and surrendered, and told my higher power: "Fine. Let's give this a shot, I can't do this anymore". I did 60 days and when I got out my girl took me to her Oxford House and I stayed there until I could interview at C Roman 3 days later.

I had never had a job, never had a driver's license, and had never had my own house, and those guys accepted me. Guys who I had done wrong were there and voted me in, told me it was all okay! And even though I had zero idea how to do the right thing, I had somewhere to be while I figured it out, and guys who had been there too to guide me along. Most of those men are still close friends of mine and I love them dearly. I got a job, I learned how to drive, I got off Parole after well over a decade, the list goes on. And I THREW myself into service to Oxford House! I was voted in as a chapter officer on my 8th day in, and held one position or another until I moved out 2 and a half years later. And, 2 weeks after moving out, I was hired as the Outreach Worker for S. Oregon, and learned under my close friends to this day – Leaf Ploub and Ed Smith, Jess Wise, and Chris Stoeckel. Those men are family still even though I am no longer working as Outreach!

I am now working in the peer support field and doing Outreach full time in my community, and am still heavily involved in Oxford House! I am a Alumni officer in both Ch.12 and 13 in Lane Co., and get to be a part of this amazing thing to this day! I am a lifer, a grateful alumnus, a lifetime friend of Oxford House, and I am profoundly changed by the amazing organization that is Oxford House. These days you can find me out there spreading the word, helping houses, and being of service wherever I can, and I owe a huge debt I can never repay but will always work to repay to Oxford House!!! Thank you. -Marty Nelms

Matt D – Alumnus

I moved into Oxford broken and lost, I had no idea what recovery looked like or how to function as an adult. I knew I wanted something different than misery and prison. I hit the ground running, found a sponsor, obtained full-time employment and joined Chapter12 as Fundraising Co chair.

I was fighting for my freedom during those early recovery months, I was offered the opportunity to open up a new men's house – J Noonan in Springfield, Or. I cored that house for 23 months and learned how to adult and I found myself. I moved out of Oxford July 10, 2023 and now have a family to love and support.

I still attend their weekly house meetings, and I am a part of their group chat to this day. Thank you, Oxford Houses of Oregon. #wedorecover

Steve O. – Resident

To provide a comprehensive account of my journey, it is necessary to recount events prior to my enrollment in Oxford House, Inc. The commencement of my transformative experience occurred on July 14, 2021, when I entered a treatment facility following a near-fatal overdose resulting from a relapse. During my time in treatment, I discovered a new-found appreciation for life and embraced a receptive mindset, allowing myself to be shaped and molded by the program. Upon successful completion of the treatment program, I was filled with trepidation about my impending return to the community. The lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated the challenges of securing housing and accessing resources, leading me to believe that I would inevitably return to the streets. However, I persevered and managed to locate an IOP treatment center. During that time, I also secured housing and completed a six-month program. Upon graduation, I moved into my own studio apartment with a fixed rent of \$400 per month. While I was initially content with my living situation, I felt a sense of emptiness and a lack of meaningful connections. After discussing this with friends, they suggested Oxford House.

I attended an interview at an Oxford House and discovered the sense of family, brotherhood, human connection, accountability, and service work that I had been missing. Oxford House did not save my life, but it has significantly improved the quality of my life. By maintaining my sobriety and being available to assist others in their recovery, I have made significant progress in my career. I have been there for others, and in turn, they have been there for me. This sense of community and support is invaluable to me. With out Oxford House, I would have never made the human connection that I have today with people. So, it asks me, “Write about your recovery experience as it relates to Oxford House.” My recovery would not be as strong as it is today without Oxford House. I would not have the family I have today without Oxford House so, in return, I became a part of Oxford House by being of service and, most important, being there for the next man coming into Oxford House.

Michael MacNeil – Resident

As I approached completing my intensive outpatient program, I knew housing needed to be part of my exit plan. Throughout my treatment, I had heard Oxford House discussed often. Honestly,

the reviews were mixed and I was scared about making that decision. To be frank, had it not been for my sponsor's recommendation, I might have looked elsewhere. Thank goodness I listened to my sponsor.

My first House Position was President. Partaking of this position allowed me to become involved in Chapter. While in Chapter, I was blessed with the opportunity to represent my House and Chapter at World in Washington, DC. Completely immersed in Oxford House's traditions, values, and models, I was ready to share my knowledge with the House, hoping to invoke some inspiration. Sadly, my House didn't share my excitement and we parted ways.

Despite this disheartening outcome, I was not yet about to let this diminish my inspiration. Immediately I moved into a new House and Chapter. I participated in Chapter, fundraisers, and the Leadership Summit. Because of my hard work and drive, I was nominated and elected as the HSC Chairperson for Multnomah County. This is different from other HSC positions because we are restarting the HSC position from the ground up in five different Chapters and approximately 50 houses. It is a task I am elated to do as I now get to share my inspiration and learnings to a much wider demographic. All of this is contributing to the homeostasis of this well-oiled machine.

I will close with this. Oxford House is paramount in my recovery because I was provided a safe place to live, allowing me to learn how to use the tools I gained in recovery, giving me almost two-years clean and free from all mind-altering substances. I used to bear shame in recovery and sober living. I am now proud to stand on a pedestal and share the beauty and strength of both.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Joshua Green – Alumnus

The best story I can tell is actually about the van trip to my first Oxford House World Convention. I was picked up from my Oxford House and eventually we had 10 people in our van on the way to DC. I thought to myself: "How have I been a resident for more than a year and didn't know a single person from Charleston on the way to World! It truly changed my perspective on Oxford and Oxford as an organization.


But— back to the original people on my van. This World Convention will be my fourth and I can't wait. But of those original people in my van, four of them have become lifelong friends. Two have met my family and I've met two of their families. Two have already had or are about to have their first kids and another has become a grandmother! I cherish these people and look forward to how are stories will continue.

Shannon Berger – Alumna

Hi! My name is Shannon and I would LOVE to share my beautiful experience at Oxford. The day I got my life back was November 18, 2022. I was beaten down and so broken. I honestly didn't think I could go on in life. I was constantly fighting and was in and out of jail. I was so depressed and tired. My husband (who also has the same clean date as me) and I were homeless, broke and terrible beings. I lost my house, my cars and my son. I had a backpack to my name. Everything and everyone was gone. Nobody wanted to talk to me anymore and I was at my rock bottom. I was sitting on the side of a grocery store absolutely broken and I decided to call one person. THATS ALL IT TOOK!

I got an interview and was accepted into Serendipity Oxford House! I went straight into detox and after I was done someone came and picked me up. I remember the feeling, the smells, the LIGHT! In that car, I laughed GENUINELY for the first time in almost 1 year. I was welcomed with open arms, the girls gave me everything I needed and I felt I was at home. About 1 month later, I got my 5-year old back and he was living with me at the house. Oxford treated him just like theirs! He made so many connections. Prior to this time, I was in the same house for almost 2 years. He was a Oxford baby.

I held a job down, attended my meetings and made connections with others. It was such a blessing to help others just how I was helped. I was at Serendipity for about 8 months before we were able to rent our own house. God truly had his hand on me and my family! I continued to do my service work and go by my old Oxford house. I took girls to meetings and helped any and every way I possibly could.

Fast forward to today, almost 2 years clean. I live in a beautiful house in Sumter SC. I am a good mom. I am in school to be a certified cosmetologist. I was blessed with another little boy. He is 6 months old and his name is Cadence (we call him Cade)  JR is the best big brother to him. I was able to buy a truck, start a business, my family comes to the house and we have a relationship, and we are in the process of saving up to buy a house (AN ACTUAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT!) I cook and bake & love it!

Everything I am able to do today is because of God and Oxford taking me in and giving me a chance. I am now an alumna and have a community that has amazing people in it (I AM SO BLESSED). I'm always available to do service work when I'm needed. I love my community and what I do.

Almost daily I remember that day sitting on the side of that Piggly Wiggly. That feeling I felt, I NEVER want to feel that again. I'm so grateful to that one person who answered my phone call that day. I don't know where I would be today without that stability I received from Oxford.

Oxford gave me my life back. I'm literally in tears writing this just because I am so grateful to have experienced what I have! Thank you for allowing me to share my story! I hope it helps others and that they too can get from their rock bottom.

I want to thank Jen Hansen for answering my call that day. Thank you. Also, to my baby boy in heaven (Bentley), "Thank you for being my angel and always looking out for mommy. We miss you and think about you every day ❤️🍷 Mom, thank you for being my angel too. I see, hear and feel you all the time. "It works if you work it"

SOUTH DAKOTA

Heather Stone – Alumna and Outreach Worker

I have tried many times to get sober but was never successful. I was in a halfway house when I heard about the Oxford House and I immediately felt at home when I moved into the sober living residence. I felt safe being around people who share the same addiction and weren't judging me. I have been addicted to alcohol, marijuana, opiates, and meth. I do believe that I've been an addict my whole life. Since the first time that I drank, I knew that my drinking wasn't normal. I drank too much and could never stop. I usually cross-addicted to other drugs but I was always under the influence. My addiction has taken me through some dark times in my life.

I always prayed to God to give me the strength to quit. I started to read my Bible and I started to see God working in my life. I know that he helped me many times in my darkest days. My addiction has led me to prison multiple times. I have lost everything due to my addiction. I regained my life with God's help and with the help of the Oxford House! I am so grateful for my recovery and I get to help other people in their recovery!! I am blessed beyond measure!!

TENNESSEE

Danielle H – Resident

I am 33 years old and have struggled with addiction since I was 13 years old. I was in and out of jail, prison, and several rehabs. I remember a question that I was always asked when going to rehab: "Are you sick and tired of being sick and tired?" Every time I went to treatment, I never was sure if I really was or not until I went to treatment on August 19, 2023. I was truly sick and tired of being sick and tired. I knew this time was different.

I had heard about Oxford House from others and I was interested in trying to see what it was like. Fresh out of treatment, I made the decision I couldn't go back home and had to start over somewhere new. I applied to Oxford House Nashville and got accepted to Cumberland North. I

moved into the house on September 23, 2023, and it was the best decision I made. God put me right where I needed to be.

Since coming to OH, I have regained relationships with my 3 children and with my family members also. My fiancé and I have been able to repair our relationship as well and we are both in recovery together. I have gained lifelong friendships with other members of the OH community. I have progressed in my job and I truly believe that, without the love and support system that I've built since being in OH, I wouldn't be where I am at today in my recovery and in my life. THANK YOU, OXFORD HOUSE TENNESSEE for helping me get my life back!

Natalee Qahhaar – Resident

I got clean in 2020 after having endocarditis and losing my ability to walk. I did a halfway house after inpatient treatment and then went home to live with my mom. I went to some meetings, got a sponsor and worked some steps. I had 18 months clean when my then boyfriend came home from prison. We got married and I stopped going to meetings. I stopped working steps and we relapsed together. Three months later we decided we'd had enough and went to treatment.

We both got into Oxford Houses after treatment. We had lost everything in that relapse. We started our journey at Oxford with no car, no job and just the money to get in. I'm disabled, so I don't work but, shortly after coming to Oxford, I was able to get back in school. I wanted to get involved so I participated in anything Oxford that I was able to. I went to my first Oxford House State Convention, and I became our Chapter Comptroller.

Over the time I've been at Oxford, I've held every book at my house. I have become a strong core member and I love helping new members feel welcome in their new home. I love what Oxford House stands for and what it's done for me. Between me and my husband, we now have three cars, I'm able to pay my EES each week, and I can see a future for me. I'll graduate in December with an Associates degree. It's 21 months later and both my husband and I are still in Oxford, growing and making choices that will secure our future success. Huge thanks to Oxford House for giving us a place to recover.

Jessica Stanley – Alumna

Oxford House provided me a safe place to figure out how to live without drugs. It taught me how to responsibly pay bills, set a schedule for my life and held me accountable. I stayed in Gibson Lodge for 6 months, then moved over to Knoxville to be president for the next 10 months. Because of Oxford, today, I am a productive member of society, a responsible mother and an inspirational, self-supporting woman. Because of Oxford, I have not used drugs or alcohol in 8 years. We do recover and the best is yet to come!

Sarah H – Alumna

Oxford House is different. It works.

I used to be a chronic relapser. I've been to more detoxes, rehabs, and sober living houses than I can count. I got stuck in a cycle. When I chose to get help this time, I was introduced to Oxford House. I thought it was just another sober living or halfway house. When I arrived, I assumed the woman who greeted me was the house manager. She wasn't. Surely, she must be the President then? She wasn't. The manager must be the outspoken one at my first house meeting. She wasn't either. We were a group of women holding each other accountable. We were a group of women running our own recovery home. I get chills thinking over how profoundly this concept changed the trajectory of my life. I became the woman greeting the newcomers at the door. I became the President, leading with integrity. I became the outspoken woman in the House meetings.

What I learned in Oxford House is so much more than recovery tools and skills. I learned life skills. Today, I'm a full-time, dependable mom. I'm a dedicated, reliable employee. I'm an independent woman in recovery. Oxford House broke my cycle of addiction and relapse. Peer-support treated my addiction in a way that led to success and long-term recovery. That's what makes Oxford House different and that's why it works.

Stacy Townsend – Resident

I was in Oxford two times. The first time, I was just going through the motions, not really focusing on my recovery. I relapsed and, when I relapsed, I realized what I had lost and I made a decision that I would never use again and that I had to change. Thirty days later, I came back to Oxford House and that is when my life began to change. I got a sponsor and did the 12 steps and Oxford House gave me the foundation and family I always needed. To me, if you stay long enough, you will realize that Oxford House isn't just a house, it's a family. I went to the 2024 Tennessee State Convention and, when I came back, I decided to start giving back to Oxford for what it has done for me. I am now the Chapter 10 Vice Chair and I helped open Oxford House Gravitas on June 1st in Knoxville. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to give back and so grateful for my Oxford family! #OXFORDLUV

Tammy Smith – Resident

I found Oxford House through Recovery Court. After staying 18 months, I moved out on my own. COVID came and the recovery meetings were on Zoom. I found myself lonely and bored. I felt isolated and alone. It wasn't too long after that I relapsed.

After hitting rock bottom and losing my apartment, I knew I needed to go back to treatment. While I was in treatment, I could remember how Oxford House gave me a safe, supportive environment. I applied again and was accepted back with open arms.

Since being back in Oxford I have accumulated 2 and half years of sobriety. I work at a treatment center and also have my CPRS certification. I also never have to feel alone again.

Ryan DePrimo – Alumnus

My name is Ryan and Oxford House saved my life. When I applied to Oxford House, I was staying at a motel, having lost everything due to my addiction and lack of stability. With one night left, and nowhere left to go if it fell through, I was accepted into Oxford House Northridge in Chattanooga, TN. At first, my only motivation for staying clean was a place to stay, but then I built relationships within the recovery community and OH, and those brothers and sisters nurtured my growth not only in my recovery but also with my life skills. One of my housemates once said, “We give you enough rope to hang yourself, but it’s up to you to survive.” This could not have been more true. I’m convinced that if they had denied my application, I would not be here today.

Since my time at OH, I have been married to my beautiful wife, moved into a sweet little house with a screened-in front porch (I love porches!), moved up in my company from shopkeeper to service technician, and mended the relationships with my family that had been broken by my addiction. I will always remember what OH did for me and will do anything and everything to help those currently living in the houses around my city. Much Love, Ryan J. DePrimo

Dale Lynch – Resident

I moved into OH Tango in Clarksville, TN on Sunday March 3. 2024 and, from the moment I walked in the door, I was welcomed and felt loved, not like I didn't belong. As the days passed, I began to build a family-type bond with everyone in my house, and think of them as brothers, I also started building relationships with other people within my Chapter. This been probably the biggest and best step I have taken in my recovery, well, next to my baptism almost two months after moving here.

This is a great program. It has been extremely helpful to me, and also educational as well. Just a few weeks after moving in, I decided that I wanted to be a part of Oxford House, not just be a resident. I volunteered to go to a couple of presentations, and being there talking about Oxford House and what it had done for me, and seeing the interest that those we were talking to showed just strengthened my desire to be a more involved. In May, I attended my first State Convention

in Murfreesboro, Tn, and had a blast. I learned even more about OH and got to meet and converse with some of our state officers and other outreach from different areas. Then, in June, I was asked by our Chapter President if I would attend our State Association meeting in Cookeville, TN. I went and I learned a lot more and, yet again, my desire grew, so the next day at our Chapter meeting, I ran for Chapter Treasurer and was voted in. This is just the beginning for me. I want to say thank you to Oxford House for everything that living here has done for me, and I plan to help grow Oxford to the best of my ability....OXFORD LUV!!!

Danielle S – Resident

When I first moved into Oxford House Nye in October 2023, I had no idea what an Oxford house was like. All I knew was that I was ready for a change in my recovery journey. I was welcomed into a beautiful home with some amazing women. They treated me like I was family. I really had a chance to grow up in this house. I was taught responsibility and how important it was. The ladies in that house became family to me. I had somewhere safe I was able to bring my kids to spend time with me. I became a member of Chapter 14 and worked my way up to Chapter Chair. I experienced so much growth within the house, but I felt like I needed something more. I was chosen as a core member to go open Oxford House Salaya. It's been an incredible experience. I've been working to fill beds to women in recovery who need a family and a place to call home. I am someone that a newcomer can look up to and come to for advice. I am so blessed to be a part of the Oxford House family! My dream one day is to be able to work for Oxford. I won't stop until I've accomplished all my dreams and goals!

Jason Moore – Resident

Most of my life I've struggled with not just severe addiction and alcoholism but also stable living conditions. Several times I attempted being clean and sober while also working a steady job and maintaining a home for myself, every time resulting in an eventual relapse and inevitable homelessness. I felt hopeless, alone, and not worth the effort of being the best version of myself when the best version of myself seemed unachievable or insufficient. That was until I found my way into Oxford House Stone Manor.

Being in an unfamiliar city, I was relieved to have found a place where there was a community of acceptance and understanding of my ailment. Within just a couple of months I was voted as House President and, shortly after that, I was voted in as my Chapter Treasurer. It felt unreal to be trusted with finances that were not mine! Eight months after moving into OH, I was voted in as the Tennessee Vice Chair, a title I still hold with modest pride. A couple of months later, I was blessed with the most precious Oxford Baby, Eleanor, who couldn't have been a part of my life without the complete overhaul OH has brought to my life.

The gratitude I have for OH and the opportunities it has allowed me is unmeasurable. OH has taught me so much about community, accountability and responsibility and, as a result, I have become that best version of myself that seemed before to be nothing more than a hollow dream. OH has become one of, if not the most, vital layer in my shield against addiction and I can honestly say that I owe my life to OH.

Abbie Hurst – Resident

God brought me to my knees on May 13, and gave me the first gift of desperation I so needed desperately. I was sleeping under a bridge, pulling up out of mud puddles and toilets, shooting at least a half a gram to 2 g of fentanyl a day. I watched my boyfriend overdose and die in front of me and then bring him back to life only for him to beat my ass again. After the already three attempted murder charges he has on me I stayed because I loved him and I stayed because I didn't know my worth and I stayed because I was so sick and addicted that I didn't know any better. I thought that that was love. Little did I know God had love waiting right around the corner for me. I have a 7-year-old daughter who I left for 5 years due to my active addiction.

Today, I have that daughter with me every single night at my Oxford House. They have welcomed us both with open arms. I am 38 days clean today and you couldn't pay me to pick up another drug again in my life. The gift of love I have in my heart today is unreal. The pure peace that I have every morning when I wake up, you can't pay for and my life is just getting better every day and that's thanks to Oxford House.

Lydia Vasquez – Alumna

At 21 years old, I started down the wrong path in a toxic relationship that led to using, homelessness, losing all 4 of my children, family, and friends. I tried multiple times to get sober. I went to 14 treatment centers, mental institutions, jail, even tried to end things a couple times, nothing was working. In 2020, I finally reached my breaking point – I was living in my car, had DES involvement, and was hearing voices stuck in a psychosis. I decided to go to treatment one last time. While in treatment, it was a nightmare: the voices were so bad that I couldn't even stay in my seat; my face and body had involuntary movements but I knew I had to see this through. I just wanted the pain to end.

While I was in treatment, at one of the meetings I attended, I heard of Oxford. I called and got an interview and was voted in. I was in Oxford for 2.5 years and I acquired a job that I still work at today in recovery where I can help people walking in just like me. I got custody of all of my kids and have a cute little apartment that we all call home! Oxford helped me become independent, find myself again, learn how to manage my bills and keep a home, sisterhood and so many more

things that wouldn't fit on this paper. I will forever love Oxford and all it has given me and my family.

TEXAS

Emmanuel Rodriguez – Alumnus

My name is Emmanuel Rodriguez (Manny) and I'm a person in long-time recovery. My clean date is 4/28/2021. For a long time I struggled with addiction, not thinking I had a problem. I lost everything several times, ended up in TDC, got out and went right back at it and overdosed. My family had given up on me and I had given up on myself. I remember looking in the mirror one day and just beginning to cry. At that moment, I decided I didn't want to live like this anymore and I picked up the phone and began calling rehabs to get a bed. Three weeks later, I was in Cenikor in Austin, then I transferred to the 2-year program Cenikor used to offer in Fort Worth. Once it became a sober living house, that's when I decided I wanted to be somewhere with more accountability. I literally had nowhere else to go, but I had a job and a backpack with clothes and I was determined to continue on my recovery journey.

This is when someone told me about Oxford House. I had never heard of Oxford House up until that day. I began searching online and set up an interview. This was the first time that I had to interview for a bed for a sober living environment that was self-supporting and didn't have a house manager. I was nervous because I was in a room with other people I didn't know and was worried that I would be turned away. Because of what I had gone through, I did not trust anyone or trust anyone enough to tell my story on what my past looked like or my drug of choice. I went ahead and told them the truth about everything. Why I was here and that I wanted a different, better life for myself. My brothers at OH Amor believed in me when I didn't believe in myself and then I heard the words ,“Welcome Home.” I moved in that day.

I was amazed that my brothers didn't care what I had done, what my drug of choice was or any of that. All they cared about was whether I was willing to stay sober and do whatever it takes. It didn't take long for me to get 'voluntold' into a chapter position. To be honest, I was more than willing to begin service. I've always enjoyed being around like-minded people, networking , sharing ideas, and looking for ways to give back. I continued to be of service as the Vice Chair and Treasurer for Chapter 18. I had attended 2 Regional meetings to represent my chapter. I was so intrigued with how well organized and knowledgeable the Regional Association was that I nominated myself for the Comptroller position.

Oxford House of Fort Worth Texas Chapter 18 voted to open a new men's house and I had begun looking for my own place as I wanted to make my bed available for the next addict or alcoholic who needed a safe, sober place to recover. Then I saw a picture going around on

Facebook with Paul Molloy saying “Don’t move out; stay one more month and study the House Manual with the newcomer.”

So, I interviewed for the core member spot at Oxford House Pantego, was accepted, filled up the house and began having Manual studies with the newcomers. It didn’t take long for the house to host their first Manual study for the chapter.

The next chapter in my recovery journey was beginning. I successfully moved out of Oxford House Pantego and was voted in as the Alumni for the House. I was also voted as Alumni of OH Amor. At this time, Regional elections were literally the next month so I was able to finish my term as Comptroller and then I stepped up to be of service as the Alumni Coordinator for the North Region. I went on to help create the Oxford Houses of Fort Worth Alumni Association.

As of today, I am very grateful and privileged to have found Oxford House. I want to thank Oxford House for giving me a safe, sober environment to recover with space to pick up the broken pieces and the opportunity to put them back together. Thank you to my brothers and sisters for believing in me when I didn’t believe in myself. I have since reconnected with my son and I am heavily involved in his life. I would not be where I am today or who I am today if it wasn’t for Oxford House. I am forever grateful and will continue to give back and do whatever it takes to make sure the next addict or alcoholic in line has the same opportunities that I had with Oxford House.

Wayne S – Resident

I moved into Oxford in June 2022. I almost didn't stay because the House was not doing very well. My sponsor advised me to stay and learn what Oxford is all about. I became Secretary in 2 weeks and started to learn. I went to every Chapter meeting for the first year. I quickly learned all House positions. I was able to attend World last year in Washington DC. One of the breakouts was about house finances. Someone said that every house should have a savings account. I applied that to our house. The house agreed to place one week’s EES in our savings account every week. I was then asked to be the male HSC. I accepted. After about a month, our Chapter Chair was hired as an outreach worker and I was asked to become Chapter Chair. I accepted. I found out that the Chapter didn't have a savings account. We have one now. I completed my year as Chapter Chair and am now Vice Chair. I love Oxford and it was one of the best decisions in my life. I'm also Presentations Chair.

Dawn LaQuay -- Alumna

I absolutely love everything about what Oxford has to offer people who are looking for a safe place to recover. The community and the family experience I have had while being part of

Oxford is amazing. I was able to find out things about myself that I didn't believe I was capable of doing. I was a Chapter officer, a Regional Officer and now I'm an Alumna currently holding an officer position for the DFW area. All the love and support that people need in their recovery journey can be found at Oxford, including the opening of new doors and being of service to others in need. I recommend Oxford House on a daily basis in my position as the Women's program manager at Dallas 24hourclub. People need to know they don't have to do this thing alone, and that we can help. Thank you, Oxford house Inc. My life is a living example of how Oxford House continues to be that source of love and support. Dawn LaQuay

Shawn Perkins – Resident

I've come to Oxford three times now. I've been through several relapses but always find my way back to Oxford. I'm honored that a door has always opened. Oxford House and Narcotics Anonymous have truly saved my life even though I've been through two expulsions because of bad choices I made. I love how the day you walk through the door your voice is just as important as someone who's been there. The friends and the family that I've made in Oxford that I didn't even know I needed had been phenomenal. The outreach workers who go above and beyond to make sure we have a sober place to build our recovery is very appreciated and honored. All I can say to the newcomer is that as long as you don't use or drink no matter what and continue to do the next right thing daily, Oxford will give you a true chance to build a new life for yourself. Find your true self and live a recovery like you never had!!!

Natasha Shoemaker – Resident

I got into Oxford House after I got out of prison on December 27th and I moved into Oxford House Welles Manor on January 9, 2024. And my life was forever changed. I knew about Oxford for 3 years before finally giving it a try. I will be honest; I didn't believe in it. It sounded like a waste of time to me. I kept saying I would give it a try but the words were nothing more than empty lies and promises, much like the empty lies and promises I made about wanting to get away from active addiction.

This time was different. I had my first child while locked up. I knew something had to change. Some had to DRASTICALLY change. So, with nothing to lose, and what turned out to be everything to gain... I interviewed and was accepted into an Oxford House. Life does not move backwards. Oxford finally showed me that there was no way to change that. That the only way life would ever improve was if I made the conscious effort to do the right things in the here and now; to start taking care of the things that mattered most. Yes, that meant my recovery as well as myself. Not only that, but I could feel good doing that! Living a normal life with a first priority being recovery WAS possible. Not only that, but I could be successful and happy doing so.

The journey hasn't been perfect. I have made mistakes along the way. I got expelled for relapse. Luckily, I was accepted into Oxford House Redencion on June 9, 2024. But let's face it, what is life without lessons learned and growth to be had? And the friends and extended family I have found along with the love and support I have felt, plus the constant change and improvement of myself I have experienced... All that? Well, there is nothing more precious to me. Nothing that can stop me from picking myself up again if I were to fall. Nothing that can get in my way.

Cherie Van Kuiken – Alumna

My name is Cherie Van Kuiken, and I am a person in long-term recovery. My sobriety date is May 25, 2018. I am so grateful and blessed to be where I am today. I struggled for a long time to see that I needed to do to change my life. I was one of those people who wanted help but didn't know what to do or go about asking for help. By the grace of God, I was court-ordered to treatment in June of 2018. After that, I spent some time in a structured sober living facility but I needed something more to help me transition back into society. I was told about Oxford house and had no idea what it was but, I knew that, if I went back to the life I had been living, I would die. I interviewed at Oxford House Ohana and I waited for them to call me back. I will always remember when they called me and said the words, WELCOME HOME! I was so happy because previous to that I was homeless and did not have a home.

When I moved into Oxford, my whole life began to change. The women in my house loved me until I was able to love myself. They showed me love and compassion and held me accountable. I remember going to my first chapter meeting and being asked if I wanted to be of service. I did not know what that meant but I wanted to help. SO, I became a chapter officer. At citywide, I was asked the same and became an officer. I dove headfirst into service work because I wanted to give back and I wanted to help and make a difference. I loved the newcomers that came in and showed them what Oxford could do for them. I became a regional officer because I wanted to be of service at a higher level and reach more people. After being at Oxford Ohana for two years I became an Alumna and lived in the back house for another year and continued to be of service to the ladies in the house. I have been an active alumna for my city for over 3 years. Oxford lives at the center of my heart. I have grown so much, and I have learned the true meaning of service.

Marc Hancock – Resident

My first journey through Oxford House consisted of coming straight from jail through reentry in December of 2018. I was on fire for recovery and Oxford House. I took service positions, I opened houses, I reopened a House that had been reset. I did everything I could to devour Oxford knowledge. But, unfortunately the disease of addiction doesn't just go away. I became complacent, my meetings slipped, and I stopped doing service commitments. Guess what happened...yes, I relapsed. The support of my House during this time was amazing! The guys I

had grown to love as brothers had my back. They helped me get into treatment. I went through a 30-day treatment and knew, since I left on good terms, that Oxford House was where I belonged. I came back home in March of 2023 and haven't looked back. I took up another service position as a Chapter Chair. If I hadn't had the experience with Oxford House pre-relapse. I wouldn't have known what to do. I probably would have ended up on the streets. I live at Oxford House Collingsworth in Austin, TX, and have grown to love the other men who live in the house. Thank you, Oxford House, for teaching me your ways. I wouldn't be alive if it weren't for you.

WASHINGTON STATE

Anthony Worrell – Resident

I've lived at a few Oxford houses before – Stark in chapter 7 for 2 years, 300 for 3 months, Bubby's Place 5-6 months and now AllMight. It's really been the missing link I've needed: extra accountability; living among others in this recovery journey; going to meetings with guys in the House; and events with fellowships. Being in this House this time has been an amazing experience and I look forward to playing my part in Oxford and recovery.

Candice Eng – Resident

I came to my Oxford house straight from treatment and it was the best decision I had ever made. The minute I got clean, I knew I had to do everything differently than before and that meant changing everything in my life. I was honestly scared to go back to my hometown; there were so many memories and so many friends I had left still suffering. I was scared I was going to get triggered or run into people I just couldn't say no to. When I finally moved in, I was welcomed with open arms. I met amazingly strong women who had years of recovery because of Oxford. They showed me the place I now call my home. They also ended up becoming my motivation. They inspired me to do better and made me feel like I deserved better. I became comfortable in finding my voice and advocating for myself. I have been able to celebrate so many successes and have had their shoulders to lean on when I was struggling. I know I will continue to grow because Oxford has become my foundation in my recovery and I'm ever so grateful.

Michael Reinholdt – Resident

Oxford has saved my life. when I felt like my world was crumbling, I found Oxford was there to guide me back to living. The accountability that is in place helped me grow into a man that I never thought I could be. The family that Oxford has made for me makes it so easy to share my struggles with housemates and rely on them to be there to help when I falter. I wouldn't be where I am in my life today if I hadn't taken the opportunity to live within Oxford. The brotherhood and sisterhood that I witness in Oxford is amazing. I am very grateful be part of it.

Tina Parker – Resident

I was a homeless addict for many years and went to treatment. As soon as I got out, I was able to move into Ohana Oxford House. I love it here. I've been able to have my bedroom and friends. I have gotten back my driver's license and am looking for my own place now. Oxford has given me the tools I need to survive. I'm learning to rebuild my trust with others and not be so negative.

Kayla Walcom – Resident

My name is Kayla and I moved into Oxford House Lotus 2 in 2017. I lived there for about two and a half years and grew with family support and love. I moved out and relapsed shortly after my youngest was born in 2021. I moved into HannaBrook Oxford House with my daughter and lived there for just shy of a year. I have lived in Alora Oxford House since February 2023. I hold the secretary position in my house and I spoke at State convention on how to have fun in Oxford House. I am currently the Chapter 1 Co-chair. I was Chapter Training Officer of Chapter 1. Oxford House is giving me the family that I have longed for my whole life: they give me support; they hold me accountable; and they love me for who I am sober. If it weren't for Oxford House, I would not be where I am today, I will be celebrating 2 years on July 31. I love the structure and family that Oxford House has given me. That's why I continue to come back and this time I'm here to stay and won't leave unless I am absolutely 100% sure that I am able to make it and, when I leave, I will have my Oxford family in my life.

Sara C – Resident

Before living in my House I was a homeless junkie, I had been on a 14-year run, living on the streets. The only time I was clean was in jail. I lost everything I love, including my daughter and family. I went almost 7 years without seeing or speaking to my family. I got clean in jail in May 2019. When it was time to leave, I didn't want to leave. That's when I realized that I wanted to be clean. After jail, I went to the diversion center and waited 2 months to go to treatment.

Everyone told me the safest place would be an Oxford House. I remember my interview and the excitement of being accepted. I had no clue what I was in for because I hadn't lived inside for years and women weren't my favorite. Oxford House has shown me how to show up for myself and other women and it gave me a family when I didn't have my own. But, most importantly, because of Oxford House, I was reunited with my daughter and our House was a safe place for her to come and all the women in my House loved her like she was their own. Oxford had changed my life and helped me grow into a loving, supportive woman in recovery. I'm forever grateful for Oxford House.