



OUR MISSION

To provide structured housing and rehabilitative services in an environment of support and accountability that will give addicted men the opportunity to rebuild their lives.

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Join Us for the Celebration of Recovery!

Serenity Inns is excited to invite you to our upcoming Celebration of Recovery event! As we mark our 19th anniversary, we'll honor the incredible residents and graduates living in recovery and celebrate their remarkable journeys. It's an opportunity for our community to unite, show support, and inspire hope for individuals overcoming substance use disorders.

The event will take place on Thursday, September 14, 2023, starting with a Silent Auction/Raffle at 5:00 pm, followed by a dinner at 6:30 pm, held at the Italian Community Center (ICC) located at 631 E. Chicago Street, Milwaukee, WI. We encourage you to save the date and join us for this special occasion.

For more details about the Celebration of Recovery, including sponsorship opportunities and RSVP information, please see the attached flyer in this newsletter. We have also provided an online RSVP option on our website at www.serenityinns.org/events, starting Thursday, August 3, 2023. Let's come together to honor the resilience and transformation of individuals in recovery and make this event truly memorable.



Serenity Inns Celebration of Recovery
2022

  A Walk in Courage, A Step in Faith, A Path to Recovery

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CEO Update - A Note from Kenneth Ginlack



*Kenneth Ginlack, Sr.,
Executive Director & CEO
of Serenity Inns*

I would like to take a moment to express my gratitude for the recent recognition featured in the Biz Times newsletter, highlighting Serenity Inns and the work we do to support individuals on their recovery journeys. It is truly an honor to be acknowledged as one of the notable BIPOC executives in the Milwaukee area.

I also want to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our dedicated team members at Serenity Inns. Their unwavering commitment and passion allow us to make a difference in the lives of those battling substance use disorders. Together, we are working tirelessly to break the cycle of addiction and provide hope and support to our community at a time when it is desperately needed.

I was privileged to participate as a panel member at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services summit in Wisconsin Dells. Alongside other inspiring individuals in recovery, we shared our stories of triumph over substance use disorder. It was a powerful experience to shed light on the challenges we face, including the impact of trauma and the need to combat the stigma associated with treatment. Our collective efforts at the summit were to raise awareness about prevention and treatment, ultimately empowering individuals on their paths to recovery.

As we move forward, I am reminded of the tremendous impact we can make when we come together with a shared vision. I am grateful for the opportunity to lead Serenity Inns and to work alongside our incredible team. Together, we will continue to provide support, compassion, and hope to those in need.

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to create a healthier and more inclusive community for all.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Ginlack
CEO and Executive Director
Serenity Inns



Our Volunteers

Thank You, Fox Point Volunteers!

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the amazing volunteers from Fox Point Lutheran Church for their recent service during our annual spring cleaning at Serenity Inns. Your dedication, hard work, and commitment to our cause have made a significant impact on our recovery home. Thanks to your efforts, the living spaces have been transformed, creating a clean and inviting environment for our residents. Your support is invaluable, and we are deeply appreciative of your partnership.

Appreciating Our Dinner Fellowship Volunteers

We would also like to express our gratitude to all the dedicated volunteers who participate in our Dinner Fellowship program. This initiative is a hallmark of our program, bringing together residents and volunteers to share a meal, engage in prayer, and foster meaningful connections. Your presence and involvement create a sense of community, support, and encouragement for our residents. We are immensely grateful for your ongoing commitment and the positive impact you make on their recovery journey.

Join the Dinner Fellowship Team!

Are you interested in becoming a Dinner Fellowship volunteer and making a difference in the lives of our residents? We invite anyone with a passion for community, compassion, and connection to join our team. By volunteering for an evening and bringing dinner, you can contribute to our residents' well-being, fostering an atmosphere of support and camaraderie. If you would like to get involved or learn more about this opportunity, please reach out to our team at Bill Werner, bwerner@serenityinns.org, bwerner2825@gmail.com, Alicia Bryant, abryant@serenityinns.org, or call us at (414) 873-5474. We welcome your participation and look forward to welcoming you into our Dinner Fellowship family.

Together, we can continue to create a nurturing environment where individuals find solace, healing, and the strength to overcome their challenges.

Staff Spotlight

There are some new faces around Serenity Inns! Get to know our newest staff members - Bernard King, Trenton Sanders, and Marvin Wright as they share their unique journeys and contributions to our community.

Bernard King - Maintenance Manager

Joining us in November 2022, Bernard King has taken on the important responsibility of maintaining the Inn and Buehler Alumni House. He ensures that our properties are well-cared for, protecting them through routine maintenance and necessary repairs. Bernard's passion for his work stems from his personal experience with recovery and the opportunity to give back to a program that has offered him freedom from active addiction for over twenty years. When asked about his motivation for joining the team, Bernard humbly stated, "Although I'm not yet in the position I aspire to be, I firmly believe that God isn't finished with me yet." In his free time, Bernard enjoys traveling, restoring vintage vehicles, and actively engaging in his community's youth ministry.



*Bernard King
Maintenance Manager*

Trenton Sanders - Innkeeper

March 2023 marked the beginning of Trenton Sanders' role as an Innkeeper. Having experienced the transformative power of recovery firsthand as a former resident and graduate of Serenity Inns, Trenton is deeply committed to helping others strengthen their journeys toward sobriety. As an Innkeeper, he resides at the Buehler Alumni House, regularly interacting with residents seeking a supportive sober-living environment. After being laid off from Briggs and Stratton, Trenton embraced the opportunity to work in a more intimate and hands-on setting. He finds fulfillment in implementing structure and discipline for the residents while receiving invaluable personal growth. Reflecting on his position, Trenton expressed, "This job shows me that I am still a work in progress - constantly learning, growing, and strengthening my recovery as I serve the men around me. For this, I am truly grateful." In addition to his role, Trenton embodies the principles of Serenity Inns by actively engaging in community service.



*Trenton Sanders
Innkeeper*

Marvin Wright - Alumni House Manager

We welcome Marvin Wright as the newest addition to the Serenity Inns team. Marvin's journey with us began as a program resident in the summer of 2022, and upon graduating, he decided to continue his commitment to recovery by moving to the Buehler Alumni House. As the Alumni House Manager, Marvin fulfills the crucial role of ensuring all occupants' safety, well-being, and positive atmosphere. His 24/7 availability allows him to monitor activities and effectively meet the residents' needs. Marvin exudes solid and positive energy, bringing a vibrant spirit to the building and its tenants. He attributes his personal growth and vision for a brighter future to Serenity Inns, stating, "Since completing the Serenity Inns Recovery Program, I've continued to thrive and be a difference maker. As I feel the power of recovery, my gratitude for Serenity Inns grows." Marvin's commitment to fostering a safe and uplifting environment is commendable.



*Marvin Wright
Alumni House Manager*

We are grateful to have Bernard, Trenton, and Marvin as integral team members, contributing to our community's healing and transformation journey. #WE DO RECOVER!

Prefer to have your newsletter emailed? Please email development@serenityinns.org.



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Alumni Spotlight

In this month's alumni spotlight, we feature Vincent, a remarkable individual whose recovery journey at Serenity Inns has been truly transformative. Vincent's struggle with addiction

spanned two decades, involving abuse of opiates for 20 years and crack cocaine for two years. Throughout his addiction, he was in a constant cycle of outpatient treatment, inpatient treatment, and medication-assisted treatment, with little lasting change. Vincent candidly shares, "Nothing ever changed because my desire to use never changed. My belief system was all negative. I was a liar, thief, unreliable, and an isolationist."

The dynamics of Vincent's relationships were deeply affected by his addiction. He had a tumultuous relationship with his father, with conflicts around money for drugs and rent. Despite his negative self-perception, Vincent yearned for the approval and positive perception of others, constantly feeling the need to have people in his life. During this challenging period, Vincent learned about Serenity Inns and decided to take a leap of faith.

Upon entering Serenity Inns, Vincent's perspective on recovery began to shift. He reflects, "When I first came, I wanted to get clean so I could go back out and use. Seeing the recovery at meetings, I was amazed at the men who had gotten clean and stayed clean. I wanted what they had. My view of using and recovery changed, and I thought I was worth it. I began believing in myself and took steps to improve my life."

Vincent's story showcases Serenity Inns's profound impact on his life, breaking the cycle of addiction and negative self-perception. Through the program's structured approach, supportive community, and dedicated staff, Vincent found the strength to challenge his belief system and embark on a path of personal growth and self-worth.

His journey is a testament to the transformative power of recovery, offering hope to those still struggling. Vincent's resilience and determination inspire current residents, reminding them that no matter how difficult the journey may seem, there is always the potential for profound and lasting change.

*Top Image: Vincent Kohne; 2nd Image: Vincent & his father, Vince Sr.;
3rd Image: Vincent & Serenity Inns residents; Bottom Image: Vincent with Jim & Lorraine Bahr*

