

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



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Second Annual Celebration of Recovery



Guests at the 2011 Celebration

Mark your calendar and save the date!

We hope you'll join us for the second annual Celebrating Serenity Inns,
A Path to Recovery on Friday evening, **April 27, 2012**
at the Italian Community Center in the Third Ward.

Featured speaker will be Dwain Berry who will share his journey from Homelessness to Hope in Recovery. After a 3-year crack cocaine addiction, Berry, now a reverend, found the right program that served as his launching pad into life. Having lost two brothers to addiction along the way, Rev. Berry has spent his 30 years in recovery working in the recovery community in Milwaukee as a therapist and counselor, and he has taught and trained addiction counselors.

Rounding out the evening will be great menu choices from the Italian Community Center, the opportunity for fellowship with the staff, residents, graduates and other supporters and volunteers, a silent auction offering a wide variety of items you won't want to miss, music, and recognition of a graduate and a community partner.

Invitations will be sent in early March. If you do not receive one, please contact Lorraine Buehler at lcbuehler@cs.com with your contact information.

To donate a silent auction item, contact Debbie McGregor no later than April 13, 2012 at Debbie@ladastyle.com.



Where Are They Now?

(The eighth in a series of interviews with SI graduates)

by Lorraine Buehler

Rodney Hardy is a happy, contented man today. He loves his job, his family, and the lifestyle that revolves around job and family. This happy ending for Rodney comes after a life that focused on using and selling drugs, namely heroin, and resulted in 26 arrests and 7 years in jail.

Rodney arrived at Serenity Inn on May 21, 2010, three days after being released from the Winnebago Correctional Center. Homeless, he took his parole officer's advice and signed on to the 7-month SI program, resolved to learn how to live a drug-free life.

Finding a safe place at the Inn, Rodney felt protected and stress free. He took comfort in the routines of the house and learned so much, especially not to give up on himself, not to be afraid of failure, and how to say "no" to drugs.

He learned interview skills from Miss Ellen and recalls his fear of his first big interview but took her advice: "to be honest and to tell them where you are today." At least one of those who interviewed Rodney for a custodial position at St. Joseph's Hospital had real reservations about hiring him, but others prevailed, wanting to give him a chance.



Clearly, he has not disappointed them. The staff values him for his strong work ethic, his positive attitude, and his willingness to take on any job no matter how difficult or unpleasant. The smile he wears every day at work is a clear sign that he loves his job, even calling it fun, and he says getting that job is the "best thing that ever happened to me." Looking back, he is grateful he worked to get a certificate for custodial cleaning while incarcerated and, shortly after arriving at Serenity Inn, taking the course to be certified in environmental green cleaning, training he uses every day at St. Joe's. He credits his parole officer once again in steering him in the right direction for that training.

Pictured at left: Rodney Hardy

He also credits the staff at Serenity Inn for their help in his recovery: Rick for "always being there for you," Ron for making him think before doing something, and Miss Ellen for her motherly advice. He recalls her telling him: "Don't let anyone rent space in your head without paying rent," advice that has saved him more than once from being led off his recovery path.

Of the sharing time at dinner fellowship, Rodney says, "I found out more about myself than I ever knew." and he realized that people cared about him and the other residents.

Now a year after graduating from the Serenity Inn program--in February of 2011-- Rodney is engaged and, with his fiancé, a proud homeowner. He loves and cares for her children and spends time with his daughter and his 18-month-old grandson every other weekend.

Rodney is a happy man. He says, "I'm growing every day" and repeated more than once, "It's hard to explain how good I feel." Actually, he did a fine job of explaining just that.



Best Practices lead Serenity Inn in a New Direction

In the midst of strategic planning, the Serenity Inn Board has been examining Best Practices in the field of drug and alcohol addiction and has made several recommendations for changes to current programming. In turn the staff has discussed and agreed to implement a number of these recommendations.

- The seven-month residency requirement will be shifted to a one-month residency with monthly evaluations. The perceived advantage is that this will allow the men who have been admitted time to decide if this is the program they are seeking, and it will allow the staff the opportunity to monitor the men to see if they fit the criteria of the program.
- Transportation will be provided from Genesis Detox or other referral sources to the Inn for assessment interviews. Clients will be picked up and brought directly to the Inn, offering the clients fewer opportunities to become distracted when leaving the site from which they were referred.
- An Alumni Organization is being established so that Serenity Inn graduates meet regularly to support each other as well as current residents of the Inn.

Also being discussed is the possibility of creating two levels of engagement within the facility. This would involve allowing those residents who have completed assignments more free time if they are working diligently toward obtaining and constructively applying the needed education and skills that are conducive to a positive recovery program.



What Your \$\$\$ Buy:

- \$ 7.00 – a pack of socks
- \$15.00 - a pack of underwear
- \$17.50 - a weekly bus pass
- \$17.50 - 10 individual bus tickets
- \$20.00 - a generic medication

Donations



Mission Statement: 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.

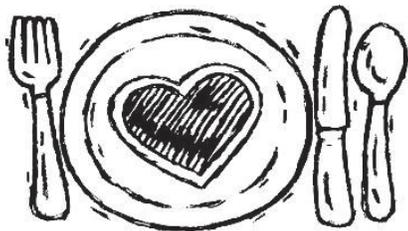
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Join Dinner Fellowship



DINNER FELLOWSHIP

Volunteers from the community bring dinner every night to the residents. They cook a meal at home, bring it warm to the Inn at 6 p.m., and share dinner and fellowship with the residents, 6-10 men on any given evening. A number of individuals and church groups bring the meal on the same night every month, but other nights are assigned as the need arises.

If you would like to sign up for an open night, or if you would like more information about the dinner fellowship program, contact the Dinner Fellowship Coordinator, Mike Demeter, at 414-712-4857 or mgdemeter@wi.rr.com.

The Up Side of Failing

"Heartbreaks, disappointments and even our own weaknesses can serve as stepping-stones to the second half of life transformation. Failings are the foundation for growth. Those who have fallen, failed or 'gone down' are the only ones who understand 'up.'"

From Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the two Halves of Life by Franciscan priest Richard Rohr