



The Spectrum of Dinner

Serenity Inns, Inc.

P. O. Box 26887
Milwaukee WI 53226-6887

Phone 414-873-5474

FAX 414-873-5484

Website:
www.serenityinns.org

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Emma Hinkley, Esther Loper, Alee Glen

Fellowship Volunteers



Meghan and Emily with kittens

Long-Standing:

by Lorraine Buehler

In the 7 years since Serenity Inn opened its doors in April of 2004, volunteers have brought dinner to the Inn every evening, preparing in that time approximately 2700 dinners at home and bringing them warm to the Inn for five to ten men--depending on the number of residents.

Long time volunteers from Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, Ms. Alee Glen, Ms. Emma Hinkley, and Mother Loper, have provided dinner on the fourth Saturday of the month for 6 of those years. Ms. Glen, 88-years-young, credits Ms. Emma with preparing all the meals and Mother Loper with driving them to the Inn since she no longer drives. The residents come to "feel like family" to the women, and they enjoy the questions discussed over dinner as well as the laughs they share with the residents.

Miss Glen prayerfully considers aspects of each day and began and ended our interview with prayer. She asked that I include these words from her daily devotions, "Regardless of my age, each day is an opportunity to be reborn to a life of happiness and love and to celebrate my growing awareness of truth." This rebirth is not unlike the goal of the Serenity Inn residents who hope to find new life as they deal with their addictions.

Newcomers: Meghan Matranga and her five-year-old daughter Emilee are new to dinner fellowship. They volunteered to do some yard work at the Inn in the Spring and took dinner there at the end of June for the first time. Meghan was so pleased that the residents got along so well with 5-year-old Emilee on both occasions. Meghan wrote, "I loved that I felt comfortable to show my daughter what it is to be a volunteer and reach out to others, but it's only because of the successful [Serenity Inn] program....I look forward to serving dinner and watching



Where Are They Now?

(The sixth in a series of interviews with Serenity Inn graduates)

by Lorraine Buehler

Scott Bodoh arrived at the Inn straight from Genesis Detox on December 23, 2008, mainly because another man leaving detox at the same time had an appointment for an assessment at Serenity Inn. Scott went along with him, passed the assessment, and stayed for nine months, graduating in September of 2009. But Scott is the first to admit that for his first 3 ½ months at the Inn, he didn't know if he wanted to be clean, to give up his cocaine and pill addiction.

He had been thinking that giving up the highs from the drugs meant he would never have fun again. And one day in that third month, he remembers that "something clicked," and he realized, "I do want to be clean." He realized he was having a good time—even "a blast," laughing and joking around with the guys in the living room or walking to and from the bus.

To have arrived at this turning point in his recovery, Scott said, *"God had to have had his hand on me."*

In response to how he handled all the house rules Scott said, "If you want to change, the rules don't bother you.

"He said he learned many things going through the program at the Inn. He learned from Miss Ellen that "relapse is part of recovery" which has helped him a great deal when he slipped in his recovery and could accept his mistake.



Scott Bodoh

He learned to see many things differently, to see, for instance, the importance of focusing on the job when at work, he learned to accept himself—flaws and all—and to be himself, not having to hide because of places his addiction led him. He learned the value of AA/NA meetings as safe places to talk about his addiction and to get things off his chest.

He learned money management. He admits he was a careless spender; Miss Ellen taught him to calculate and keep track of every penny of the \$25 he was given each week.

He credits Ron, the Substance Abuse Counselor, with breaking him down, of making him deal with the issues that made him use, and Rick, the innkeeper, with keeping a watchful eye on him and the other guys, always knowing who might be in trouble and who needed extra help.

Today, Scott has rebuilt relationships with his family—especially with his two children and with his mom and his grandmother. He gave up smoking 19 months ago after smoking for 22 years. He is a trusted employee at Cargill, performing many job functions from inventory control to driving a fork lift to safety captain and is asked to train new hires. A year or so ago he was named Employee of the Month! Most weeks, he works seven days a week, trying to save enough money to realize his dreams: to get a new car, to own a home again, and especially to have his fifteen-year-old son come to live with him.

Responding to my final question, Scott ended our interview speaking softly and sincerely, *"What has Serenity Inn done for me? It's done everything for me. It has saved a lot of lives. It saved my life."*



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the next group evolve and become the amazing people that God intended them to be."

One of the residents had befriended a stray cat that was living under the porch and introduced Meghan and Emilee to his feline friend.

They agreed to take her in, and on their way home, they came up with the perfect name for the cat. They named her SOPHI, an acronym for Serenity, Offering Phenomenal Hope, Inn. Meghan says that "Sophi has been an unexpected blessing for my daughter and me." Another surprise blessing was the 4 kittens that Sophi has had since her "adoption"!

Sophi has found a good home with Meghan and Emilee, like the men at Serenity Inn who find a good "home" while they work on their addictions.

Save the Date: Friday, April 27, 2012—



Join us for the second annual
Celebrating Serenity Inns, A Path to Recovery
at the Italian Community Center,



(dinner, a silent auction, a keynote speaker, and more).

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Thank You Cookout

Join us on **Saturday, September 10, 2011**

from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm

with a program at 4:00 pm.

The residents will cook the hamburgers and

brats as a *thank you to Serenity Inn*

volunteers. RSVP: to Ellen Blathers

by Tuesday, Sept. 6 if you can attend:

414-873-5474 or siellen@att.net.

Serenity Inns 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.

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Lorraine Buehler, silorr44@cs.com
Webmaster: David Hearn
Publisher: Susie Hansen
Published Quarterly Online; Fall Issue Mailed.
Check our website at www.serenityinns.org for
other issues.

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Address: P. O. Box 26887
Milwaukee, WI 53226-6887
Phone: 414-873-5474
FAX: 414-873-5484
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