

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



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Serenity Inn Admits 200th Resident

Serenity Inn opened its doors to its first resident on April 12, 2004 and admitted its 200th resident in July, 2012.



Until recently, the program at the Inn has been defined as 7 months, divided into 3 stages with “graduation” after the three phases. At present, the 7-month requirement has been relaxed to a one-month residency with monthly evaluations; a 7-month stay is still very possible.

The staff and the Serenity Inn Board believe strongly in the efficacy of the 7-month program, at the same time acknowledging that “one size fits all” may not be the best way to serve every potential resident.

Save the Date: Friday,

April 26th, 2013

Plan to attend the third annual Celebration of Recovery dinner and silent auction at the Italian Community Center in Milwaukee’s Third Ward.



The ICC is located at 631 E. Chicago Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Where Are They Now?

(The 10th in a series of interviews with Serenity Inn graduates.)

By Lorraine Buehler

Brandon Hudson arrived at Serenity Inn, as do most prospective residents, from Genesis Detoxification Center where he went to get sober after being fired from his bartending job which led to a 5-day drinking and opiate binge. His arrival date at Serenity Inn, May 29, 2009, was the beginning of recovery for Brandon and his first time in treatment.

Raised from the age of 15 by his grandparents in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, Brandon and his twin brother found a stable home environment there during their high school years after getting into plenty of trouble in Los Angeles where the brothers had lived with their parents. Away at college, however, the partying started which eventually led to problems with drugs and alcohol that Brandon didn't necessarily see his friends experiencing, problems which ultimately led him to Genesis Detox that day in May when he was 31 years old.



Brandon Hudson

Asked what role SI played in his recovery, Brandon said, **“Everything.”** What worked for him were the regimen, the schedule, and the structure provided by the SI program as well as the counseling from the staff and the introspection required of residents to discover why they drink alcohol and/or use drugs.

During his six months at the Inn, Brandon credits the staff with helping him find his way: Ron, the addictions counselor, with predicting the pitfalls in recovery and hammering home the message that alcoholics and addicts need to know and identify their triggers so that they learn to have their guards up; Rickey, the innkeeper, for his inspirational stories of his own recovery from his serious addiction issues, and Miss Ellen for her spiritual leadership.

His graduation from Serenity Inn on January 31, 2010 was not without its pitfalls, however. When Brandon lost a temporary assignment with a temp agency two weeks after leaving Serenity Inn, it was the trigger that sent him to the bar after which he tried sobriety again for a few months until his grandmother's serious illness led to another binge. (continued next page)



Brandon Hudson story continued

The binges confirmed the wisdom of Ron’s prediction that the alcoholic/addict has to be on guard for those triggers and made Brandon realize how naïve he had been--feeling invincible in his recovery in the sheltered environment of the Inn.

“Relapse as Part of Recovery” is recognized in the treatment community, and Brandon’s good news is that after a couple of relapses he is today 15 months sober and very committed to sobriety and the benefits that have come with it. He is in a committed relationship with a girl friend from college days, he has a salaried job as a plant supervisor in Kenosha where he oversees ten employees, and he is financially secure beyond anything he might have envisioned a few years ago.

He recognizes that staying sober is not an easy road, but he is more aware than ever of his triggers for drinking/using and knows he needs structure in his life to keep him straight, one aspect of which is his weekly visit to his AODA counselor. In addition, he treasures his relationship with his significant other and his shared time with his 4th grade daughter every other weekend.

As a gesture of his thanks for what Serenity Inn has meant in his life, he and his girlfriend have joined the dinner fellowship ranks, taking dinner to the current residents of the Inn. Brandon is the first graduate to do so, and we heartily welcome his return to and support of Serenity Inn in this role!

Fellowship
Dinner 



Join the Dinner Fellowship Team!

Volunteers bring a warm meal to Serenity Inn residents 365 nights a year. See the online calendar for open dates (serenityinns.org—click on the Volunteers tab) or contact Mike Demeter (Dinner Fellowship Coordinator) at mgdemeter@wi.rr.com or 414-327-4086.

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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Check our website for past issues

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You are Invited...

Please join us for the **annual Thank You Cookout/Picnic on Saturday, September 8th** at the Inn, 2825 W. Brown St., from 3-6 p.m. with a program at 4.

The program will recognize individuals in the Serenity Inn family and a community partner for its support of the Serenity Inn mission. And come to hear a choir from Cross Lutheran Church!

This is the residents' opportunity to cook the hamburgers and brats as a thank you to Serenity Inn volunteers. RSVP to Ellen Blathers by Tuesday, Sept. 1 if you can attend: 414-873-5474, siellen@att.net.



Previous cookout