



Serenity Inns, Inc.

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You Too Can **Do** Dinner Fellowship

A few weeks ago, our pastor, Bill Knapp at Fox Point Lutheran Church, encouraged us to "Go and do [love your neighbor]." Do "small acts of kindness," do "one loving thing after one loving thing," titling his message "It's Doable."

The families and individuals who take dinner to Serenity Inn on their "assigned" night are showing their love for their "neighbors" in a very tangible manner. And the "neighbors" at Serenity Inn are a special group.

The twelve men (when the Inn is full) are addicts or alcoholics and have come to Serenity Inn to work on their recovery. The program gives them skills and time to deal with their issues and, after the first 30 days, to find a job in order to save money so they have the wherewithal to return to life "out there" when they finish the program—7 months if they stay the full time.

The small act of kindness in sharing dinner with these men is a rewarding experience in so many ways, most of all because of the honesty in what the men share around the table and their graciousness in doing so. Many of them have come from incredibly different backgrounds--some have been in prison, many have been in trouble with the law or faced adversity in ways we can only imagine--but for an hour around the table, all of us are just God's people sharing a meal.

If you would like to take dinner to the Inn, there are often OPEN dates during the 5th week of the month or on other occasional dates. See the **Volunteer Calendar** on the serenityinns.org website for dates, and contact Mike Demeter at mjdemeter@wi.rr.com, 414-327-4086 to tell him the date you want.



Residents at a recent dinner fellowship

Try sharing this small act of kindness with the residents who will surprise you with their candor, their gentle spirits, and their love. It's DOABLE!



Realizing A Dream

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen...." Hebrews 11:1

Over 14 years ago, the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America was wrestling with high instances of alcoholism and drug abuse among their membership. This epidemic spilled over into families and throughout the community. As the pastors of 5 inner city congregations embraced a call to action, 12 individuals (mission group) stepped forth, and a dream was born. These 12 individuals committed their time, talents and energies to finding solutions to the problem. For 2 years they met every Wednesday, with the first 20 minutes of their meeting spent in Centering Prayer. They trusted God for the dream and what was needed to make it a reality.

The mission group envisioned a full service holistic approach to alcoholism and drug abuse. The dream is now known as **Serenity Inns**. The group envisioned a comprehensive approach to treatment similar to Samaritan Inns in Washington, D.C. With little money and tons of faith, the group trusted God every step of the way. Serenity Inns became a reality in 2004 with the first admission. Twelve years later, Serenity Inns has served over 385 men and counting. Recently, JS Online reported 5 overdose deaths in one weekend. The leaders of Serenity Inns continue to apply faith to the hope of recovery for everyone. Valuable insight from graduates, experts in addictions, astute business leaders, and knowledgeable staff continues to drive the growth of the organization.

Serenity Inns has spent the past twelve years expanding to meet the growing demand for treatment. This has been done cautiously with wise counsel--not from a position of panic or fear. Faith has been the substance of things hoped for through the years. Serenity Inns' endless supply of hope has brought the dream another step closer to building a continuum of care for Milwaukee. The Board of Directors approved the purchase of an apartment building in the city of Milwaukee that will offer safe housing for individuals to continue their journey of recovery.



Alumni House

As the executive director, I am in awe of God's faithfulness. I have listened to the many stories of the men who cry about the challenges of a safe place after they leave the program. Today, it is possible. The future is bright and the support of our stakeholders has made **The Alumni House** happen. As we prepare the property for residents, please keep the Board of Directors, staff and committee members in your prayers. And, of course, the men, who are lining up at my door for a place to live, a place that they can call home.

A place where hope is the evidence of things seen!

Ellen Blathers, Executive Director



7th Annual Celebration of Recovery, April 27, 2017

The 6th annual Celebration was a resounding success with 202 guests and net proceeds of over \$20,000! Please join us in 2017—on April 27 at the Italian Community Center. The evening will begin with fellowship, the silent auction, and raffle at 5 p.m.



Staff at the 2016 celebration



THANK YOU!

Recognized below are donors who contributed \$500 or more between January 1st and August 5, 2016.

Thank you on behalf of all the men who have a chance at recovery because of your donation!

\$1000+

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Ajita & Dushi Rajendra
Serenity Inns Alumni Association
Mark & Minna Smith
St. William Parish
Greg & Ann Van Dunk
Craig & Cynthia Watson



It's Picnic/Cookout Time Again!

Please join us on

Saturday, September 17

from 3-6 p.m. at the Inn. The Alumni Association is in charge, and they along with the residents will be preparing and serving the meal to our faithful volunteers.

Please RSVP to Executive Director Ellen Blathers by Monday, September 12 at siellen@att.net or 414-873-5474.



2015 Picnic Celebration

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

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Check our new website for past issues

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