



## Serenity Inns, Inc.

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Ellen Blathers  
Executive Director

### Board of Directors

*President*  
Aaron Pressie

*Treasurer*  
Carla Stensberg

*Secretary*  
Lorraine Buehler



## Christmas Party



Alumni Association Members



Residents and guests

On Saturday, December 17th, the Alumni Association hosted a Christmas party for Serenity Inn residents at the Inn. Each resident was allowed 2 guests, and a total of 45 alumni, residents and guests braved the cold to attend.

## What does Christmas mean to me—being at Serenity Inns?

### Directors:

Joe Ellwanger  
Bill Martens  
Ralph McClure  
Rick Deines  
William Krugler  
Ellen Luby  
Craig Watson  
W David Romoser  
Al Walters  
Virginia Zignego

### Responses from the residents...

*"I'm so blessed to be in this program....It's safe to say that my Christmas present was opened the day that I was picked up at detox by Lionel Clay and welcomed into the door by other residents and Ms. Ellen. I've been unwrapping gifts ever since. Some of those gifts were freedom from active addiction, peace of mind, change of thought, warm welcomes, and good hot food from the guests and volunteers....Now that the day of Christmas approaches I can look forward to opening other gifts that Serenity Inn has to offer. Rebuilding relationships with family, obtaining gainful employment, continued growth, clean time, and a foundation that can be built on in the future as well as the motivation to continue on in the process so that one day God can use me to be of help to others." Fred M.*

*"This is the first year in over 20 that I am not afraid to celebrate Christmas as I will be in a safe place and sober from alcohol and drugs. Thank you to the staff and all who help keep this beautiful home going." Kevin*



## **What does Christmas mean to me— being at Serenity Inns?** (Continued from page one)

*"It means a totally new way of living and being."* Eddie

*"Most important of all it means that God loves me so much that he preserved me and has chosen me to be a light, an example of his Grace and Mercy, allowing me to glow in the eyes of those still using and those who are in Recovery."* Keith

*"Being at Serenity Inns has given me the opportunity to take a look at myself due to my addiction. I have been to other treatment centers; none required me to look at my past and put it on paper... I realize now I must release all the bad choices I have made, forgive myself for the harm I have caused others and apologize for all the mistakes I have made."* Gary

*"Last Christmas, I was able to provide my family and kids with gifts, but this year the greatest gift I can give them is staying clean on the right track and the right frame of mind. I would like to thank Serenity Inns for allowing another chance at getting my life together."* Jerome

*"At Christmas I enjoy being with my small family. Even though this Christmas I will not be with them, I am here with my sobriety family. I have my life back. I'm not six feet under. I am not back in prison....I have a good sponsor. My boss gave me an early Christmas present by rehiring me....I am truly blessed, and I would like to thank most of all Serenity Inn for helping me get my life back."* Dallas

*"Christmas at Serenity Inn means being sober for the first time during Christmas. Although I won't be with my immediate family, I will be with my new family who can actually relate with my battle with addiction. I know my family will be proud that I'm in treatment. This is the first time I actually surrendered. This is my Christmas present for family but most importantly MYSELF. I believe God is giving me another chance at life to know the real Adrian."* Adrian

### **Alumni House** (832 N 25<sup>th</sup> Street)



Since the Serenity Inns Board of Directors purchased the apartment building on 25<sup>th</sup> Street in late May, many volunteers have been working to get apartments ready when they become vacant for Serenity Inn graduates.

Alumni House is a 9-unit building with 7 two-bedroom apartments and 2 one-bedroom units. The Board's objective in purchasing the building is to offer it as a safe, drug/alcohol-free housing option for SI graduates, many of whom have difficulty finding a place to live because of prior evictions, poor credit history, and/or prison records, to name three issues that might cause a landlord to reject a prospective tenant.

## Alumni House (continued)



Thus far, 30 or more volunteers have helped to redo two units; the third is in process now. Volunteers have removed old cabinetry and installed new, removed old carpeting, plastered damaged walls, washed windows and walls, removed paint, painted walls, ceiling and millwork/trim, removed wooden fence posts, donated furnishings, and moved donated furniture to AH.



## Save the Date (7<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Recovery)



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Thursday, April 27, 2017, 5 p.m., Italian Community Center  
Watch for your invitation to arrive in the mail in March!

### What Does Recovery Look Like?

Series by Lorraine Buehler

Walter White and Lee Lewis, both graduates of the Serenity Inn program, have 20 years clean time between them; Walter has 13+ years, Lee has 7+. Both credit Serenity Inns with giving them the tools to find and stay in recovery. They agreed to be interviewed recently.

Their original stories appeared in this newsletter in September 2010 and December 2011.

#### What is your secret for staying in recovery?

**Lee:** *"Keeping busy and minding my own business."* Lee works at Step Industries and as a part-time innkeeper at SI, enjoys time at home, visits his mom on a regular basis and stays away *"from people, places and things"* that were part of his life as an alcoholic. After all those years of drinking, Lee *"got sick and tired of being sick and tired!"*

**Walter:** Remembering his past with the resolve never to repeat it is Walter's "secret." He feels that God chose him for a life in recovery after 30 years of getting high, and he will not go back. *"Why purchase pain?"* he asks. Pure abstinence has worked for him.

[Series to be continued in future newsletters]

### 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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Past issues available on this link  
(Newsletters) on the website.

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