

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



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Dinner Fellowship
Thousands of Meals & Thousands of Blessings

**Serenity Inns,
Inc.**

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More than 30 churches and 100 individuals from the area prepare a meal at home, bring it warm to the Inn at 6 p.m. every night, and sit down with the residents to share the food and fellowship. Volunteers have been doing this since April 2004; that's 365 nights/year for 13 years and adds up to more than 4745 dinners! When the Inn is full at 12 residents as it has been for the last several years, the number of individuals fed is close to 30,000!

The staff, the alumni, and the board of directors do not know how to begin to thank these generous volunteers for their commitment to share their time, talent, and resources for one or more nights a month for all these years!

We are especially aware of the thanks owed to volunteers who are not able to continue because of health issues or because they have relocated. Four of these volunteers speak of the blessing that Dinner Fellowship has been in their lives:

Jan Camus



"I started the sign-up sheet at Martin Luther Church at the first call for volunteers to serve at Serenity Inn...in 2004. I had worked on the house when Habitat for Humanity was rehabbing it... I love listening to the answers the men give to the 'evening's question.' I love hearing of the successes of the men who graduate. I have missed serving but have not forgotten about the ministry. Now I support it with a yearly contribution and my prayers."

Pat Denning



Being part of the dinner fellowship *"has meant the world to me...[I]...have loved doing ...[it] and the Christmas party. I love to see 'healthy' arrived out of so much ugly [addiction]."*

Ron Jones & Barb Jones *"Each month Barb and I looked forward to being with the men and offering a meal that they would enjoy. We were known for our Hawaiian Dinner Rolls, our Pancake breakfast at 6, our summer steak cookouts, and Rotisserie Chicken dinners. Barb would always ask, 'So what would you like us to bring next month?' There was always a request. Being gone to Florida from October thru May causes a deep feeling for the men we miss, but know others have the opportunity to serve and enjoy the fellowship love."*

(continued next page)



Dinner Fellowship (continued from pg 1)

Ron Jones & Barb Jones



Each month we looked forward to being with our friends at Serenity. Seeing and hearing each human being talk about his struggles and efforts to recover from their addiction, opened our hearts. We felt our outreach efforts were very appreciated by the men. They were an inspiration to us. It seems to us, this is 'God's plan and expectation' that every human should reach out to all our brothers, sisters, and neighbors."



Mary Ann & Jim Smalley

"We truly cherish the experiences we received when volunteering at SI as reps for KOG [King Of Glory Lutheran Church]." It was "so much a part of Jim and my life. We truly miss being able to continue helping at Serenity Inn." Mary Ann's is remembered for her wonderful chocolate chip cookies!

Thanks to these and to all Dinner Fellowship Volunteers who bless the men and the program with their gift of a meal every night!

Thank You

Tuesdays with the Alums

Alumni House is the newest addition to Serenity Inn's drug treatment program. Purchased in June 2016, Alumni House is a 9-unit apartment building near 25th and Wisconsin Avenue. Its role in the Serenity Inn recovery program is to give Serenity Inn graduates the option of a place to live after their 6-7 months at the Inn. *"Alumni House is a safe, sober, quiet and quality living environment with structure to support the men's recovery. Each resident has to remain employed, do weekly chores,...[be subject to] random drug testing....Each resident has paid a security deposit and pays a monthly rent of \$500 that includes utilities, cable and internet service....A graduate can reside at AH for 12-18 months and then is required to move to a totally independent living space of his selection."* (Alumni House brochure)

A substance abuse counselor oversees things at the Inn with the assistance of the House Manager who lives on the premises.

Alums (continued)



One of the cornerstones of Serenity Inns is the dinner fellowship program wherein volunteers bring dinner to the Inn 365/year, a feature that will be modified at Alumni House. The staff is encouraging volunteers to bring in dinner two Tuesdays each month for **Tuesdays with the Alums!**

The July inaugural supper was a wonderful opportunity to hear from the six new tenants (Cedric, Charon, Jason, Michael, Sam and David) about life at Alumni House.

Why did they choose to live at Alumni House? What does it mean to live with other men in recovery? How does it compare to other options they had?



Sharing their thoughts freely, many spoke of the “blessing” of living at Alumni House, of the importance of structure in their daily routine and of having rules to follow. They spoke of the value of having a roommate, of not isolating, of being accountable to someone and yet of having their own space (Each furnished townhouse apartment has 2 bedrooms so that each tenant each has his own bedroom.) Several talked about finding a nice apartment in spite of prison time, a poor credit rating and prior evictions. They mentioned that AH offers the opportunity to build up their credit and their rental history with a reputable leasing company. Others knew they didn’t want to return to the old neighborhoods connected with their addiction, and one person mentioned that the rent means he can save money and give back.

One of the tenants came from another recovery program, and he said he values the professional support and counseling he is receiving at Alumni House. He said, *“I am learning more about my addiction than I did...[in the other program].”*

Relaxed as they spoke over the meal, we were struck by the warmth of their remarks to each other as well as their self-confidence and self-esteem. The six tenants provide the reassurance to the staff and to the Serenity Inns Board of Directors that the bold step taken last June in purchasing Alumni House was exactly the right thing to do for our graduates!

Come see how your favorite Serenity Inns Alumni are doing on their journey of recovery. We are looking for volunteers to bring dinner to the Alumni House on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month. To volunteer for Dinner with the Alums, contact Jason Dobson at (414) 873-5472 or dobsonj@gmatc.matc.edu.

An Abundance of Gifts



Executive Director Ellen Blathers did a presentation at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Delafield on April 9th as part of the Education Hour.

After a question and answer session about the men in the program, addiction, and how others can help, the group surprised Ellen with a large donation of cleaning supplies, bed sheets, book bags, underwear, t-shirts and socks, all of which filled up her van. Thanks to the membership of Christ the King for their generosity and caring commitment to Serenity Inns!



2016 picnic

Serenity Inns cordially invites you to our THANK YOU COOK-OUT
Saturday, September 16, 2017
at the Inn, 2825 W. Brown St. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The residents, alumni association, staff, and board of directors are extremely grateful for your support and partnership. As a way of showing our appreciation, we ask that you join us and give us the opportunity to thank you in person for all you do for the men.

Please say yes and RSVP by September 9, 2017 (414) 873-5474 or siellen@att.net

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

Serenity Inns

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