



**Serenity Inns, Inc.**

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**Serenity Inns Celebrates 15 Years**

We had a near-capacity crowd for our annual Celebration of Recovery at the Italian Community Center. 2019 marks Serenity Inns's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday! CBS 58's Mike Strehlow again served as the MC, and we heard speeches from three men whose lives are each impacted by Serenity Inns.

Ellen Blathers  
Executive Director

*Board of Directors*

*Chair*  
Ellen Luby

*Vice Chair*  
Craig Watson

*Treasurer*  
Carla Stensberg

*Secretary*  
Lorraine Buehler

*Past Chairs*  
Rev. Rick Deines  
Aaron Pressie  
W David Romosser

A current resident, Jose, spoke about his recovery journey and Serenity Inns. Having experienced trauma and alcohol at a young age, Jose lived in fear for many years. Jose has realized how angry he was at himself over wasted years of alcohol and drugs. He now sees the value in journaling and credits Serenity Inns with introducing him to the value in attending AA/NA meetings.

The Alumni of the Year Award was presented to Serenity Inns graduate Alfonso Thurman. Alfonso shared that despite dealing drugs for 10 years, he never tried hard drugs until he used painkillers for a toothache. Alfonso identified the family, homey atmosphere at Serenity Inns as a key factor in getting through the first 30 days. He now lives at Alumni House and works six days a week as a food produce delivery driver, rising at 2:30am to start his day. He chose to live at Alumni House out of respect for his recovery because of the structure and support system available.

*Directors:*

- Tom Dunst
- Joe Ellwanger
- Brian Flynn
- Bill Krugler
- Bill Martens
- Ralph McClure
- Clarence McGowan
- J Bary Morgan
- Al Walters



Alfonso Thurman



Jose and Mike Strehlow



## Serenity Inns Celebrates 15 Years

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Alumnus Fred Walker spoke about his recovery journey and his experience living at Alumni House. Fred said from the moment he walked in the door at Serenity Inns, he had Alumni House on his mind as a goal. He is grateful that God led him to Alumni House, where he is surrounded by other Serenity graduates serious about their recovery. Fred enjoys his job at Wal-Mart and hopes his story inspires current Serenity residents.

With 238 guests and a record net of \$42,247, we are so grateful for the outpouring of love and support for Serenity Inns residents and graduates. The Alumni Association again presented a check for \$1,000; the funds were donated to Serenity Inns by graduates. Thank you to our superstar Event Committee, who devote many hours to making the evening perfect. We couldn't do it without them!



Fred Walker

**Mark your calendars for April 23, 2020  
for the  
10<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Recovery.**

### Save the Date: Annual Cookout



**M**ark your calendar for Saturday, September 14 and join us for our Annual BBQ Cookout. The event is hosted by the Alumni Association, and we invite our friends and supporters to join us.

**When: Saturday, September 14 from  
3-5:30pm**

**Where: Serenity Inns, 2825 W. Brown  
St., Milwaukee 53208**

**RSVP by calling Serenity Inns at (414)  
873-5474 or email  
[serenityinns@gmail.com](mailto:serenityinns@gmail.com).**



## Work Continues on Alumni House



led by volunteer extraordinaire Bill Buehler, volunteers are hard at work over the summer months at Alumni House. Rehab continues on the eighth and final apartment, which is expected to be move-in ready in fall. We have been blessed to see our corps of volunteers turn out for volunteer days this summer, along with Serenity Inns residents and Alumni House tenants. Work on the Alumni House is far from over and we still need volunteers!



Jose



John



Mark

If you would like to volunteer, please email Bill Buehler at: [billbuehler@cs.com](mailto:billbuehler@cs.com) or call him at (414) 630-8989.

## Remember the Graduates

We would like to recognize some of our graduates from years past, who are living in recovery and have gone on to great and wonderful lives.



*Congratulations to Serenity Inns graduate Charon on his marriage to his beautiful bride!*



*Executive Director Ellen Blathers is pictured with graduates Clarence, Josh and Jason. You may recognize Jason as our Lead Substance Abuse Counselor.*

## Fox Point Lutheran Church Service Day

Fox Point Lutheran Church volunteers had their annual service day at Serenity Inns on May 18, 2019.

Volunteers and Serenity Inns residents spent a number of hours spring cleaning. The carpets throughout the house were shampooed, the fans cleaned, heat registers "dusted," and more.



Our deepest gratitude to Fox Point Lutheran Church for their ongoing support and enthusiasm for our ministry.

**We couldn't do it without you!**



### 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: Virginia Zignego

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Past issues available on the Newsletters link on the website.

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