



OUR MISSION

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.

Volume 15, Issue 1, Spring 2024



CEO Corner - Update from Kenneth Ginlack

Gratitude. That word has been on my mind lately, especially as Serenity Inns continues to evolve and expand. We have so much to be thankful for.

I'd like to share with you an update on our new building and the excitement it's generating around here. The construction is progressing smoothly, and our staff and residents are eagerly awaiting its completion.

Watching the building take shape has become a daily ritual for our residents, who often observe the progress. It's a powerful reminder of the hope and potential that this expansion embodies.

I was reflecting on all that has happened since we broke ground last fall and realized that the new building symbolizes the impact we can make when we come together as a community. However, we need your help. Please consider a donation to our Capital Project. Your financial contribution will directly contribute to the completion of our new building. Every dollar counts, and your generosity will leave a lasting legacy. To donate, please visit our website at www.serenityinns.org/newbuilding.

I also want to express my gratitude to our amazing volunteers, especially those who participate in our Dinner Fellowship program. By sharing a meal and conversation with our residents, you're demonstrating that they matter and that someone cares. Keep up the fantastic work!

However, we always welcome more help. So, if you have been contemplating volunteering, now is the ideal time to get involved. We also need financial support. If you aren't able to volunteer, please consider supporting our work financially.

Remember, each one of us has the power to make a difference in someone's life.

Go be great.

Kenneth Ginlack
CEO and Executive Director
Serenity Inns



Kenneth Ginlack, Sr.,
Executive Director &
CEO of Serenity Inns



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

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Welcome to our New Board Members



Marty Choren

Martin "Marty" Choren

Marty Choren, a retired architect and former partner with Plunkett Raysich Architects, has been involved in numerous projects throughout the greater Milwaukee area, ranging from churches to corporate office buildings. In addition to his work with Serenity Inns, Mr. Choren is a proud volunteer and supporter of Family Sharing Ozaukee, Family Promise, and the Leukemia Society.



Marcel Clarke

Marcel Clarke

Marcel Clarke, a graduate of multiple institutions with degrees in Applied Science, Business Management, and an MBA, is actively involved in the Milwaukee community. He has served on various boards and community organizations, is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. and the Prince Hall Masonic Family, and is a Deacon at Holy Redeemer Church of God in Christ.



Jacqueline Cook

Jacqueline Cook

Jacqueline Cook brings over 30 years of experience as an HR professional and 15 years of academic experience teaching HR and business-related courses. As president of J.A. Cook Consulting – "The Oracle of HR Legal and Academic Services", Cook offers HR services, education, training, and legal consultation in matters of employment law. In addition, as an entrepreneur, Jacqueline counsels and advises leadership on HR and corporate initiatives. Cook holds two Master's degrees - Administrative Leadership and Legal Studies-Human Resource Management - and certifications in Diversity and Inclusion for HR, and the Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM). Cook is affiliated with numerous civic and professional organizations, including SHRM, the American Bar Association, the International Society of Female Professionals, the Association of Blacks in Higher Education, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



Peter Todd

Peter Todd

Peter K Todd, Vice President of Construction for Fiduciary Real Estate Development, Inc. (FRED), leads the Construction Division and has been responsible for or involved with over 2 million square feet of healthcare and institutional facilities development and 11 million square feet of residential developments. Several of his projects have been nationally recognized for collaboration, design, and/or execution.



Malik's Story



"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of convenience and comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy," **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

After years of living in Alabama, Malik moved back to Milwaukee to be closer to his family following the passing of his mother. He had the support of his family but knew that he needed to get himself into a treatment program. While his past drugs of choice were heroin and crack cocaine, alcohol had become his current struggle.

In the fall of 2023, Malik entered the doors of Serenity Inn with the mindset that his recovery was his top priority. It took him about two weeks to become acclimated to the program schedule, meetings, and daily routine, and decided early on to take things one day at a time, not forcing or rushing the recovery process.

When asking Malik about Serenity Inns, he said the best part of the program was living in an environment that was "very supportive and empathetic to my needs and recent situation." He felt comfortable here, put in the hard work, and took the necessary steps to become successful.

Six months into recovery, Malik's outlook on life has transformed. He has rebuilt relationships and has a job that he loves working with children as a teacher's assistant in a Milwaukee public school. Long-term plans include going back to school to get his bachelor's in education and teaching certification.

He would often say "A whole lot of kindness never hurt nobody", which is something he believes made his experience here at Serenity Inns so special. "The staff cared about me as a person, not just my completion of the program. They actually saw all of me. That's what made the difference".



Malik Atulshaafi with Lorraine Bahr

"The staff cared about me as a person, not just my completion of the program. They actually saw all of me. That's what made the difference".

-Malik Atulshaafi





Serenity Inns Celebrates 20 Years of Restoring Lives!



This year, Serenity Inns marks a milestone - two decades of providing life-changing recovery services to men in Milwaukee. Formed in 2004 by five local Lutheran churches to combat addiction and homelessness, Serenity Inns has filled a crucial gap in treatment options in Milwaukee.

What began as a vision in 2001 to serve distressed neighborhoods has grown into a thriving residential recovery program. After securing our first sober living home in 2002, Serenity Inns opened its doors in 2004, offering a haven for men struggling with substance abuse.

In April of 2004, we welcomed our first resident.

In the 20 years since welcoming their first resident, Serenity Inns has restored hope and rebuilt lives for 690 men who may have otherwise gone without quality treatment due to a lack of resources. Our services provide the spiritual, physical, and emotional support and resources critical for long-term sobriety.

As we celebrate this remarkable anniversary, we thank you for your support as volunteers, church partners, and donors. Thanks to you, we have continued our mission of healing and transformation.

Here's to many more years of opening doors to recovery.



Serenity Inns and The Healing Network Join Forces

Serenity Inns is thrilled to announce our partnership with The Healing Network to extend our support system to individuals recovering from substance use and mental health disorders. Together, we hosted a Listening Session with Bader Philanthropies to discuss the vital role of the church in recovery. The event emphasized the need for congregations to create recovery-friendly environments for individuals who are transitioning out of treatment and seeking support within their diverse communities.

Cheryl Bledsoe coordinator for The Healing Network, expressed her thoughts on the importance of the partnership, stating: "By collaborating with Serenity Inns, we can bridge the gap between treatment and long-term recovery support. Churches have a unique ability to provide a nurturing, nonjudgmental environment where individuals can feel safe sharing their experiences and struggles without fear of stigma or discrimination."

In addition to this partnership, The Healing Network has been providing monthly dinner fellowships to support individuals in their journey to recovery. Here's to many more years of opening doors to recovery.



Spotlight on Volunteers



In this edition, we share what our dedicated volunteers from Christ the King in Delafield (w/h St. Joan of Arc and St. Catherine's) have done and are continuing to do for Serenity Inns through our Dinner Fellowship program.

Christ the King, Delafield (CTK) has been providing meals for Dinner Fellowship every 4th Tuesday since the program's inception in 2004, and every 5th Monday for many years.

Volunteers are chosen through a sign-up process, as explained by a member of the outreach team: "We use a sign-up genius to request help with preparing and delivering (and dining) each meal. We also make personal appeals to members of the church to cook or provide a portion of each meal. Each meal is a team effort with one person making dessert, another providing bread or a salad, while still more provide the entree."

Additionally, Confirmation students are invited to help make a Breakfast-for-Dinner meal for the residents every year. The young 7th and 8th graders who have attended over the years (with a parent) have learned a great deal from the experience.

The experience of sharing a meal with the residents is deeply moving for the volunteers. "Everyone who attends a meal and dines with the residents says that they are moved by their comments. Their life situations, struggles, and losses are heart-wrenching. Their comments on their new dedication to a healthy lifestyle and new confidence in themselves are particularly inspiring."

When asked what Dinner Fellowship at Serenity Inns means to them, one volunteer responded, "Loving my neighbor endlessly!"



Christ The King Delafield, Dinner Fellowship



Christ The King Delafield, Dinner Fellowship



Christ The King Delafield, Graduate Greg Simmons

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www.SerenityInns.org



Join us for the Serenity Inns Celebration of Recovery on Thursday, September 12, 2024, from 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM at the Italian Community Center at 631 East Chicago Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

This event celebrates the journey of recovery and the resilience of those who have overcome addiction. We invite you to support our mission by attending the event and considering a donation to help us continue providing a safe and supportive environment for men in recovery.

Silent Auction Donations Needed!

We are seeking donations for our silent auction, which will be held during the Celebration of Recovery event. If you have items or services you would like to contribute, please contact us at development@serenityinns.org. Your generous donations will help support our programs and make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

To make a monetary donation, please visit our website at serenityinns.org or contact our office for more information. Your contribution will help us provide essential services and programs to those in need.

Don't forget to mark your calendars and join us for an evening of inspiration, hope, and celebration. We look forward to seeing you there!

Event Details:

Date: Thursday, September 12, 2024
Time: 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Location: Italian Community Center
631 East Chicago Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202

For more information:

to donate, or to participate in our silent auction, please email us at development@serenityinns.org or visit our website at serenityinns.org.