

March  
2015



SOBER ~ LIVING ~ RECOVERY ~ PROGRAM

# WELCOME HOUSE

## A Message from the President

Welcome everyone to our first quarterly newsletter. On behalf of the Board, the staff, and the men of Welcome House, I would like to thank you for your support for all of these years. We have made many changes and have quite a few accomplishments that we would like to share with you.

Last May 7th, we had our First Annual Welcome House Breakfast fundraiser at the Ritz Charles. Tom Watson and Rusty Menaugh were guest speakers. Tom Watson graciously donated a round of golf which was raffled/auctioned off. Thank you so much, Tom. The breakfast was above and beyond our expectations. We had about 425 guests and raised over \$133,000. Many thanks to our 40 plus Table Captains who contacted our guests and to the many

volunteers who helped. We are already booked for May 6th this year with Dayton Moore, the Royals General Manager, as our keynote speaker. Golf included!!! More info further in the newsletter.

We had our 37th Annual Shillelagh Open Golf Tournament at Swope Park last September. Thanks to Kyle and Mitch Kelly, the many volunteers along with a full field of 162 golfers, the three-man scramble raised approximately \$45,000.

In addition to helping with everyday expenses, these two events allowed us to purchase

a much needed new (used) minivan. We purchased video security camera system along with some computers for a new resident computer lab. Lights were donated anonymously and the entire house has been upgraded.

We closed the apartment building across the parking lot to reintegrate the residents (continued page 2)

## Resident Spotlight, "Henry"

by Jamie Boyle, Resident & Operations Manager

Henry first came to the Welcome House, in late March 2014, from a local detoxification center. On his application, Henry stated that he "came from California to live with my sister that I have never met and on my way up here my backpack was stolen with my driver's license and social security card. And I went back to drinking and using." He also identified that the last year of school that he had completed was the "10th grade".

During his initial stay at Welcome House, it was clear that Henry lacked focus and direction, and while he "got by", his efforts to find recovery were minimal. He didn't really take the program seriously, did the minimum necessary and just was kind of here. When you asked him about it, he (continued page 3)

### Upcoming Events

May 6th  
7:30 - 8:30 AM  
**Second Annual  
Welcome House  
Breakfast**



featuring **Dayton Moore,**  
**Royals General Manager**  
at the Ritz Charles



- Purchase your **RAFFLE** tickets for a chance to play a round of golf with **TOM WATSON** and to win **ROYALS MEMORABILIA**- go to our website.
- One spot to play a **ROUND OF GOLF** with **TOM** will be **AUCTIONED** the morning of the Breakfast! Plus, **ROYALS MEMORABILIA** will be up for auction!

**April 1st Comedy Night**  
7:00 PM at the Westport Flea Market

**Fall 2015 The 38th Annual Kelly's Shillelagh Open**  
at Swope Park Memorial Golf Course

**Sign up to receive future newsletters via email.**

- Help us save paper and postage by providing your email address for future newsletters.
- Call Welcome House and give your name and email address at (816) 472-0760
- Or send your name and email address to: [rusty@welcomehousekc.org](mailto:rusty@welcomehousekc.org)

## Board & Leadership Update

The Welcome House is governed by an eight member Board of Directors. The Board is responsible for setting policy and the direction of the organization. The Welcome House is fortunate to have such great examples of leadership. The current Board consists of the following Members.

Pat Kelly  
Kelly's Westport Inn  
Chair

Rich McArdle  
Kansas City Chiefs Radio Network

Grant Baumgartner  
GJB Inc.

John W. Hungerford  
BMO Harris Financial



Board Members (Lto R): Sam Zollicker, Drew Komenda, Scott Klann, Grant Baumgartner, Pat Kelly, and Rich McArdle.  
Not pictured: John Hungerford, Frank Martin, Dr. Tom Phillips.

Scott Klann  
Executive Director

Drew Komenda  
RX Saving Solutions

Frank Martin

Technology Group Solutions

Dr. Thomas P. Phillips  
Dickson-Diveley  
Orthopedic Clinic

Sam Zollicker  
Attorney-at-Law

In addition the Welcome House is lead by three professional staff members who each bring their own experience, strength, and hope to the residents whom they serve. The Welcome House staff consists of the following three members.

Scott Klann  
Executive Director

Rusty Menaugh  
Finance & Communications Manager

Jamie Boyle  
Resident & Operations Manager

## A Message from the President (continued from page 1)

back into the main building. We have purchased new bunk beds to keep up our 80 bed facility. All new residents start in a bunk bed and work their way into single beds. We have a renovated five rooms for the bunk beds; one in the basement and two each on the 2nd and 3rd floors.

On July 9th, we held a Counselor's Breakfast which was well attended and provided excellent discussion, sharing of ideas, suggestions, and information sharing. In July, we also had an Open House, Bar-B-Que and a speaker meeting. We will have more of both of these.

Fourteen programs were also developed/reestablished in 2014. They are: 1.)

Rules Review & Re-write, 2.) Performance Measures, 3.) New Resident Orientation Meeting, 4.) Added Three Service Opportunities, 5.) NA/AA Literature to all residents, 6.) Revised Rent Collection Process, 7.) Peer Board Process (3 strikes), 8.) Jumpstart Program, 9.) House Clean-up & Painting, 10.) Added Recovery Meetings— both AA and NA, internal and external, 11.) Lay Counselor Program, 12.) Random UA/BA Process, 13.) Program Assistant Positions, 14.) New Worker Code of Conduct Agreement.

*"I would like to thank all the friends of Welcome House, because none of this could happen without your support."*

I am very proud of the job the staff and the men of the Welcome House have done. I would like to thank all the friends of Welcome House, because none of this could happen without your support.

God Bless.

Pat Kelly

P.S. Friends of the Welcome House are always welcome to tour our building. If you are interested, please call (816) 472-0760 to schedule a date.

## In The News

Lara Moritz, KMBC News anchor, interviewed our Kitchen Manager, Will S., about his journey from homelessness to long-term recovery. Read Lara's article and watch her interview with will, "Man credits fight back from addiction to help at KC's Welcome House", at the following link: [www.kmbc.com/news/man-credits-fight-back-from-addiction-to-help-at-kcs-welcome-house/31237816](http://www.kmbc.com/news/man-credits-fight-back-from-addiction-to-help-at-kcs-welcome-house/31237816)

Will received a scholarship to L'Ecole Culinaire on the Country Club Plaza where he is earning an associates degree in culinary arts.

Will's future in the culinary industry look bright and full of opportunities.

Continued success, Will!



Scott Klann, Lara Moritz, and Will Studna

## Resident Spotlight (continued from page 1)

described himself as the “victim” and blamed everyone under the sun for his situation. After about two months, he just didn’t show up one night and was discharged from the Welcome House on May 12, 2014.

On Tuesday, July 8th, I pulled into the Welcome House at 6am to start my day. To my surprise, Henry was sitting on the deck waiting for me when I arrived. He didn’t look good. I said hello to him and asked how he’d been doing and what I could do for him. He gestured to his neck and a large bandage. It was covering 13 fresh staples. As he described it, he had been on the streets and actively using since leaving the Welcome House in May. Over the 4th of July, he was using with a group of people and became involved in an altercation with a woman. The woman took a broken liquor bottle and slashed his throat, severing an artery and almost causing him to bleed out and die. He was rushed to the hospital and spent four days in ICU. When they discharged him, he came straight to the Wel-

come House. He asked if he could return and I readmitted him that day.

The change in Henry was immediately obvious and significant. This time around he was a guy on a mission, driven and focused. He worked hard to do what he needed to do to remain in the house, and as soon as it was available, he took a position as the Welcome House weekend dishwasher. Very quickly he became a consistent leader in recovery meeting attendance (even after qualifying for the program’s lower weekly requirement), he worked hard to get his birth certificate, then his social security card and finally his driver’s license. He spent months studying and took prep courses to obtain his GED (at the library, in our computer lab and frequently driving us crazy with homework or quiz questions and proudly displaying his scores). He scheduled and took his GED exams and passed all but

*“He came to Welcome House a broken man, but left us, sober, in recovery, excited and full of hope.”*

one section (which he is planning to re-take). He was doing so well that I had begun to talk with him about a full-time desk position at the Welcome House. Unfortunately (for me), that didn’t work out in the end. A few days later, Henry was notified by the State of Missouri’s Division of Vocational Rehabilitation that

they were sending him to Welding School for four months, on scholarship, in Nevada, MO.

Henry is currently completing his training in Welding School, and he calls to check in with us

from time-to-time. His options and possibilities going forward are virtually limitless. He came to the Welcome House a broken and beaten man, but he left us, sober, in recovery, excited and full of hope. Although we miss Henry, we are so incredibly grateful to have been part of his recovery journey and blessed to have witnessed our mission fulfilled through his experience at the Welcome House.

## We Are Grateful

Thanks to Harvesters Community Food Network, Welcome House is able to provide an onsite meal program to our residents. Welcome House serves a warm breakfast, hands out sack lunches, serves a warm dinner, and provides snacks 365 days a year.

Welcome House’s Annual Agency Report for 2014 contained the following key information:

- Welcome House served 45,610 meals in 2014
- The cost to Welcome House was \$12,875.65
- The value of the food received was \$115,783.00
- This saved Welcome House nearly \$103,000!!!

The residents of Welcome House are aware of the role Harvesters plays in keeping the cost down while providing quality meals for them. As a way to show our gratitude to Harvesters, Welcome House takes a group of men to volunteers at the Harvester’s warehouse every Wednesday from 1:00-3:00 PM.

To learn more about this exemplary organization, visit: [www.harvesters.org](http://www.harvesters.org).



A big “Thank You” to our friends at First Call for holding a coat drive to insure that every resident at Welcome House had a warm coat this Winter!

First Call provides clinical, educational and prevention services to individuals and families in the Greater Kansas City area impacted by alcohol and drug addiction.

The agency also operates a 24-hour, seven days a week crisis call hotline (816) 361-5900. [www.firstcallkc.org](http://www.firstcallkc.org)





Welcome House

***"Where miracles happen  
everyday!"***

**Contact us!**

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**Jamie Boyle,**  
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**We're on the web!**  
[www.welcomehousekc.org](http://www.welcomehousekc.org)

## Ways You Can Make a Difference

**DONATIONS:**

*Welcome House is always in need of men's clothing, shoes, boots, new socks and underwear, men's coats, blankets, pillows, food items, and toiletries. You may drop off your donations at the front desk at your convenience. All donations are tax deductible— just ask the front desk attendant for a receipt.*

**CONTRIBUTION:**

*Please consider making a financial gift to the Welcome House to help save the lives of those struggling to stay clean and sober. You may make a contribution on our website using a credit/debit card or PayPal, by calling the front desk, or mailing a check. A tax receipt will be mailed/emailed to you.*

**WORK FOR RESIDENTS:**

*The men of Welcome House have a wide range of job skills. You can hire our men for general labor, moving, painting, yard work, and more. The rate is \$10-12/hour for each man. Our box truck is also available for moving jobs and yard waste removal. There is a flat rate of \$50 to rent the box truck plus the driver's salary. Call or email Jamie Boyle for more information.*