

JUNE

2015



SOBER ~ LIVING ~ RECOVERY ~ PROGRAM

# WELCOME HOUSE

## A Message from the President, Pat Kelly

Welcome to our second quarterly newsletter. On May 6th, we had a record setting Second Annual Welcome House Breakfast fundraiser at the Ritz Charles. We had over 475 guests and raised almost \$150,000. Our keynote speaker was the Royals General Manager, Dayton Moore. Dayton gave us an inside look on what it took to build up the Royals organization from 2006 till last October- an incredible accomplishment. Thank you, Dayton. Welcome House resident, Raymond H., also shared his compelling story of recovery while living at Welcome House.

The Royals donated some special items for the raffle which included a baseball autographed by Alex Gordon, a Royals cap signed by Greg Holland, an autographed photo of Alcides Escobar, and a Champagne bottle from the celebration after the ALDS sweep of the LA Angles. Two raffle tickets were also drawn with the winners getting to play a round of golf with Tom Watson. Auctioneer, Tom Arn, then auctioned off 4 Crown Seats with parking passes that were donated anonymously. Then came the grand finale- the auction for the chance to play a round of golf with Tom Watson! The winning bid

for the auction was \$20,000 and Tom Watson graciously offered the second place bidder an invitation to join them for a five-some, if he agreed to match the \$20,000 bid. Thank you to both generous bidders, and a special thank you to Tom! I would also like to thank our sponsors BMO Harris Bank, TMS, and GJB; Rusty for all his hard work in coordinating the event; and all 57 Table Captains, attendees and donors; Bill Frey and his staff at the Ritz Charles; and all of our many volunteers. Thanks to everyone mentioned from this and last year's event

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## Resident Spotlight, *Wreckage of Our Past* By Jamie Boyle, Executive Director

On November 10<sup>th</sup> 2014, I was working in my office when one of the desk staff informed me that "Steve" had just showed up and was asking to see me. I was a bit surprised to hear that and not really sure

what to expect. Earlier in the year, Steve had been ordered by a court to complete 120 days at Welcome House. His stay was not successful and he hadn't left on the best of terms (and

he was pretty tough guy). It didn't take much imagination to think his visit might be less than pleasant.

When he walked into my office, I was unpre-

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer

**BBQ**

At Welcome House

3:00-5:00 PM

Saturday, July 25th

R.S.V.P. @ 816-472-0760

**KELLY'S**

**SHILLELAGH OPEN**

**September 28th!**

Teams of 3: \$175/person

11:00 AM Shotgun

Banquet by Stroud's



## The Foundation of Welcome House, by Anonymous

In 1970, a group of men formed a new Alcoholics Anonymous group and called themselves Performance III or "P III". These were straight talking, no nonsense men who had surmounted many challenges and found their own sobriety.

The men of P III were frustrated in their attempts to help other men (and their families) they encountered on 12th step calls due to the inability to place the men in a sober home environment. Some of the men had nowhere to go and others had been asked to leave their homes because of their drinking.

The group began renting rooms in rundown hotels in downtown Kansas City and passing the hat (at their AA meetings) to pay the bills. In 1972, they secured permanent housing (a 2 story, 3 bedroom house at 2540 Holmes) that provided a clean and

safe space for other men to find sobriety. After also acquiring the house next door, capacity expanded to sixteen men. In just 3 years, Welcome House had become a vital resource in the recovery community.

The men of P III were committed and "hands on" in their efforts - bringing these men to meetings, helping them find jobs, sponsoring and counseling them along a sober path of recovery. As residents realized the benefits of sobriety (and stability), they were asked to pay a subsidized rent, so others could receive the support they desperately needed. The men of P III believed there was dignity in paying your own way and earning your keep. They also refused any government subsidy to fund their mission and relied on private donations to make up any shortfall. At capacity for the next decade, and with the need for more beds continuous, Welcome House

purchased and moved to a 3 story apartment building at 27<sup>th</sup> and Charlotte. Doubling again, the bed capacity was now thirty four. In 1986, the current property at 1414 East 27<sup>th</sup> Street was purchased from Catholic Charities, and through remodeling, total capacity has grown to 81 residents.

In the 44 years since its humble beginning, Welcome House has received over \$6,000,000 in private donations, served 1,200,000 meals, held more than 40,000 12 step meetings, and helped over 15,000 men seeking sobriety and a place to turn their lives around. The men of P III believed that service to others, lending a helping hand, and paying your own way was, and is, the path to living a rich and fulfilling life. Sober.

Welcome House is a 501(c)(3) organization and was incorporated in 1971.



2540 Holmes  
April 1971 to June 1977



2751 Charlotte  
1977 to 1986



1414 East 27th Street  
1986 to Present

## The First Miracle Award Presented to The Cashen Family

It is with great pride and joy that the Welcome House presented the first "Miracle Award" to the Cashen Family.

The "Miracle Award" will be presented each year at the Annual Breakfast event honoring those who have helped make Welcome House the most successful recovery program in the Kansas City area.

John Cashen was a co-founder of Wel-

come House in 1971. Mr. Cashen's children, Joe, Mike, Dan, Pete, Larry, Charley, and Molly continue in their father's footsteps and provide much needed support, services, and guidance to Welcome House still today.

**Correction:** This post originally got John Cashen's first name wrong.



Mike Cashen accepts the first Miracle Award from Board Member, John Hungerford

## Message from the President, continued from page 1

we have netted almost \$255,000. This is well above and beyond any of our expectations. The Welcome House Board has been discussing the needs and wants with the staff. They have prioritized the list and we are getting bids. We hope to have some exciting news for you in our next newsletter. Stay tuned.

The Welcome House Comedy Night was June 4th at the Westport Flea

Market featuring Comedy City, KC's best improve group. The performance was very entertaining and raised approximately \$4,600.

Our new website is up and running at [www.welcomehousekc.org](http://www.welcomehousekc.org) Please take a look at it and our new calendar of events.

Thank all of you for all that you have done. God Bless.

Pat



Pat Kelly thanks Dayton Moore for his keynote speech.

## Wreckage of Our Past, continued from page 1

pared for what I saw. His clothes were covered in blood and the entire left side of his face was swollen and discolored. His left eye was swollen completely shut and there were significant visible stitches in several places. I would come to learn that he also had facial fractures, stitches that weren't visible inside his mouth, and that without surgery, he was at risk of losing his sight in his left eye. I asked what had happened to him and, with an expression I'd never seen from Steve, he simply said, "I don't know". As we continued to talk, his lip quivered at times and he was holding back tears. He was clearly confused and struggling.

What he did know, was that he had awoken to find himself in the hospital, that he was in a lot of pain and that the only place he could think to go was the Welcome House. We talked for awhile longer, and I tried my best to be positive and supportive. I asked him what his plan was and if he had a safe place to stay. I really wanted Steve to ask if he could come back to Welcome House and try again, but he didn't. The only thing he did ask was if it would be ok for him to change out of his bloody clothes and to get new clothes from the resident "free clothes" closet. After changing, he thanked me for talking with him, for the clean clothes, and he left. I was pretty sure I'd never see Steve again.

Two days later, on November 12<sup>th</sup>, Steve showed up again, and again asked to see me. We went into my office and had a very lengthy conversation. I won't go into the details but he was exhausted, broken and emotional. It was complete acceptance and surrender. He reached into the fanny pack he had around his waist, handed me his needles, and I readmitted him to the program.

The change in Steve was immediately evident. He was humble, cooperative, polite, willing and compliant. He didn't resist the program or the program requirements, he embraced them. He always said yes when he was asked to help out around the house or with special tasks. He got involved in the recovery community, got a sponsor, secured a good full-time job and also accepted a part-time weekend desk position at the house. In short, he became a leader in the program and a champion of recovery. In many ways, I wish I could end this story here, but I can't. The title is, after all, "Wreckage of the Past".

No one comes to the Welcome House because everything is going well for them in their life, and clearly Steve was no exception. The Welcome House application has a question that

asks, "Describe what has happened to you in the last 30 days". Steve's response was simply, "Homeless. Arrested. Addicted. Jail. Welcome House". He may not have been the exception, but he became a Welcome House miracle.

On May 27<sup>th</sup> 2015, Steve was arrested on a felony warrant and is going to do significant time. It's wreckage from his past and it's unfortunate, but it's also his reality. I am very hopeful for

*Read a second letter received from Steve after this story was written on our website: [www.welcomehousekc.org](http://www.welcomehousekc.org)*

Steve and feel good about his experience at the Welcome House. I am grateful to have known him and for what that experience did to strengthen my own recovery. A few

days ago, Steve sent us a message (via an email he sent from jail to his former employer). The message is as follows (exactly how Steve wrote it):

*"Tell jamie i said thanx again for all he and w.h. Has done for me. This changes nothing about who the welcome house has made today. If anything made me stronger, and all because of jamie the fellowship and the angel i call the welcome house. Please pass that on to all of them"*

I believe that the Welcome House is still serving Steve today.....



**WELCOME HOUSE, INC.**

1414 E 27th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64108

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KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

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Fax: (816) 472-6022  
www.welcomehousekc.org  
info@welcomehousekc.org



**SOBER ~ LIVING ~ RECOVERY ~ PROGRAM**

## 2014 Programming Accomplishments

- Resident Rules Review & Re-write: Refocused the rules to specifically support recovery, increase accountability and give them clear consequences.
- Performance Measures: Identified specific performance measures, created a tracking tool and implemented a process to collect and track specific information, specifically court ordered residents.
- New Resident Orientation: Created and implemented a weekly orientation meeting.
- Added 3 Service Opportunities: Harvesters, ALS Foundation and the Resident Greeter Program.
- NA/AA Books: Re-established the policy of giving AA/NA books to all new residents.
- Revised Rent Collection Process: Created and implemented the Welcome House Alternate Rent Payment Agreement for ALL residents 2 weeks in arrears.
- Peer Board Process (3 Strikes): Created and implemented the Welcome House Peer Board Review Process. Residents with 3 or more violation of the rules must go before a panel of their peers.
- Jumpstart Program: Created and implemented the “Jumpstart” program to assist new residents with their rent the first two weeks by assigning them chores around the house.
- House Clean-up and Painting: Cleaned up and repainted a large part of the house using Jumpstart workers.
- Recovery Meetings: Added 6+ Program Recovery Meetings, includes both AA and NA, internal and external.
- Lay-Counselor Program: Added several new counselors to the program and redesigned our participation tracking methodology to ensure that all residents are seen at least once a month.
- Random UA/BA Process: Redesigned our participation tracking methodology to ensure that all residents are UA'd at least once a month and that “surprise” house-wide BA's are done weekly.
- Program Assistant Positions: Created and implemented the Program Assistant position on each floor.
- New Agreement: Created and implemented the Worker Code of Conduct Agreement.