



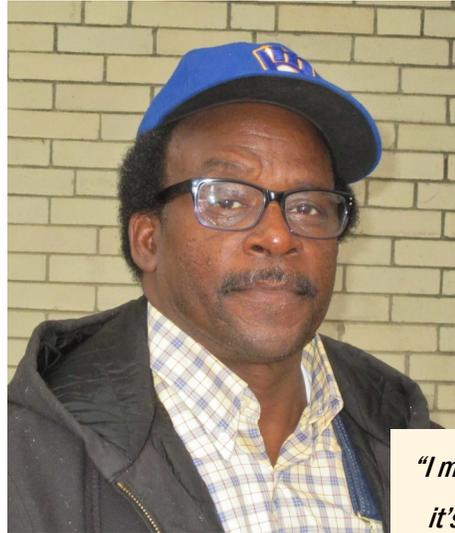
Resident Spotlight: Darryl R.

by Micah Haen, Resident Relations Manager

I first met Darryl R. when he came to the Welcome House in early September 2015. He was a broken man, out of options, and desperate for change. He dove head first into the program and became serious about his recovery right away. We decided for this month to sit with him and ask him to share some of his experience, strength, and hope.

Micah Haen: What was life like before you came to the Welcome House?

Darryl R.: I've been messing up my whole life. All I wanted to do was chase heroin and to stay drunk all the time. I had a merciless obsession which kept me broke all the time



"I must stay active because it's what keeps me clean and sober."

and led me to stealing from people to feed my addictions. Life was a living hell. I'm so glad I don't have to do that anymore.

MH: How did you find out about the Welcome House.

DR: I've always known about the Welcome House. I first came here back in 1986, but I was asked to leave because I wouldn't take Antabuse. This time around I came to the house on a suggestion from a friend while I was in detox. He said if I wanted to change, this was the place to be. I am so grateful I did, this place saved my life .

MH: You are a very active member the AA/NA fellowship. Can you describe why that involvement is such an important part of your recovery?

DR: I must stay active because it's what keeps me clean and sober. Going to meetings in and out of the house, listening to others share, being open to take suggestions, and making no more excuses. I've always been told "it works if you work it".

MH: Did you find it intimidating moving into a facility with so many other guys?

DR: Not at all. I need to be around others. I had a lot of self-pity when I first got here, and everyone helped me work through it. I believe we are all in this together. We all work to help each other out.

Micah Haen: How has your life changed since you have worked the Welcome House program?

DR: I was told by a preacher friend of mine "If you want your life to change, you have to change your life". I live by that today. I was talking with my Uncle when I got into recovery, I said to him "I'm getting too old for this." and he told me, "Darryl, you've *been* too old for this!" Today I'm not drinking or using, and I don't lie, cheat, or steal from people. My whole life has changed for the better, and for that I am truly blessed.

Darryl has become an exemplary member of the Welcome House. He is employed as the Welcome House's full time driver and is one

of our voluntary Program Assistants. Darryl works a strong program himself, and is always more than willing to be the "go to guy" when it comes to helping and giving guidance to the newcomer.

Watch Darryl's interview on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/HVYbDn6YD6k>

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Give for the Miracles

by Jamie Boyle, Executive Director

Earlier this week, my wife and I experienced one of the most amazing and magical moments of our lives, the birth of our son Greyson James Boyle. This was obviously a miracle in and of itself but, for this alcoholic and addict, there is so much more to the “miracle”. As the doctor raised Greyson to my wife’s chest, tears streaming down our faces, I felt the overwhelming sensations of gratitude, love and serenity. The feelings were almost too much for me to absorb and the moment almost too much for me to comprehend.

How did I get here? How could something so special and amazing be happening to me at this point in my life? After all, I’m a low bottom drunk and addict, and this is not how that story is supposed to go. How is it possible that I’m alive and sober? How is it possible that my life is this good, that I can be so present and so comfortable in my own skin? How is it possible that I could be so blessed?

I believe the answer to all my questions is fairly simple and it can be found in “The Promises” on pages 83-84 of the Big Book. *“God is doing for me what I could not do for myself”, and that started for me at Welcome House.*

Not too many years ago, and like most of the men who come to Welcome House, I arrived desperate and without hope. What started out as experimentation and “just good times” had progressed over a 26 year period to a near fatal state. Alcohol and drugs had taken almost everything there was to take and I was out of options. I couldn’t picture my life with or without alcohol or drugs, and I knew I wouldn’t be alive much longer unless something changed.

I can’t explain how or why this happened, but I found my way to Welcome House and an opportunity for rehabilitation and long-term recovery. Even though I had no money, no job, no credit and nothing of value to contribute, I was accepted into the program and I began the slow process of starting over. The Welcome House provided the structure, support and guidance that I desperately needed, and it taught me how to be accountable and responsible in my own recovery. I learned that if I’d do the following five things, I’d have a pretty good chance of recovery: 1) no matter what, don’t drink or use drugs, 2) go to meetings, 3) get a sponsor, 4) get a job, and 5) pay rent. Such a simple program but one that I was utterly incapable of doing without help.

The disease of addiction is not governed by race or ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, education or the lack there of, or intelligence. It is an equal opportunity destroyer and impacts the lives of individuals and families from all walks of life. The challenges for the alcoholic or addict in finding recovery are significant, and range from access and the availability of treatment to poverty, public stigma, perception and ignorance. The only consistency is that without help, sobriety or recovery for the alcoholic or addict is virtually impossible.

As we mark the close of our 45th year of service, the Welcome House remains “committed to providing a high-quality, moral, and open residential program to recovering alcoholics and

drug-addicted men facing the difficult transition from treatment, incarceration, and homelessness to reintegration back into society as productive citizens”. In 2016, thanks to your generous gifts, the Welcome House will have served over 350 men and their families, held over 730 recovery meetings, facilitated over 800 “lay counseling” sessions and provided over 39,000 meals.

In this time of giving, I ask for your continued support to help us end the pain of alcoholism and addiction for so many men and their families, and to provide them with the opportunity to build a foundation in recovery and *experience all the possible “miracles” of a life clean and sober.*

May God bless you and your family this Holiday Season and throughout the New Year!

“Please give for the miracles” by using the enclosed envelope, or go online at www.welcomehousekc.org/funding/



Jamie Boyle and Master Greyson James Boyle

Winter Items Needed

by Rusty Menaugh, Communications & Special Events Manager

This is the time of year I go through my closets and use the “One Year Rule”- if there are any items that I haven’t worn in the last year, I put them in a bag and donate them. You see, your “unwanted winter items” are in high demand this time of year for those in need. Welcome House is looking for donations of new or gently used clean men’s coats, sweatshirts/hoodies, hats, gloves, boots and scarfs.



Give the gift of warmth this holiday season and donate today!

All donations are tax deductible and may be dropped at Welcome House at your convenience- we’re open 24/7. Or, you may call Micah Haen or Mitchell Chalk to arrange for our driver to pick up your donation. Office: (816) 472-0760.

Congratulations Micah Haen

by Rusty Menaugh, Communications & Special Events Manager

Congratulations to Micah Haen, Resident Relations Manager, for earning his Missouri Associate Alcohol Drug Counselor Certification (MAADC 1).

Micah was a resident of Welcome House from February 2015 August 2016. He worked tirelessly for 15 months as Kitchen Manager. He decided to switch careers and started working towards becoming an Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor. Micah was hired as Resident Relations Manager in August 2016. He is passionate about his new position at Welcome House because it allows him to develop a closer connection with people in need, it keeps him grounded, and reminds him of what is really important in life. It also gives him an opportunity to give back to the program which has given him the most important thing in the world- “A purposeful and meaningful life that he never believed possible”.





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Where miracles happen everyday!

Make a Difference!
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www.welcomehousekc.org

Upcoming Events

SAVE the DATE

05.11.2017
7:30-8:30 a.m.

The Welcome House

Fourth Annual Breakfast

TABLE CAPTAIN RECRUITMENT

Job Description:

- Host a table for 10 the morning of the Breakfast
- Help spread the news about the wonderful work being done at Welcome House
- Help sell raffle tickets for a chance to play a round of golf with Tom Watson

For more information, contact:

Grant Baumgartner, Event Chair
(913) 945-0589 gbaumgartner@gjbcorp.com
or
Rusty Menaugh, Special Events Manager
(816) 332-5676 rusty@welcomehousekc.org