

Resident Spotlight: 3 Questions with Chris

Chris has been a resident at Welcome House since February, 2017. By day, Chris is the Inventory Manager at a local auto dealership where he's worked for three years. Evenings and weekends find him attending meetings and supporting other men on the journey of recovery.

1. What was life like before the Welcome House?

"My life was very lonely and empty. I did not like myself nor could I seem to find anything to fill the void I felt."

2. How has living at the Welcome House influenced your life?

"The Welcome House has brought purpose and direction to my life. I have gained some self-worth which I believe is directly related to what I do for other people."

It has been a great privilege to serve as the third-floor program assistant at Welcome House. All I can do is share my experiences with the other men and hope that it helps them. I know that I am sober because of my own commitment as well as the role I have in helping others."

3. Where do you see yourself after graduating from the Welcome House Program?

"I see myself continuing to give back to Welcome House in any way that I can. I have a home group and strong support system. Soon, I will be moving into my own house but I intend to keep in touch with my friends at Welcome House when I come back for meetings or just spend time with them."

My life has meaning today only because of my Higher Power, meetings, and the support of others in recovery. The Welcome House is the vehicle through which all this was made possible."



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Funder Spotlight: Curry Family Foundation

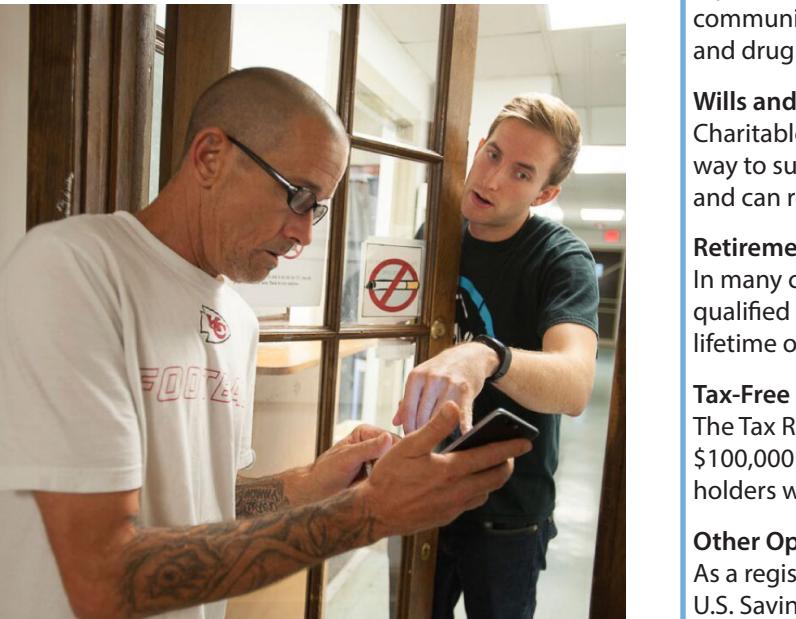
"They can't do it alone."

This is the sentiment of Steve O'Neill when he thinks about residents at Welcome House who are seeking a better life through recovery. O'Neill, Vice President of the Curry Family Foundation, believes in the supportive accountability provided by the Welcome House.

"We know that the individuals who commit to the Welcome House programs want to be free of their addiction demons," said O'Neill. "Besides their personal accountability, they need the services of the Welcome House, and the support of our community to be better citizens."

The Foundation supports the Sober Living Recovery Program at Welcome House, helping residents meet program goals, supporting graduates in achieving sustained sobriety, and continuing as active 12-Step Program members.

The Curry Family Foundation's support helps ensure the men at Welcome House have a pathway to building healthy, positive relationships, and developing skills to secure employment and achieve personal and financial stability.



Generous Funding from the Curry Foundation helps Welcome House support residents in meeting their goals in the Sober Living Recovery Program.

Welcome House
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1414 E. 27th Street
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Welcome House
A Publication for Friends, Supporters and Residents of The Welcome House

thejourney
Fall 2017

Lay Counseling and Recovery Coaching at Welcome House Give it away to keep it.

If you help someone, you will be helped. If you want to stay sober, help someone stay sober.

Based on the 12th step in recovery, this peer-to-peer premise is a foundation of the lay counseling program and culture at Welcome House. It is the experience, understanding and true belief that, "to keep it one must give it away."

As a peer support program connecting residents with individuals in long-term recovery from the Kansas City community, volunteer lay counseling provides recovery coaching to residents who are new or returning to recovery. While not licensed professionals or employees of the Welcome House, the impact of the lay counselors' work is significant and highly effective.



"Our time together gives the resident an outlet to speak one-on-one rather than in a group setting," said Robert Rosberg, a lay counselor at Welcome House.

While each resident's journey is unique, there are commonalities in the kinds of concerns shared with lay counselors: staying clean and sober, mending personal and family relationships, struggling with spirituality, securing employment, dealing with self-doubt and learning to live, "a sober life on life's terms".

Despite the struggles, Rosberg says that gratitude is an overwhelming sentiment of the residents: "Everyone mentions how grateful they are to be at Welcome House," he said.

Jamie Boyle, President/CEO states that the time and commitment shared by lay counselors is an invaluable gift to both residents and the Welcome House.

"In my own experience, there were two specific lay counselors that played key roles in supporting my early recovery and rehabilitation. We simply could not provide the caliber of care or achieve our goals and successes without our lay counselors," said Boyle.



Keith Ranney (left) is a frequent lay counselor at Welcome House. This volunteer time is spent listening, sharing experiences, and serving as a mentor to residents.

Likewise, lay counselors are quick to share that they receive as much or more benefit in return. "The residents help me more than I help them," said Brad Nagel, another Welcome House lay counselor, adding that his service and mentorship is a key part of his own recovery.

Make a difference in someone's recovery...including your own.

Welcome House relies on the commitment and generosity of our lay counselors to support residents in their journey in recovery. Training is provided. If you would like to learn more about this rewarding opportunity, please contact Jamie Boyle, 816.472.0760, or jamie@WelcomeHouseKC.org.

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Leading the Way

A Message from
Jamie Boyle, President/CEO



Hearing the sound of my children's laughter, driving across town to a meeting, waiting anxiously for a grant determination letter to arrive, high-fiving a resident who just landed a job. These are real-life stories – my stories.

Those of us who walk the journey of recovery have important stories to tell: stories of weakness, brokenness, failure and loss that define our past. And stories of strength, healing, service and faith that define our today.

As told in our cover story on lay counseling, our experiences have prepared us to walk beside our residents as they invite us into their stories. Having been on both sides of the lay counseling equation, it is profoundly inspirational and rewarding to witness the miracle that I experienced play out in the lives of our residents and lay counselors. Recovery is possible and very real.

Industry research and recognition of the effectiveness and importance of peer-to-peer support in long term recovery is on the rise. But our founders knew this 46 years ago. It is the essence of our mission and the foundation on which our program was built. It is in the sharing of our real-life stories that we can live authentic sober lives, and in turn, empower others to do the same.

Warm regards,

Jamie

Our Mission → Welcome House is 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 to society as productive citizens.

Our Vision → Welcome House is a nationally recognized model with a residential sober living recovery program that empowers recovering men to live meaningful and productive lives.

Ways to Help

Winter Warm-Up Clothing Drive

Your gently used or new items are greatly appreciated!

Welcome House is gearing up for winter, ensuring our residents have coats, hats, gloves, and other warm clothing. As you clean your closets this fall, please consider donating new or gently worn coats and other cold-weather attire to our Winter Warm-Up Clothing Drive. Items may be dropped off at Welcome House.

If your office, church, or scout troop is willing to host a cold-weather clothing drive, please let us know. We will gratefully arrange for pick-up of the items. Thank you for helping our brothers in need this winter. Items needed include:

- [Winter Hats](#)
- [Gloves](#)
- [Coats](#)
- [Sweats, Sweatshirts & Sweaters](#)
- [New Underwear & Socks](#)
- [Boots](#)



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Connect
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Phone: 816.472.0760
WelcomeHouseKC.org



facebook.com/welcomehousekansascity

Your support makes a difference!
Donate online at welcomehousekc.org/funding

Your in-kind donations of men's clothing, furniture, equipment, bus passes, or personal services are much needed and always appreciated. Please call 816.472.0760.

Continuing the Journey

Welcome House in the Community

Proud to support Shatterproof 5k

Welcome House was proud to lend its support to participants and attendees of the Shatterproof 5K Run/Walk held June 11 at Arrowhead Stadium.

As part of the Rise Up Against Addiction Movement, Welcome House shared information about its recovery services to increase awareness, support families, and bolster advocacy efforts in our community.



Shatterproof Supporters: (from left) Joining Welcome House in supporting the Shatterproof 5K Walk/Run were Mitch Kelly, Susan Whitmore, Raymond Hamlett, Mitchell Chalk, Grant Baumgartner, Jamie Boyle, Ben Deskins (in front) Rich McArdle, Micah Haen and Jack Sedgwick.

BBQ, Inspiration, and Teamwork: a summertime tradition at Welcome House

It was a sincere pleasure to welcome more than 75 guests to the Welcome House Annual Speaker Meeting, Summer BBQ, and Open House on August 26th.

All-American barbecue and a healthy dose of inspiration were on the menu as residents, Welcome House alumni, and families enjoyed the meal, tours of the house, and special stories shared by two guest speakers.

It was a day of teamwork, with Jim Steenbock and crew preparing the delicious barbecue, and Mark Shobe leading the efforts to spruce up the house and grounds. The day was made extra special thanks to Coach Fritz, Coach Harsch, and Coach Birch and the service of the Blue Valley Northwest basketball team, as well as their generous donation of 25 pairs of basketball shoes.

An all-you-can-eat ice cream truck experience, courtesy of John Hungerford, founder of Christ Is the Key, was the grand finale. Thanks to all who joined in this great Welcome House tradition.



(From left) Jamie Boyle, Travis, Mike Gleason and Joe Cashen enjoyed barbecue and conversation at this great summertime tradition at Welcome House

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Members of the Blue Valley Northwest basketball team donated their time and effort to help set up the barbecue event. They also brought along 25 pairs of basketball shoes for Welcome House residents.

Denim Days for Welcome House

The kind folks at BMO Harris Bank recently hosted a Jeans Day, with employees making a contribution to Welcome House for the privilege of wearing denim to the office. Board Member John Hungerford led the effort and later presented a check to President/CEO Jamie Boyle.

"We welcome anyone who has an interest in supporting our mission to host a Jeans Day to benefit Welcome House," said Boyle. "These are special gifts that go a long way in helping us meet the needs of residents."

John Hungerford of BMO Harris Bank (left) presents a check to Jamie Boyle.

The Welcome House Clothes Closet is a resource for residents in need of clothing and shoes.



Celebrating 40 years of the Shillelagh Open

As it has for four decades, this year's Kelly's Shillelagh Open Golf Tournament was a day of golf, sunshine and friends: loyal golfers, sponsors, and other generous people who sincerely care about Welcome House. Held September 25th at Swope Memorial Golf Course, the tournament raised much appreciated funds - now totaling more than \$1 million over the events history - to support our life-saving mission.

"We are grateful for the support of the Shillelagh," said Welcome House President/CEO Jamie Boyle, "and to the Kelly's family for all of their very generous support over the years."



Members of the Blue Valley Northwest basketball team donated their time and effort to help set up the barbecue event. They also brought along 25 pairs of basketball shoes for Welcome House residents.



The First Call Team: Susan Whitmore, Dick Rhyne, Jeffrey Cameron, Lon Switzer, Hugh O'Donnell and Gary Jenkins