



The Last House on the Block

Volume 1 Issue III January 2010

Miracles Do Happen



**Proposed House of Freedom and Miracles
McGregor Avenue, Mt. Auburn**

By Ivan Faske, Director

Dreams **come** true, miracles **do** happen, and prayers **are** answered. This is especially expressed when we do it together. Serenity Consultants Inc. has been talking and praying about opening a woman's program since our first year of operation in 2006. They say that things happen in God's time. This was true for me, but I now believe that it is always God's time, that God answers our prayers when we are ready, and only God knows when that is.

Well, we must be ready because the House of Freedom & Miracles woman's addiction recovery program has officially become an undertaking of Serenity Consultants Inc., and we are about to close on a house owned by Talbert House at 334 McGregor Ave. in Mt. Auburn (pictured above). Joy! Joy! Joy! This will increase the number of bed spaces for women from ten to eighteen. Our next venture will be preparing to begin to be ready to

accept women with children. This is a big step for us in that we will need to meet State and Federal guidelines. This will take some time.

We are growing in ways that we always hoped would be possible. Our goal is to increase the life-long recovery success chances to all addict/alcoholics that have contact with us, regardless if they become residents of our programs or not. We will reach out as far as they are willing to go. It has come to the point where we continue to work with a large percentage of individuals who we assisted in the past and who are

returning to us for help. This has significantly increased the total number of addicts/alcoholics we work with on a daily bases, not to mention our Alumni Committee who assist with house projects and community service. They have planned a Super Bowl party for themselves and all residents in our programs.

We have also established independent living housing for alumni. We have our Bassett House, with three two bedroom apartments adjacent to the Serenity House property, and Victory House a four bedroom house located in Milford Ohio on the Little Miami River. Of course now we will need independent living housing for women. With the purchase of the property on McGregor we will have the ability to serve a total of forty-four residents. A true blessing.

So where do we go from here? Not far without outside help. Yes, we always are in need of financial support, but given our path and recent growth we are in urgent need of community service and in-kind support.

We need help cleaning, fixing, and preparing the new woman's location for residency. We also need in-kind donations, including furniture, household products, and many other regularly needed items. If you are willing to give some of your time please call 513-921-1986. Enclosed with this newsletter is a list of items we will need assistance with.

Not sure as to how heartfelt this newsletter article comes across, but I know most of you and for the most part you know me. Serenity Consultants Inc. is a faith based corporation, and that faith is based in spirituality. This includes everyone regardless what is believed, even those who don't believe at all. We are all covered by this concept. Our primary purpose at Serenity Consultants is to carry the message of recovery to addicted/alcoholic persons regardless, but in order for us to accomplish this - **WE NEED YOU!!!**

We invite you to be a part of our miracle in process. Please call us at 513.921.1986 to help us make a difference.

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Gala Banquet "Inspirations" a Success



Many thanks to all who made our **1st Annual Fall Gala Banquet and Silent Auction**, October 11, 2009, a great success!

Everyone in attendance enjoyed a memorable gourmet meal served by Chef Sam Kent

and his wonderful staff at the beautiful Evergreen Retirement Community in Hartwell. And a special thanks to Tracy Woodward for the fabulous hors d'oeuvres. The entire Evergreen Community, from the administration and staff to the residents made us feel welcomed and added to the ambiance of the elegant, historical setting.

A special thanks to WCPO, Channel 9 News, guest speaker, Dennis Janson and host Tanya O'Rourke. They were entertaining as well as inspirational with their antidotes and messages.

In addition to our speakers we were truly blessed by a new Serenity Consultants' video, produced by Doug Lillibridge also from WCPO, which highlights the Serenity recovery program and touches our hearts with examples of real-life recovery success stories and the people that help make them happen. All are invited to view this amazing video by visiting our website, www.SerenityConsultants.org. Your heart will be both touched and moved.

Last, but not least, the evening's Silent Auction items so generously donated by our friends, were a delightful and profitable portion of

the evening entertainment. Sales from both the dinner and silent auction netted the program over \$8000. Auction items included select articles donated by Donna Karan of Urban Zen and DNKY as well as memorabilia items from the late comedian Buddy Hackett, donated by his wife Sherry Hackett. The new fund-raiser and participant donors also enabled the program to obtain a partial matching grant from the Hanley Family Foundation!

Blessings and our deepest gratitude to all who contributed time, energy and items to the success of our 1st Annual Fall Gala and Banquet. Part of the proceeds from the evening will be used to help fund the new addition to the Serenity family, The House of Freedom and Miracles for recovering women.

NEWS CORNER

House of Freedom and Miracles

My name is Janet Hoyt. I have recently joined the Serenity Consultants family as a part time House Manager for the House of Freedom and Miracles.

What an exciting and inspiring time to have been presented with the opportunity to be a part of this amazing program. It is also a program near and dear to my heart on a personal level.

I too, went through transitional housing and was supported and taught how to survive my past. Not only to survive it but to realize dreams and a life that I could never before imagine. I found hope.

Now being a part of other women's

journey is a privilege and an honor...watching them find hope and persevere through life's challenges is truly a blessing.

Working with Angie and Ivan, and staff who are truly passionate about what it is they do is a wonderful experience from which I learn and grow every day! But it is the women, that come into our program and find the love, the caring and the structure that they need and want that is the most inspiring for me. They are my hope-shot!

The union of Serenity Consultants and House of Freedom & Miracles is a beautiful thing! It will enable the women's program to go on and continue helping women to help them-

selves find their place in society as moms, sisters, aunts, daughters, employees and mentors. It's a wonderful gift to our children, our community and society in general and it's a blessing to me

Janet Hoyt
House Manager
House of Freedom & Miracles





David Mieher
Program Coordinator

“Around the House”

Here's another face seen around Serenity Consultants. It belongs to me, David Mieher (Sounds like saying "me"-her" real fast).

I started volunteering with Serenity Consultants in March 2007 after my Mom passed away and I began care giving for my terminally ill Dad in Lafayette, Indiana. Care-giving was hard and working with the Serenity House program was just what I needed to keep going and be around a lot of support. I

began helping with the web site, some book keeping, grant writing and other things I could do both at the house and on the road. Since my Dad passed away, grants have come in and I have been able to stay on board as a part-time paid staff member. I have become more involved with programming and working with the residents, especially the “Shelter from the Storm” program. I guess you could call me a Program Coordinator and Administrative Assistant.

I have a Master of Social Work degree and have enjoyed working with a variety of people as a counselor

and programming specialist. I am also lucky to be a part-time stay at home Dad, my most challenging role ever. My wife works full time and still manages to do ten times what I do for our 20 month old Joey and running our home, but I love getting the chance to play Mr. Mom. We are expecting another child in August and I can not imagine working at a place more supportive than Serenity House. It is the most amazing place I have ever worked and I have been blessed to be part of some great programs in the past. I hope to continue giving back through the many growing programs here for a long time.

Save The Date!

Serenity House 5th Annual Golf Outing

Dinner and Silent Auction

Saturday, May 22, 2010

Pebble Creek Golf Course

9799 Prechtel Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45252

Visit pebblecreekgc.com

New Location! Bigger and Better! All are Welcome!

Serenity Consultants' Executive Board

Mike Veder, President

Fred Fago, Treasurer

Ivan Faske, Secretary

Jeff Emerson,
Executive Member

Mark Holman,
Executive Member

Carleton Maddox,
Executive Member

Grants Make the Difference

In addition to the support given us by our wonderful benefactors, it is necessary for the Serenity organization to secure the remainder of our operating funds through various grants. Going forward, it will be necessary for us to step up our grant writing endeavors. The addi-

tional expenses of additional residents and all that is needed to support them grows by the day.

Grant writing, as many of you may know, is a wonderful skill. We currently have a very small, all-volunteer grant writing committee. To meet our needs we will need to add grant

writers—the more experienced the better.

If you, or anyone you know, has experience or a desire to learn and become part of our grant-writing team, please let us know. We could truly use the help. Thanks so much!

Pledge Card

- I wish to become a monthly supporter for the next 12 months.
Enclosed is my 1st monthly gift of: \$20 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$ other amount
- I wish to become an annual supporter for the next _____ years.
Enclosed is my first annual gift of: \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 \$ other amount
- I wish to offer support at this time with a single gift.
Enclosed is a check for: \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 \$ other amount
- I would like to pledge a non-cash gift (i.e. property, bonds, trust, or service) and would appreciate a contact to discuss the details.
- I wish to support Serenity Consultants with my prayers. Please keep me on your mailing list.
- Please remove me from your mailing list.

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ E-mail _____

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A Faith-Based Congregate Recovery Program.

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