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Impact of Sinnissippi Recovery Home One Year Later

Mens' lives are changing, the effects have spread beyond the Recovery Home

(Dixon, IL)

It was May 30, 2018, that Sinnissippi Centers' Recovery Home opened, accepting its first resident. The individuals come from the four-county area Sinnissippi Centers serves, Carroll, Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside Counties. Sinnissippi Centers' Recovery Home provides 10 beds for adult men facing a substance use disorder who need extended support with staying clean and sober. In the first year 17 men have been served by the recovery home with an average stay of 6-9 months before returning to their homes and their communities.

Over a year later, the impact of that event is quite clear as evidenced by the words of Jeff Woods, Recovery Home Specialist who was inspired to write down his thoughts on that impact.

"Since the beginning of the Recovery Home, I've noticed quite a change in the dynamics of the Recovery Community," says Jeff Woods. "Whether it's where individuals are working, the recovery meetings they attend, or other members from the Drug Courts that are in the counties we serve, the impact on the sober community has been huge. Meeting attendance in the Sterling, Rock Falls, Dixon, and Oregon areas have been at its highest. During meetings, discussions have involved networking for employment, such as places that hire felons, places that are hiring, and sober activities that the communities are doing to stay in each other's lives. It's quite incredible to see people go to a meeting, not just for the meeting, but to stay in contact and be helpful to one another," adds Woods.

"Several of the individuals at the Recovery Home have difficulty with transportation, and their needs are met out of the kindness from others in recovery that do have the ability to take people to job interviews, doctor's appointments, and fulfill other needs and obligations in hopes of supporting their recovery," says Woods. "The individuals at the Recovery Home are dedicated to changing their lives for the better and to stay in contact with those they see on a regular basis. The Recovery Home has had such impact on these men's lives."

"I am forever thankful that I can be a part of such profound change in these individuals' lives," adds Woods. "As a recovering alcoholic with three and a half years sober, I find myself wishing I had a place such as Sinnissippi's Recovery Home to begin my journey through sobriety. I am forever thankful that the Recovery Home has had such an impact on the sober community in the surrounding area. I see new faces at meetings on a regular basis, and continue to see them regularly because they have a sense of security and understanding of what addiction is and how it's impacted their life and other's. I couldn't be more proud of the sober community that we have today, and I firmly believe that the Recovery Home is responsible for much of that impact," says Woods.

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The Recovery Home is a therapeutic environment to support men in their recovery. These individuals are in recovery because they want to maintain their sobriety. Residents are linked with wrap-around support services when applicable. Recovery Home residents are strongly encouraged to participate in 12-step meetings.

Sinnissippi Centers is planning for the future of the Recovery Home concept and would like to establish a Women's' Recovery Home.

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