



the
EXTENSION

The solution for homelessness & addiction

THE MEANING OF
Purpose

ANNUAL REPORT
2020



the
EXTENSION

The solution for homelessness & addiction

"I kept thinking my life was a mistake, that my life was the sum total of all my mistakes and bad decisions. I just kept sinking lower and lower. The only thing I was good at was screwing up. I felt sorry for myself, sorrier still for anyone who thought I could change. I was sure I couldn't. To me it was pointless trying. I had no value to anyone, including myself. But today I found The Extension and somehow I know I'll begin to find my purpose."

— Mark

Acceptance

HAS A PURPOSE

Acceptance begets our simple goal: that those who enter our program will never again depend on drugs to get them high or charity to get them by. The Extension is the leading provider of residential treatment services for homeless, addicted men and women in the state of Georgia. We are a licensed and accredited community supported, non-profit organization making a real and lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.

Our one year program offers an individualized service plan to address the root causes of each client's addiction and actions leading to homelessness. In a loving and supportive environment we lay a foundation for a new life for men and women to reach their potential without ever using alcohol or drugs again. Our purpose is to serve those who have been cast aside due to the insidious disease of addiction.

With separate campuses for men and women (47 beds at the men's campus, 21 beds at the women's campus, along with 10 off-site beds for men and 4 off-site beds for women), we provide a holistic, evidenced based treatment incorporating leading best practice models. We do this in partnership with businesses, faith-based organizations, foundations and individuals throughout our community. We work

"To be sure, those who seek our help have a choice; they always did have a choice, but what they need is a chance. Coming into the program is an act of mutual acceptance, and it's the best chance that many have ever had." — Robert Jordan, NCAC, CAC, CAMS II, ARBS, MATS, Men's Program Director

"The Extension is not where homeless, addicted men and women end up; rather, it is where they start up."

—Tyler M. Driver, Executive Director

closely with the criminal justice system and are able to transform lives and strengthen the fabric of our community for less than half the cost of incarceration.

Combined we have half of all the addiction treatment beds for adults in Cobb County, a county that has a larger population than three states. While we have expanded our services considerably over the years, we remain true to our founding mission: saving lives.

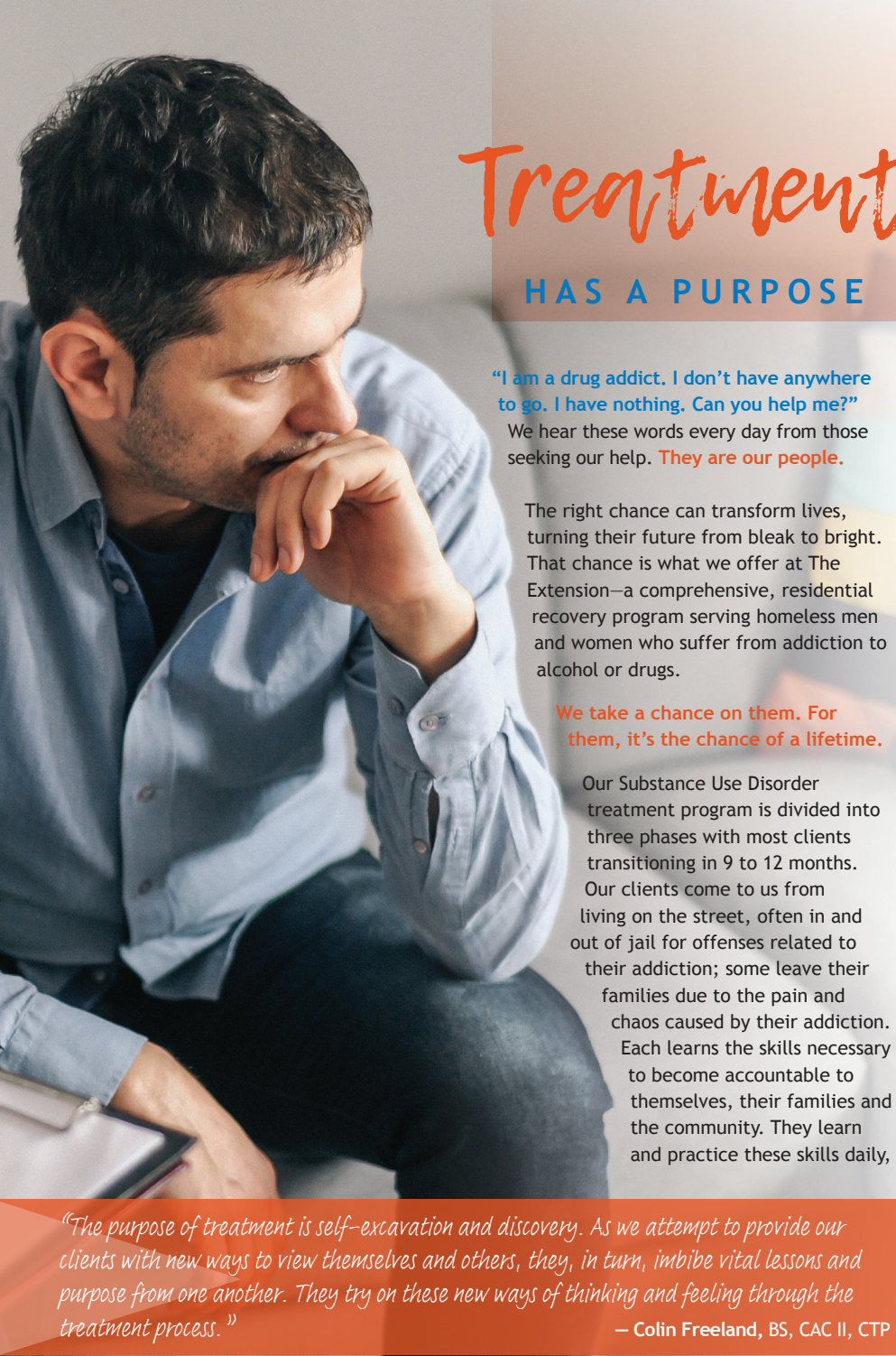
Accepting those who have been rejected is what we do. Rejection by those whose families understandably have had enough of the lies and deceit from their loved one, rejection by a justice system that has few alternatives to jail for those whose behavior is a reflection the pain they feel, rejection by the person themselves of society's norms and the demands that come with it—those are the people we accept. The we in that statement includes all of us who connect with the organization to serve or be served, and invariably realizing that at the point of contact we are all the same; we all serve and are served. We accept each other as a declaration of purpose.



Everything you read in this Annual Report is predicated on acceptance. Even historically acceptance was key. In 1987 we began our service to the community as the Marietta-Cobb Winter Shelter; we accepted anyone who needed respite from the deadly cold. Soon afterwards we had to accept the fact that we weren't having a long lasting effect on those we served. We saw firsthand that homelessness is not so much a problem as it is the symptom of a problem. In response, we accepted the challenge by creating the preeminent long-term residential treatment program for homeless, addicted men and women in the state.

Our mission is to facilitate a transformation that empowers chemically dependent men and women to become sober, accountable members of society, and to serve as a recovery resource for the community.

Our vision is to become the replicable model of success in our community and beyond for the prevention and treatment of chemical dependency for those without the ability to pay.



Treatment

HAS A PURPOSE

"I am a drug addict. I don't have anywhere to go. I have nothing. Can you help me?"

We hear these words every day from those seeking our help. **They are our people.**

The right chance can transform lives, turning their future from bleak to bright. That chance is what we offer at The Extension—a comprehensive, residential recovery program serving homeless men and women who suffer from addiction to alcohol or drugs.

We take a chance on them. For them, it's the chance of a lifetime.

Our Substance Use Disorder treatment program is divided into three phases with most clients transitioning in 9 to 12 months. Our clients come to us from living on the street, often in and out of jail for offenses related to their addiction; some leave their families due to the pain and chaos caused by their addiction. Each learns the skills necessary to become accountable to themselves, their families and the community. They learn and practice these skills daily,

"The purpose of treatment is self-examination and discovery. As we attempt to provide our clients with new ways to view themselves and others, they, in turn, imbibe vital lessons and purpose from one another. They try on these new ways of thinking and feeling through the treatment process."

— Colin Freeland, BS, CAC II, CTP



"The Extension provides a safe space to explore and seek ways to redefine self. It's the unconditional acceptance clients find that allows them to thrive in recovery."

— Cher Randall, BS, CADCII, CAMSII, ARBS, Women's Program Director

in a safe and supportive environment to promote healing and growth. Every client works a full-time job in our community. They learn to abide by society's rules by first obeying ours.

This rigorous program is grounded in group psychotherapy and psychoeducation, and individual counseling and case management tailored to the needs of the clients in each phase of the program.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS INCLUDE:

- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Counseling
- Case Management
- Family Counseling
- Life Skills
- Employment, Money Management, Toxic Relationships, Effective Communication, Physical Health/Nutrition, Civics & Citizenship
- Recovery 101 & 102
- Meditation
- Process Groups
- Relapse Prevention Therapy
- Co-Dependence Therapy
- Boundaries
- Anger Management for SUD Clients

The Extension offers the best in behavioral health with the grassroots purpose of helping those who cannot help themselves, the homeless and addicted. Here they not only find treatment but a family. Treatment has purpose.



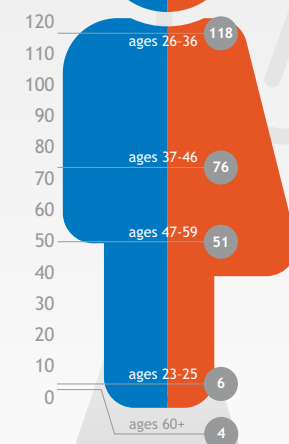
34,129
hours of treatment

172
Men Served

14,363
hours of treatment

83
Women Served

Men & Women Served





Perseverance

HAS A PURPOSE

So why do they stay? The Extension's solution for homelessness and addiction is a long term residential treatment program. Around 90 days to 6 months, clients are feeling better physically and mentally, they are excelling at work, the bank account is starting to build and they are taking care of their part of financial responsibilities for their family. Some recovery programs call it a "pink cloud"; a moment of "I've got this!" This can be the most vulnerable time in a client's decision-making where they can choose to stay or go. The Extension gives them a purpose greater than themselves, a brotherhood or sisterhood and an outlook longer than the immediate gratification trap of addiction.

Of course, 2020 has been the year of the Covid-19 crisis.

The mental health stress of fighting an unknown foe has been a pandemic of its own for addiction in our community. Some have never made it through our doors for another chance and some have left the program early, but the vast majority of clients and staff have found a new level of strength in their new purpose in recovery or for those they serve. They are

"While we will never take our volunteers and donors for granted, I just knew they would continue to serve with us in the trenches. Their dedication is truly a work of HEART."

— Renee McCormick, Director of Community Relations

"We work in a field where lack of self-worth is such a crippling part of the client's disease. Being able to be consistent with passion and enthusiasm is crucial to providing light at the end of a dark tunnel."

— Cody Davis, CACI, CRS, ARBCS

persevering behind masks, sanitizing protocols, smaller groups and a new way of connecting through zoom. While recovery looks different, it is more important than ever to counsel, teach and connect over how to handle stress and things we cannot control.

A beautiful testament of our volunteer and donor base persevering through the crisis has been their continued commitment to feed 82 residents, each day, during this time of no contact. Led by First United Methodist Church of Marietta and Printpack, churches and businesses have stepped up to make sure there was never a concern over missed meals. Many organizations have also donated handmade masks, disinfecting products, paper goods and more.



"Together we show them that they can learn to handle all that is put before us, even when it feels too hard to handle."

— Melissa Baden, BS





Commitment

HAS A PURPOSE

Recovery isn't for the faint of heart. From the journey of a client new to sobriety, to the staff who serves and volunteers and donors who give consistently, this way of life has purpose. Seeing a person rise from the ashes of everything they've burned down in active addiction to becoming healthy and flourishing as a parent, employee, alumni of our program and a successful contributing member of our community, is something you will never forget. It writes a story on your heart and mind that reminds us that every human life has purpose.

To serve our community fully and to fulfill our commitment as an organization, we provide a means to those who come to us for help to find their potential and purpose. This program helps to heal the wounds of addiction and give back to the community men and women made whole, men and women who have the desire and new-found ability to be accountable to themselves, their families and the community who supported them during their treatment.

"I have experienced 'It's a God Thing' firsthand. Volunteering in 2017 as the Life Skills trainer, I saw the beautiful transformation purpose brings into the lives of men and women. Today I am honored to support the organization full-time. I have found my purpose!"

— Stephanie Sheridan, Assistant Director of Administration

"Our success is based, not just on the uncompromising commitment that we make to each and every client, but to the deep commitment that each of them make to themselves to recover, heal and to be restored."

— Rev. Bruce Cerbone, MA, BCPC, CACI, CCTP

Men and women in this program often find their healing and purpose at different speeds but when the light switch flips on, it is a driver for great things to come. That's why Individual Service Plans are so important. They are reviewed every 30 days and updated every 60 days. For some 12 months may be a long time but as the rubber meets the road, it's only a page in the new story of restoration and freedom.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Cobb County Water System

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Michael Goins
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Retired CPA

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Owner & CEO
Greg Stone Media Consulting

Richard Stringer
Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice
Kennesaw State



Stewardship

HAS A PURPOSE

Stewardship has many facets. Effectiveness and efficiency are certainly critical aspects of stewardship, but it's more than just that. Our very engaged Board of Directors provides oversight and ensures, along with staff leadership, that resources are laser focused on our mission. Every year we undergo an independent audit that certifies our meeting the highest standards of fiscal accountability. Still, the purpose of stewardship extends beyond pure numbers.

One of the ways we are good stewards of the support we receive is how we leverage that support, with the help of many individuals, church and civic groups and businesses. The Extension is truly a group effort. Everyone who connects with us is critical and each person's contribution is supported by others' contributions.

During a normal year 1,600 plus volunteers provide over 15,000 hours of service, and an incredible 65,692 meals are provided during the course of the year. Volunteer groups from across the community provide dinner every night at our facilities. They also prepare sack lunches for our residents to take to work and make breakfast on many mornings. Other volunteers serve on our Board of Directors, answer phones and help with a myriad of other tasks. From governance to maintenance, volunteers are involved in

"Those who donate The Extension can be assured that we maintain the highest standards of integrity, accountability and transparency. It's all about changing lives and saving lives and making sure that the support we receive has the greatest possible impact on the people and community we serve."

— Barbara Frost, Director of Administration

"We owe it to our funders, our clients and our staff to be the most effective and efficient stewards of our resources. It's exciting to see the acknowledgement and support from the state, local and federal levels grow in behavioral health, positioning The Extension to save more lives."

— Jillian Bradfield

Director of Quality Assurance and Regulatory Compliance

bringing life-changing and lifesaving services to those in our community who need it most.

Of course, this past year has been anything but normal. Due to the covid pandemic, the number of volunteers dropped below 1,200; the number of volunteer service hours were reduced as well. Despite the challenges individuals and groups still stepped up still provided meals and other needed support.

Transparency is also an important part of stewardship. We'll likely never be the largest nonprofit organization in the country, but we can darn sure be the most transparent. We belong to the community and what we do is here for the community to see. Obviously, we adhere to strict privacy regulations and protect the identity of the people we serve and the personal information of our donors. Beyond that we are an open book.

But what does all of that really amount to? One important measure is that we provide effective long-term residential treatment *for less than half of the cost of incarceration*. Not all of our clients have run afoul of the law, but it's not unusual for those who are actively addicted to find themselves in jail. Surprisingly to some of us who have never had the experience, the threat of being locked up is not a particularly strong deterrent, and those who are incarcerated rarely get the help they need. They are simply biding time between episodes of abusing drugs or alcohol and the crimes associated with it.

It's a tough issue, but it often boils down to the community spending a great deal of money to incarcerate a person who doesn't get help and ultimately repeats a continuous cycle of drug use, crime and time behind bars. As part of our purpose of stewardship, we are the needed alternative. By leveraging resources and being effective, efficient, and transparent, the solution cost far less than perpetuating the problem.



INCOME

Churches	\$15,832
Businesses	\$39,962
Individuals	\$201,685
Foundations	\$31,885
Special Events ...	\$33,500
Resident Fees ...	\$152,272
United Way	\$8,165
Cobb County	\$3,381
Federal & State	\$1,171,330
Civic Clubs	\$6,807
Other	\$6,861
Total	\$1,671,680

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$1,461,584
Management & General	\$90,111
Fundraising	\$110,489
Total	\$1,662,184





Those We Serve

HAVE A PURPOSE

Mothers have purpose, same for goes for fathers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, all those closest to us have purpose.

The person we hire to fix a plumbing problem or replace a faulty light switch has purpose. The person at the grocery store bakery who decorates our child's sixth birthday cake has purpose. Those who repair our car or sell us a new one have purpose. Those who provide comfort to our aging parents or grandparents in the nursing home have purpose. Your favorite nurse at your doctor's office has purpose. The attorney you reach out to for help with an important legal matter has purpose. These and so many more are the people we serve.

As our organization has grown, the chances are quite good that you have been helped in some way by a current client or one of our 1,000 plus alumni. Without a doubt those we serve are deeply loved by their families. Regardless of our role in the community, who our friends are or who we are related to, we share a common purpose: to love and be loved.

Human lives are precious and we are very blessed to serve the homeless and addicted. We love them while they cannot love themselves. For them, addiction has been the coping mechanism for what they have always been missing... a purpose. This purpose is the life-saving solution, through acceptance, treatment, perseverance and commitment. Clients are offered a "life rebuilt" and their lives have purpose. Love and a deep sense of brotherhood and sisterhood help foster peace and hope that was absent before The Extension became home. This recovery is possible — our alumni are proof.

If you've read this far, then you probably share our purpose. We welcome you to join us in this life-saving work.

"The Extension has created a ripple effect of harmony and peace that is felt way beyond the walls. This IS our community."

— Tony Stanley
CACI

"Each beautiful soul we serve has a name, a story and a purpose. They touch our lives and make us better too."

— Cyndi Hall, ARBS, CIT

"I am inspired every day by the achievements we are able to celebrate with our clients... from finding a job, buying a car or the ultimate gift of family reunification, the gratitude of life is abundant."

— Christy Hamby
ARBS, CIT

"The past 11 months have been incredible! I have a life I never knew I could have. My dad is proud of me. My son calls me every night and I see him on the weekends. The week after Christmas we're going on a father-son camping trip with some other dads and their sons from my church. It'll probably be cold, but that's okay. My boss gave me a raise. People like me now. Most importantly I like myself. I'm transitioning next week. Me and an Extension Alumni from last year are renting a small house. He has a son too, and he's at The Extension all the time sponsoring guys and giving back, just like I plan to do. Everything is working out. Every time by son says daddy, and he says that a lot, it's like he's reminding me of my purpose. Because of all those who support The Extension, I know how to be the man I'm supposed to be."

— Mark





the
EXTENSION

The solution for homelessness & addiction



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