

Jeremiah's Times

Editors: Sarah Lange & Alyssa Dancause Contact: info@jeremiahsinn.com



A Note From the Executive Director...



Happy summer! We hope you're enjoying the warm weather and are able to take some time off! Here at Jeremiah's Inn, we never take time off – we staff the Inn 24

hours/day, 365 days/year. But that doesn't mean we don't take a break or know how to enjoy ourselves! As the saying goes, "all work and no play, makes Jack a dull boy!"

The Sober Softball season has just come to an end. We had a great season; got lots of exercise and learned to work together as a team. Our record was 3 wins and 7 losses. More important than our record, however, is that we had fun! We're so grateful to this year's sponsors: the **Central MA AFL-CIO**, **Masterman's** and **Tri-state Truck Center**. We hope next season you'll come to cheer us on!

Our Annual Meeting – held in May – was a big success. We honored 6 Golden Friends

and proudly shared our accomplishments of the past year with everyone who turned out for the meeting. If you'd like a copy of our annual report, feel free to contact our new Communications Coordinator, Alyssa Dancause!

This year's Annual Food Drive, which was held in mid-June, was quite a success! Thanks to our sponsors – **Berkshire Bank**, **Cornerstone Bank**, **Hyde-Dexter Russell Charitable Foundation**, **Millbury Savings Bank**, **Nypro Foundation**, and the **Teamsters Union!** – and the cash donations collected during our week-long drive at the Shaw's Supermarket on Gold Star Boulevard, we raised a total of \$4,500 and collected 1,174 pounds of food! Thanks to everyone's generosity, each year we're able to feed more than 9,000 area residents who are struggling with hunger.

We're proud of the outcomes of our Social Model program and are happy to report that this year, our completion rate has increased to 52.2%! This is a significant uptick from last year's rate of 36.1%, which was still higher than the state average. In a report issued after the

(Cont. on pg. 3)



Softball 2018



Food Drive June 2018

Resident Story– Meet Josh D.



Joshua D. 27 from MA became a resident here at Jeremiah's Inn in May of this year. Josh had a fairly conventional upbringing. As an only child he appreciated holidays and time spent with his cousins and extended family. He was active in sports and states he was "obsessed" with Pokémon! Like most of us, Josh had hopes and dreams: becoming an NBA superstar or a famous rapper among them. "If I could earn good money doing something I love to do, then I thought my life would be complete." At the age of 14 he began to experiment with cigarettes, marijuana, and alcohol. Slowly his hopes and dreams began to fade as his addiction progressed over the next 8 years. "By the time I was 22, I had come to the realization that my drug addiction had completely consumed my life and I have been battling ever since." Josh finally concluded that he needed to ask for help if he was going to survive. "I was hesitant to ask another human being for assistance and guidance: I was ashamed and embarrassed." He knew

that in order to recover from his illness he would need to do something different. When he got accepted into the social model program at Jeremiah's Inn he knew that he had an opportunity to change the way he looked at recovery. "What I enjoy about the social model is that we work as one in order to achieve and maintain our recovery. I can turn to any of my 29 other brothers for support in a severe time of need, and we can celebrate each other's success." Speaking of celebrating success; Josh is approaching 6 months free from the use of drugs and alcohol, and was asked what living a recovered lifestyle looks like to him? "My life looks peaceful, productive, and simple. Changing my lifestyle completely was the most difficult part of my journey; but turned out to be the most rewarding thing as well!" Josh has really taken advantage of all that Jeremiah's has to offer since his admission to the program.

(Cont. on pg. 3)

Featured Staff

Brandon MacGillivray, House Manager



As a resident Brandon's cheerful spirit, positive attitude and critical thinking skills helped to facilitate many changes at the Inn since his arrival. So much so, that upon completion of the program he was invited to apply for the House Manager position. As House Manager, Brandon is afforded the opportunity to begin his career in the field of addiction treatment. He is presently pursuing the Alcohol and Drug Counseling Certification (CADAC). His unique position as both alumni and an employee allow new residents to witness the promises of recovery in action. A quote Brandon has adopted into his daily affirmations, by Claude Bissell: *"Risk more than others think is safe. Care more than others think is wise. Dream more than others think is practical. Expect more than others think is possible."*

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Alyssa Dancause, Communications Coordinator



Alyssa began her journey at Jeremiah's Inn as an intern in 2017. She is a graduate of the Addiction Counselor Education Program.

Alyssa was hired as a case manager on completion of her internship, and subsequently was promoted to her current position as the Communications Coordinator. In her new position she intends to continue to learn and grow with the team and to help advocate for those who are struggling with addiction and hunger. "I kept putting one foot in front of the other, and doing the next right thing, and I found myself here at Jeremiah's Inn. I am so grateful for this opportunity to give back some of what has been freely given to me." 

Notes From the Field— The Need for More Treatment

Each year, 60,000 MA residents enter detox units – where they receive 4 days for treatment for alcoholism and 6 for opiate addiction. This is just the first step on a long road to recovery. Even if someone is able to remain substance-free after leaving detox, MA has only 8,000 Clinical Stabilization Service (CSS) beds. CSS treatment lasts 12 days, which is not enough time to address addiction, which is a complex disorder. From CSS, clients can enter Transitional Step-down Service (TSS) while they wait for residential treatment (the average wait is 3 months), but there are only 4,000 TSS beds in MA. TSS does not provide the clinical treatment that those in early recovery need, only psycho-educational groups and case management.

There are only 2,000 residential beds in MA. Residential treatment averages six months and provides those struggling with an addiction disorder the time and space they need to start to explore and resolve the underlying causes of their addiction while learning how to live in recovery. At this point in time most insurance does not cover residential treatment. In many ways, the addiction treatment system is set up for failure -- 60,000 seek treatment each year, but there are only 2,000 residential beds. It's no wonder we can't make a dent in the problem of addiction!

There are 12 residential programs in Central MA with 300 beds; only 4 of these use the Social Model of recovery; only 2 serve men. We serve 29 men at a time in our 6-month program, serving approximately 100 men per year. At present, our completion rate is 52.2%. However, when a man is ready to graduate, there are very few options for continued treatment, as there is a dearth of MASH-certified sober housing available in Central MA.

At present, there are only 17 sober houses certified by MASH (MA Alliance for Sober Housing) serving men in Central MA, representing a total of 188 beds. Of these, 81 beds are in the Fitchburg/Leominster area, 85 are in Worcester,

and 22 are in other Central MA locations. The current stock of 85 beds does not begin to meet the needs of local the residential treatment programs serving men! The lack of certified sober homes presents one of our biggest challenges in after-care planning. As a result of this shortage, the bulk of our graduates end up in mainstream housing, which does not offer the support they need to continue their recovery. This is why we're working so hard to establish a Sober House, so we can extend the continuum of care for those who need a safe, structured environment in which to continue their recovery. If you'd like to learn how you can support this project, contact Executive Director ,

Janelle Wilson:

Janelle@jeremiahsinn.com or 508.755.6403.



Community Harvest Project Volunteer Day

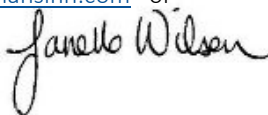


Note from Exec. Dir. (cont.)

Department of Public Health- Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (our licensing and regulatory agency) conducted a client satisfaction survey and we met or exceeded our peers in nearly every category! We have no intention of resting on our laurels, however – as long as people are dying from addiction, we will continue to fight the good fight.

We continue working to establish a Sober House in Worcester, and recently submitted an application to secure a significant amount of funding for the project. We're also working to secure funding to repair and paint our building's exterior, installing back-up generators, and making some upgrades to the kitchen. As always, we strive to provide a warm and welcoming environment to the men in our residential program and everyone who comes to use the food pantry!

If you have questions or want to stop by for a tour, please contact me at Janelle@jeremiahsinn.com or 508.755.6403.


Wish list items

- **Rolling Coolers for Food Pantry**
- **Flip Flops/Shower Shoes**
- **Twin Bedding: Pillowcases and Comforters**
- **Deodorant, shaving cream, razors etc.**
- **Underwear and Undershirts (new)**
- **Industrial Toaster**
- **Plastic Totes for Storage**
- **Gluten Free Items**

Shout Out To...

The Masterman family is well-known locally for their generosity and outreach. Masterman's works with local organizations like ours to make a positive impact on the community. From T-shirts for the softball team, to sponsoring our annual CHOPPED!Worcester

event; Masterman's has always generously supported our mission. They even coordinate with a local bakery for the monthly delivery of bagels and cream cheese for the residents! Masterman's Safety and Industrial Supply embody the culture of giving that we aspire to here at Jeremiah's Inn -and we would like to recognize them! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for ALL you do for our community!

**CHOPPED!Worcester 2018**

Our second annual fundraiser will be held this year at **WPI Campus Center** on **9.24.18!**

For tickets and more info.

Contact Alyssa
(508) 755-6403x10

**CHOPPED!Worcester 2017****Resident Story (cont.)**

He volunteers in the food pantry, he attends wellness activities, and he is currently returning to college to complete his bachelors degree. "Jeremiah's Inn has given me an advantageous opportunity to better myself and get back on my feet. The best part about being here is how truly understanding the staff can be. I thank God every day for this opportunity!" Today Josh says his priorities have changed from the 14 year old kid who wanted to be a basketball player. Working the program has made helping others take precedence. "Through giving back continuously positive things will happen for me, and my recovery will thrive. At the end of the day, making others happy always makes me happy."

Get Involved!

Looking for more information about the volunteer programs we have to offer? Contact Alyssa at 508.755.6403x10 or via email alyssa@Jeremiahsinn.com



Deep sea Fishing



Annual Meeting 2018



Walk for Hunger



Volunteer Program

Board of Directors

A big thank you to our Board of Directors, who work hard to serve Jeremiah's Inn & the community:

Patricia Davidson, President
Joseph Stiso, Vice President
Gene Bouchard, Treasurer
Cassandra Anderson
Timothy Bibaud
Elmer Eubanks
Melinda Hillock
Jack Reardon
Eugene Santos-Roesler

If you are interested in becoming a board member, let us know!



CHOPPED!Worcester 9.24.18

**Worcester Cares
about Recovery 9.27.18
Annual walk/Rally**

Costume Drive 10.1-10.31

JEREMIAH'S INN uses a Social Model to provide residents with a safe environment in which to begin recovery. We foster a sense of community & mutual aid through partnerships, volunteerism & our Nutrition Center. Our vision is to help people better their lives in order to better the community.

Make sure to 'like' us on Facebook, follow us on Instagram, and sign up for our E-News to stay up to date with the latest goings-on at Jeremiah's Inn!
www.facebook.com/Jeremiahs-Inn-71929730072/
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HERE

Our Kindful Donor Database is now up and running!
Visit our donor page at www.Jeremiahsinn.com to check out our most convenient way to donate!