



# Jeremiah's Times



## Fall 2017

### Note From the Executive Director



What would you make from 2 cans of chicken, a jar of yellow mustard, and a package of dried figs? What dish could you conjure up from pork, instant mashed potatoes and fruit salad?

While most of us would be scratching our heads,

the four chefs that competed at our First Annual Chopped!Worcester event used ingredients commonly found in our food pantry to whip up tasty appetizers and entrees for our judges – so delicious, in fact, that two of the chefs tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place!

Held on September 25th in the White Room at the Crompton Collective, Chopped!Worcester was a huge success! The event sold out ahead of time, every auction item sold, people ate every last hors d'oeuvre, our non-alcoholic drinks were a huge success, and the crowd really enjoyed watching the four chefs do their thing. Most importantly, this event raised over \$10,000 for our food pantry!



This year's battle included chefs Mike Arristia from

the Hangover Pub (tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place), Rachel Coit from Kummerspeck (3<sup>rd</sup> place), Chris O'Harra from the Flying Rhino (1<sup>st</sup> place) and Jay Powell from the Twisted Fork (tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place). Our judges were Jim Eber from Mass Foodies, Alina Eisenhower, formerly of Sweet (a Cupcake Wars champion and Chopped competitor), and Mike Fisher from the Railers hockey team. Dale LePage – of Dale LePage and the Manhattans – kept things moving as our MC.



Red Roof Catering kindly donated the bulk of the hors d'oeuvres that our guests enjoyed so much. Musical entertainment was provided by Belit, who kept us all tapping our feet! Sarah from Mass Foodies and Joe Mangiacotti from Out with Joe provided live coverage of the event.

We are so thankful to our event sponsors! Boulevard Diner, the Teamsters, Savers Bank and Wegman's were Top Chef Sponsors. Gourmet Sponsors were: Cherie's Soul Creations, New Era, Donald Wentworth and William F. Lynch Mechanical Contractors. IBEW Local 96, Masterman's, and O'Connor & Maloney were Foodie Sponsors.

Kitchen equipment was generously loaned to us by Percy's and Westerman's -- without them, we couldn't have had this cook-off! Additional food

and beverages were supplied by: BT's Smokehouse, the Flying Rhino, the Hangover Pub, Kummerspeck, On the Rise, Polar Beverages, Sweet, and the Twisted Fork.



The following companies provided us with auction items: the Armsby Abbey, Adrienne Beaupre & Associates, Barber's Crossing, Baskin Massage, BirchTree Bread Company, Birch Alley, Blanchard's 101 Diner, Boulevard Diner, the Worcester Bravehearts, artist Jayne Brown, Business Communication Systems, Cherie's Soul Creations, Dacosta's Pizza Bakery, Defalco Family Chiropractic, the Dogfather, Enlightened Interventions, French Twist Boutique, HeadShop Hair Factory, the Museum of Russian Icons, Sylvia Murphy, Music Worcester, NU Café, O'Connor's Restaurant & Bar, Tracy Paul, the Worcester Railers hockey team, Seed to Stem, Top Shop Salon, Walker Farm at Whortleberry Hill, and the YWCA.

To everyone who supported this event – and in turn, the people who come to our food pantry, struggling with hunger and food insecurity – we thank you from the bottom of our hearts! We had an incredible time and hope you did too! We'll definitely be back next year, so stay tuned!

*Janelle Wilson*

## Recovery Month!

This time of year is a very busy time for us here at Jeremiah's Inn. Not only is September National Hunger Awareness Month (which is why we chose September for our CHOPPED! Worcester event, to support our Nutrition Center) but it is also National Recovery Month. Two causes very important to our hearts!

**August 31st** was **International Overdose Awareness Day**. Jeremiah's staff and residents headed down to City Hall Plaza in Worcester to help set up for a candlelight vigil in memorial to the lives lost to substance use disorders.

**September 20th**, The MA Department of Public Health Bureau of Substance Abuse Services presented **"Artists in Recovery" at Faneuil Hall in Boston**. This was a recovery awareness event that offered live music, storytelling, comedy and more! Jeremiah's own Kenny Pina was a featured artist at this event, with his incredible, recovery based poetry!

**September 23rd** was the **9th Annual Worcester Cares About Recovery Walk**. Jeremiah's Inn staff and residents hosted an information table at this event, as well as participated in the walk to raise awareness around recovery month and to support the recovery community.

**September 23rd** was also the date for the Annual **"Bang 'em for the Banger" Memorial Disc Golf tournament**. Hosted by the family of Michael 'Banger' Valerio, who was an avid disc golf player and lost his life to addiction. Proceeds from this fundraising event directly benefit Jeremiah's Inn. A **huge** thank you to the entire Valerio family for your support of and contribution to our mission and vision.

## Featured Staff

Meet the newest members of our amazing team!



### Jon Haapanen, House Manager

Jon came to Jeremiah's as a resident in February 2017. After graduating the program, he was hired as the house manager. His experience working with his hands, as well as first-hand understanding of the way our Social Model program operates made Jon an excellent fit for this role. Working in the field of substance use disorders is important to Jon, as he has a personal connection to the recovery efforts made by our residents.

He says "I have been fighting this fight my whole life

and wasn't on the winning side that often. I have always wanted to work in the field but was never really given the opportunity, until now. I truly believe that things happen for a reason and that there are no coincidences. Jeremiah's Inn gave me that chance, by helping me save my life and showing me how to change my thinking patterns through the social model program, as well as showing me how to live my life by providing me with an employment opportunity. I am very grateful to be part of the Jeremiah's family, and to be able to give back what was so freely given to me."



### Terry Hughes, Direct Care

Terry has been a long time employee of Dillon Tree Service, as well as the Channing House, another social model program here in Worcester. He came to Jeremiah's Inn as a Direct Care staff member in the spring of 2017. He feels that working at Jeremiah's Inn is important, as it is a way of giving back to those who struggle with the disease of addiction. He himself graduated from a social model program in 2002.

Terry came from Knoxville Tennessee to Worcester in 1996, to pursue his education at Becker College. He has a 12 year old son, and he enjoys writing, including novels and screenplays, in his free time.



### Dan Hill, Overnight Awake Staff

Dan came to Jeremiah's Inn as a resident in the spring of 2017. Following his graduation, he was hired as Overnight Awake Staff.

Dan has a passion for cooking and has worked at multiple restaurants. He has also done work in construction, and enjoys working with people and guiding teams toward their goals. Since graduation, he decided to pursue his education to obtain his Certification in Drug and Alcohol Abuse Counseling (CADC). He says he has a deep sense of gratitude towards Jeremiah's Inn, and how the program has helped him

build his recovery foundation.

He says he is blessed to work with such a talented, dedicated staff that he can learn and grow with in this new phase of his life and career.



To the friends of Jeremiah's Inn:

It's that time of year again -- time to think about our future! As a lead-up to our annual strategic planning retreat, we're once again surveying you about how you feel the Inn is doing in terms of fulfilling its mission.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CW96VKL>

Please complete this no later than Wednesday, November 30.

Thanks in advance for your input!

## 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  
Robert Bishop  
Elmer Eubanks  
Amy Harrington  
Melinda Hillock  
Jack Reardon  
Eugene Santos-Roesler

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



## Holiday Wish Program

The holidays can be particularly difficult for our residents as they struggle with feelings of loneliness, hopelessness and despair. Many of the men have few ties left with family and friends. As a result, they end up spending the holiday here at the Inn. Many of them feel they have let everyone down -- their family, friends, co-workers, their community. It's a heavy burden to bear at what is supposed to be a happy time of year. Beyond this, our residents who are fathers often feel ashamed because they do not have the financial means to provide their children with a Christmas gift.

This time of year is also hard for Nutrition Center clients, as well, who struggle to make ends meet and put food on the table for their families. The area served by our food pantry contains two of Worcester's five Food Deserts (an area where people cannot access fresh, healthy food on a regular basis). In 2016, we provided food to more than 10,500 people, from diverse backgrounds who speak many different languages. Like many of the men we serve, our Nutrition Center clients cannot afford to provide their children with Christmas gifts.

Our Residential Substance Abuse Recovery Program serves 29 men at a time, and more than 100 men each year. Our Nutrition Center provides food, nutrition education and health-related programming to more than 10,000 residents each year.

**I think we can all agree that everyone deserves a little joy, especially during the holiday season!**

As Thanksgiving, Giving Tuesday, Christmas and Hanukkah approach, we know that many of you are looking to make a difference in your community. Those of us who are lucky enough to have happy holidays often want to share our good fortune, looking for ways to donate our time, talent and treasure so others can have a happy holiday season.

### Jeremiah's Inn could use your help!

**You** can spread joy this holiday season by participating in our **Holiday Wish Program**. You can help by providing a holiday meal, and/or giving gifts for the men in our care, their children, and/or the children of our Nutrition Center clients. The 29 men we serve need basic items, such as undershirts, underwear, winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and work boots. We also have about 20 children that would love receiving a gift from their father for Christmas.

If you're willing to help us out, please email our Communications Coordinator Melissa Waddell as soon as possible:

[melissa@jeremiahsinn.com](mailto:melissa@jeremiahsinn.com)

or call her at 508.755.6403 to let her know how you can help. Thank you in advance for making the holiday season happier for our residents, Nutrition Center clients, and their children!



### Resident Story: Meet Justin

Justin grew up right down the street, in Auburn, MA. The oldest of three, raised in a two-parent household, Justin had the loving support of his family, was involved in sports, and had a typical, 'normal', childhood.

Around age 12, he began experimenting, as so many other teens do, with alcohol and marijuana. Justin

says he used both alcohol and marijuana on the weekends, but was still able to lead a productive life. That is, until he was exposed to Opioids.

Justin was 19 when he fell ill. He had severe back pain and digestive issues. He was prescribed OxyContin to manage his pain. Labeled as a miracle drug, and reported to have little to no adverse side effects to its users, doctors felt comfortable with prescribing this powerful narcotic for pain. Justin nor his family was aware of the dangers and potential for abuse with this medication. His use of the drug quickly turned to dependence, and not long after his doctors stopped prescribing it, Justin quickly turned to street drugs to provide the same effects as the OxyContin. Heroin is much easier to find, costs far less than buying OxyContin, and easily justified given his circumstances and perceived pain. The veritable monkey that is addiction had already settled comfortably on Justin's back, and his life would never be the same.

At the time he fell ill, he had a one year old daughter, whom he adores. Unfortunately, since becoming an addict, Justin had little to no contact with his daughter, and has spent about four years total in jails. He made several attempts at treatment, and tried various programs, before finding Jeremiah's Inn in 2015. Justin came to us broken and tired, and throughout his time here, he has worked to get his life back on track. He even accomplished a long-term goal of getting his high school equivalency. Unfortunately, Justin wasn't building the crucial recovery network he needed, and when the temptation to use arose, he acted on it. He left Jeremiah's Inn, and for a long time attempted to stay clean on sheer willpower alone. Eventually, he got back to using as hard as ever.

In September 2017, Justin found himself homeless, on the streets of Boston, sleeping in the backs of trucks. He felt hopeless and helpless, and didn't want to die but didn't know how to continue living. He decided he would give recovery another try. When he arrived at detox, he was informed that his family was searching for him, and believed him to be dead, based on a misreport on social media. This was the motivation Justin needed, knowing that his disease and behaviors were not only affecting him, but also devastating his family and the people that loved him. He had to give recovery, real recovery, a shot this time. He decided to return to Jeremiah's Inn, and give this opportunity his all.

Justin says that Jeremiah's has provided him with so much more than just a roof over his head. Jeremiah's has given Justin a solid foundation upon which he can gain the tools he needs to work on himself and better manage his disease. He sees it as a place where he can work on spiritual principles, and become the productive member of society he knows he can be. Justin has been able to accomplish goals while here, including rebuilding a relationship with his daughter the family counseling provided on-site. He also hopes to return to school, find a stable job, and get his driver's license back. He knows with the support of Jeremiah's Inn, these are all achievable goals.

Justin says he is happy today, and is no longer fearful of the future, but instead he is excited to see what the future holds for him!

## HOLIDAY WISH LIST

### For the Men

- Winter jackets
- Scarves, hats, gloves
- Winter boots
- Long underwear
- Gift cards: Target, Walmart, etc.
- Pillows (new)
- Sheets (twin)
- Pillow cases
- Blankets (twin)
- Quilts (twin)
- Bath towels
- Wash Cloths
- Underwear
- Undershirts
- Deodorant
- Soap/Body Wash
- Shampoo
- Razors
- Shaving cream
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Dental floss

- Water bottles
- Laundry detergent

### For their children

- Children's books & toys

### For the Inn

- SNOWBLOWER
- Carpet cleaner
- Deli/meat slicer
- Convection oven
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Dish soap
- Brooms
- Mops
- Dustpans
- Plates
- Mugs
- Bowls
- Cups
- Silverware

Contact Melissa for specific sizes:  
[Melissa@jeremiahsinn.com](mailto:Melissa@jeremiahsinn.com)

# Mission & Vision

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.



Our Halloween Costume Drive was a huge success! Thank you to all of our donors that helped to provide a Halloween costume to a child in need!

Pictured here are Rebecca Smith & John Paulik, of Tri State Truck Center, donating a box-full of costumes. They are also recipients of our 'Golden Friend' award for 2017.

**Jeremiah's Inn Inc.**  
**1059 Main Street**  
**P.O. Box 30035**  
**Worcester, Ma. 01603**

Our Kindful Donor Database is now up and running! Visit our donor page at [www.Jeremiahsinn.com](http://www.Jeremiahsinn.com) to check out our latest way to donate!

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 with Jeremiah's Inn!

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PLACE  
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