

Winter 2026

Oxford Tri-Star

Oxford House of TN Newsletter



Fast Facts

As of January 2026:

- **Men: 110 Houses, 880 Beds (2 Houses for men/children)**
- **Women: 72 Houses, 570 Beds (21 Houses for women/children)**
- **1,450 Total Beds**



Above: OHI Outreach Vickie Carter celebrating the holiday with Chapter 14, Oxford House Mira. Below: Christmas tree at Oxford House Ashirwad in Jackson.



Rebuilding & Making Memories by Vickie Carter

Recovery is not a straight line, it is a series of small, brave choices made day after day. It begins with acknowledging what was lost, while refusing to let loss define the future. In rebuilding a life, people rediscover strengths they didn't know they had. Each step forward, no matter how small, becomes proof that healing and having a safe place to call home, becomes proof that anything is possible.

As I've rebuilt my life, making new memories with my new family has been a dream come true for me. I didn't know it was possible to have this much fun in recovery, until I stepped in and allowed myself to be fully embrace it. The contagious laughter, love, acceptance, and understanding is what has helped me to continue on the road of rebuilding. Oxford House has helped me not only become stable and gain a family, but it's the community that continues to stand by me while I meet my goals!

Seasons Greetings By Melody Gentry

For Christmas in Jackson, several houses put up Christmas trees and stockings. Some of the Houses even exchanged Christmas gifts with one another. The kids loved it. This year at Oxford House Ashirwad member Makayla A. put up our tree and decorated the entire inside of the house. It was the first time in a few years that it really felt like Christmas for several of the members. We have some members that don't have family to go home to so they went home with other members to celebrate with their family. There's a lot of unity and love from everyone.

Jackson, Tennessee

Member Spotlight: Darlareisea W

I have been in an Oxford House since August 2025. Since I moved in, I have really enjoyed being a part of the Oxford House family! The fact that Oxford House has given me stability and provides a safe place for my daughter and I is one of the biggest reasons why I love living here. Another reason is the fact that there's such a big support network within Oxford, as well as accountability partners. It has definitely strengthened my confidence in recovery and reaching my goals.



Oxford Houses in Knoxville: A Year of Growth and New Beginnings

By Rachel Ketelle - Knoxville, TN

2025 has been a landmark year for Oxford House Knoxville, marked by strong momentum, community collaboration, and a shared commitment to recovery. In what we called a house-opening marathon, Oxford House Knoxville proudly opened 8 new houses, expanding safe, supportive recovery housing across the city.

New Houses Opened in 2025

Oxford House Tri-Star – 7 men

Oxford House Neyland – 10 men

Oxford House Wilder – 7 men

Oxford House Rollie Top – 10 men

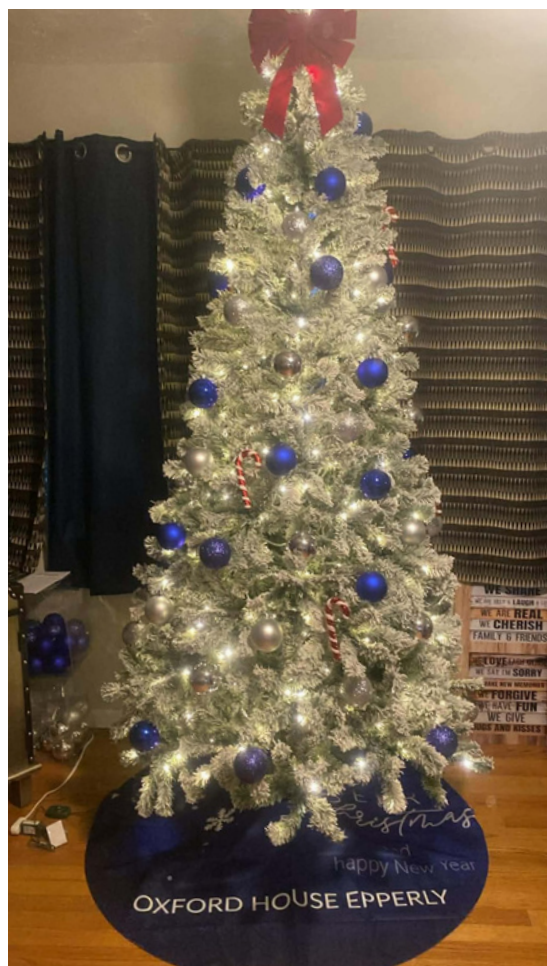
Oxford House Golden – 10 women

Oxford House Aligned – 11 men

Oxford House Southern Charm – 8 men

Oxford House Chapman – 11 men

Together, these homes represent more than 70 new recovery beds in Knoxville. Each one offers hope, accountability, and a fresh start for individuals committed to long-term recovery.



Above: Within a 10 mile radius and 4 short months, Oxford House outreach staff faced a daunting challenge - furnishing 5 new Houses. When an Oxford House opens, it relies almost solely on the generosity of the community. From dressers, to kitchen utensils, and even large appliances, we leave no stone unturned to make a House a home, and set the members up for success.

Left: Oxford House Epperly fully embraced the holiday spirit. Members decorated their tree and even ordered a new custom tree skirt, proudly embroidered with their Houses' name. Epperly is one of 3 Women & Children's Houses in Knoxville.

Looking Ahead to 2026

This year's growth reflects Oxford House Knoxville's continued focus on expansion, sustainability, and strengthening recovery communities. As the need for recovery housing continues to rise, Oxford House remains committed to opening doors, creating opportunity, and supporting recovery, one house at a time.

Thank you to our members, alumni, landlords, community partners, and supporters who made this year possible. The work continues, and so does the growth.

New Year's Resolution Challenge: Ask yourself - How will I grow in my recovery in 2026? What can I do differently this year to better honor this new way of life?

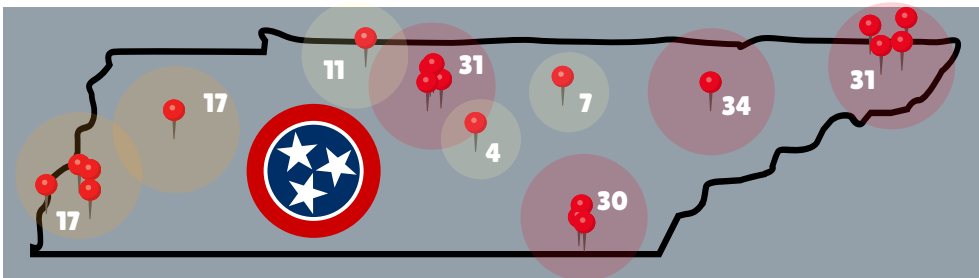
Carter County: Welcome Home By Payton Osborne

Opening an Oxford House in a new area means giving people a chance when they need it most. For so many of us in recovery, the hardest part isn't getting sober, it's staying sober once the structure is gone. Too often, people leave treatment full of hope but return to the same environments that nearly destroyed them. An Oxford House becomes a lifeline during that fragile time. It offers a safe place where sobriety is protected, accountability is shared, and no one has to walk the journey alone.



Oxford House is more than four walls and a roof! it is a home built on trust, responsibility, and second chances. Living alongside others who truly understand the struggle creates a bond that can't be replaced by programs or appointments alone. Residents learn how to show up for themselves and for each other, often for the first time in their lives. In that environment, healing begins, confidence grows, and men and women start to believe they are worthy of a better life.

Opening an Oxford House in a new community is about hope! Hope for individuals who want to change, and hope for families who have prayed for their loved ones to find stability. It's about breaking cycles, rebuilding lives, and creating a space where recovery can take root and grow. This house would stand as proof that people do recover, and that when given the right support, lasting change is possible.



In the last 5 years, Oxford House has expanded its reach to 8 new TN cities: Bartlett, Germantown, Cordova, Hermitage, Cookeville, Murfreesboro, Elizabethton, and Bristol.

Oxford House is always looking for new landlords! Currently, 182 Oxford Houses are being leased across the state. Some of those properties have been leased by Oxford Houses for over a decade! Oxford Houses are single-family homes, as described by the FHAA of 1988, not commercial properties. Oxford Houses have a track record of being reliable, long-term lessees. If you're a Tennessee landlord and you want more information, please contact:

Jason.Hill@oxfordhouse.org
Sarah.Harris@oxfordhouse.org

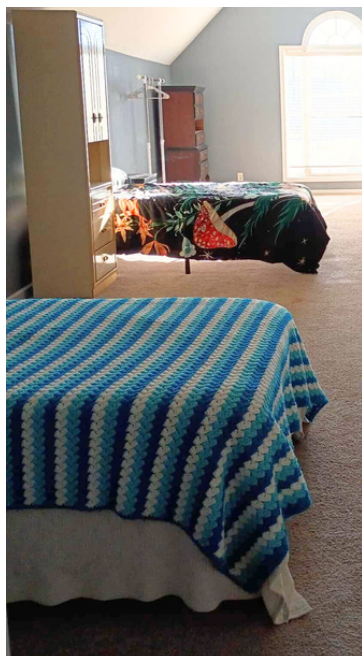
Are you Interested in Leasing your Property to an Oxford House?

The Rising Phoenix

Travis Booher - Murfreesboro, TN



A look inside and out of Oxford House Parton. Named after Tennessee icon, Dolly Parton, this incredible home is a 2,900sqft 4bd/3ba.



For the past year, I have had the pleasure of experiencing the restoration and growth of Chapter 25 in Murfreesboro. About this time last year Chapter 25 took on a massive challenge to secure their future as a part of Oxford House of Tennessee. Through their trials and tribulations and constantly staying in the solution we were able to begin 2026 with opening new doors for those seeking recovery in our homes. Huge shoutout to Tami Jenkins, Alexa Krietz, Sarah Fesler for stepping up to be of constant service to a growing chapter. Because of their service the vacancies in Chapter 25 stayed at an all time low for six consecutive months and the houses really put the recovery of the homes as a priority. Because of their success we were able to expand. On January 1st, 2026 Oxford House Parton opened their doors for 7 women serious about their recovery.

The opening of OH Parton wasn't like any other house I've opened before. Sarah, Alexa, and myself spent hours scouring the marketplace ad listings asking for furniture donations. The men from Beorn spent a total of 15 hours in a Uhaul truck with me going door to door to piece together the puzzle pieces to make this house a home. With nothing more than a goal and a desire the members of Chapter 25 came together and secured the best possible foundation for the newest addition of their family.

Furthermore, the houses have experienced a season of financial success. Each house was able to donate \$1000 to the opening of Oxford House Parton. In addition, Oxford House Beorn has fully paid off the balance of the loan carried over from the past membership, with Oxford House Crowne Pointe following shortly behind them. Each house has developed a prudent reserve and have been replacing old beds, furniture, and tending to domestic improvements to make their houses feel more like home.

As their Outreach Worker, I couldn't be more proud of what they have become. And it has been an honor to be of service to them.

Member Spotlights - Chattanooga, TN

Charlie M - Oxford House Fox Trail: Before Oxford House, my life was a constant cycle of survival and paranoia. I spent years bouncing from trap houses to hotels, living on the road and on the streets with nowhere safe to stay. I was always on the move. It was a dark, exhausting way to live where I never had a moment of peace or safety.

I have been off Fentanyl since May 26, 2023, and fully clean from all drugs since March 8, 2024. This is the first time in my life I chose to get sober. It was also the first time I went through rehab and it has worked out for me. I am blessed I completed treatment at CADAS on April 5th, 2024 and moved right in to an Oxford House.

Since moving in to an Oxford House, I have gained leadership skills and confidence to rebuild my life from the ground up. Beyond just staying clean, I learned how to lead with integrity. I've served as President of my House and Chair of my Chapter. I've gained the respect of my peers, and won awards within the Oxford community. I've learned that my past doesn't define my capacity for success.

Today, I have a career in a science lab, where I've earned two promotions in a year and now serve as the Mechanical Engineer Specialist Lead over my department. I am also living out my dreams as a published author. Because of the stability Oxford House provides, I no longer live in fear; I live with purpose. I

spend my days leading my team at work and my evenings helping maintain a culture of recovery and unity in our community.

To the newcomer reading this, realize that your potential is limitless once you put down the drugs. Use the structure of

Oxford House as a foundation. Don't just 'stay' here - lead here. Take on as house officers, show up for your people, and set an example of what is possible. If someone like me can go from trapped to being a Lead Engineer and a published author, you can achieve whatever you're willing to work hard for. Stay unified, stay sober, and don't stop dreaming.



Sabrina P - Oxford House Hixson Terrace: Before Oxford my life was a huge, chaotic mess! I was homeless and living in the car. No safe place to sleep, shower or to eat. Nothing to do but drugs to not giving a poo! My life lacked purpose, structure and serenity. I knew I didn't want to live that way anymore, but that first step was a hard one to take and I couldn't see the light at the end.

When I finally got sick and tired of being

sick and tired, I went to Freeman Recovery in Dickson TN. My clean date is May 17, 2024. And on July 7, 2024 I moved into Oxford House Hixson Terrace in Chattanooga, TN. (continued —>)



Since then, I've become a person with a purpose and have learned things I lacked before recovery. I have met some amazing people and have traveled to Washington DC, a place I never thought I would be able to see in person. I'm the Treasurer of Chapter 8 and have attended every chapter meeting since I've been a member of Oxford House. My house has had some issues but we work together to hold each other accountable and our house runs smoothly. I've grown as a person and as a member of Oxford House. I feel that I can carry a message of recovery and teach others about life at an Oxford House! Oxford House has given me stability, structure and purpose. I have held every office in my House and have held two different offices in Chapter. I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be.

If you're new here, involve yourself in your sobriety and your recovery. Become active in your House and your Chapter! Work a program, get a sponsor and do the steps. You have to want it to get it!

Vision, Leadership, & Welcome Home: The Making of an Oxford Recovery Family



Hello Oxford Family! **My name is Don Jenkins** and in September 2025, I was asked by the outreach workers for Chapter 3 if I would be interested in opening a new Oxford House as a "CORE" member in Johnson City. Having been in another house for 14 Months, sober and clean, I gladly accepted the opportunity as I felt that it was time to give back to the program that saved my life. That's when things really changed! It's not an easy task to just open a house. There were times when work was delayed, redone, paused, or just not completed in the projected time frame. It was frustrating but rewarding at the same time to see upgrades to the house being done. At the time, it felt as if progress wasn't moving fast enough - little did I know that was the easy part!

A startup loan of \$4,000 is given to each new house that opens. Now to some of us, that seems to be a lot of money.... until you soon realize how much things actually cost "legally"! That's when I started to go online to Facebook marketplace and other platforms to see what I could find at yard sale prices, but the items would still be in quality condition. Weeks of haggling prices and simply asking if they would be willing to donate items to a recovery house opening in their city resulted in my genuine surprise. Many sellers were more than willing to donate and some even delivered household items! Of course there were moments of unfriendliness, but perseverance wins the race, and I kept telling myself it would be worth it to build not just a house but a home.

The cleaning process came next. I mean deep down cleaning, which many struggle with before recovery, but excellent help from friends made the process much easier! After cleaning, it came time to get everything ready. Tasks included: hanging blinds, white boards, cork boards, or wall decor, to making sure every light bulb works, testing smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors, hanging fire extinguishers, assembling bed frames, shopping for sheets and pillows, logistically (continued →)

ANYTHING that needs to happen when moving into a house, yet this would be for 10 people. There was so much to do while still living in my current house like paying my EES, making my meetings to keep my recovery, and also keeping my sanity intact! This stage had significant pressure, and without the help of my partner Alisha (who also donated time, energy, funds, and support in every way), as well as Oxford House members, and community stakeholders, the house would not be the model example it is from when it opened October 25, 2025 to present day

In the final stage of opening a new house, I was informed another core member would get to move into the house! I finally had a minute to breathe and come to the realization that all this work, effort, and painstaking time had paid off. After moving in our belongings and we had settled in for the evening, the two of us ordered a pizza and had a chance to actually relax and laugh a little about the moments and events that unfolded during the whole process. Yes, there were some funny moments, but we knew that the work was not over and had really just started. Interview after interview happened next. Making sure that the incoming members would be able to work together and have a good foundation for their recovery is crucial to making not just an Oxford House but an Oxford Home. That was my vision from the start. We would get newcomers settled in and acclimated, help them with financial aid and assistance, and support them with necessary resources to help them hit the ground running in their recovery in their new home. We had even more interviews, voting in officers for the House, followed by more interviews, with the cycle continuing until our House ended up as a full-fledged, exemplar Chapter 3 House!

In closing, Auron House of Johnson City, Tennessee, is at full capacity. We are not just surviving but thriving in both the new house and our recovery. Through hard work we have managed to create a true recovery FAMILY. Of course, there were and always will be bumps along the road, but it has been the most rewarding and gratifying experience of my life! Yes, it was a lot of work and stress, but at the end of the day, if I were asked to open another House, without hesitation I would shout an emphatic "YES!". The process of turning an Oxford House into an Oxford Home is only possible with the help of MANY others, and I am forever grateful for this substantial opportunity to not only better myself but to give back to the community that saved me. From the bottom of my heart, Thank you!

New Year, Same Traditions by Sarah Harris

For over 50 years Oxford House has provided housing and rehabilitative support to those who have stopped using and want to stay stopped. It's at the core of what we do because it's our First Tradition. When you move into an Oxford House, you'll likely hear these Traditions again and again, but for a lot of us, it's easy to zone out, much like we zone out during the readings at a 12 step meeting. I highly encourage our members to not just read the Traditions, but to understand them.

Group living is not always easy. It takes teamwork, tolerance, and patience. It's important that we don't lose sight of our Traditions, especially the ones that directly affect the recovery and welfare of our House. I'd like to highlight the 2 that I think are the most important when it comes to resolving conflicts within your Oxford House:

Three - No member is ever asked to leave without cause. "Don't use, pay your share, and don't be disruptive" is how it was explained to me. Give each other grace, and look for opportunities to help your peers when it comes to behavioral issues. No one arrived to an Oxford House perfect.

Seven - Encourage your peers to seek professional help if it will help enhance their recovery. A lot of us come in with dual diagnoses, anger issues, and grief. If the House is failing to help someone with behavior problems, have a list of resources handy that may be able to provide them with clarity and relief.

Do the next right thing, stay sober, and God (of your understanding) will handle the rest!

Expansion



**OH Chapman
Opened Dec 2025
for men
Knoxville, TN**

**OH Celestial Heights
Opened Dec 2025
for women
Memphis, TN**



**OH Surgo
Opened Jan 2026
for men
Cookeville, TN**

**OH Parton
Opened Jan 2026
for women
Murfreesboro, TN**



**OH Himmel
Opened Jan 2026
for men
Elizabethton, TN**