

Oxford House of Tennessee

Autumn Newsletter

Newsletter by Sarah Harris



Members gathered at Riverwalk Park in Chattanooga for the quarterly State Association Meeting

This season's newsletter:

- Remembering a Legend
- Unity on the Bridge
- Oxford House Artists
- New Houses
- Pre-World HYPE
- City check-in, member spotlight and more!



**The 4th Annual
Unity on the Bridge Recovery Event**

Despite the rain, members of Oxford House and the recovery community, came geared up in raincoats and umbrellas to demonstrate what we cannot do alone we can do together.

Remembering a Founder: Paul Molloy

"Paul you are absolutely amazing man. Because of Oxford House and what you started - it saved my life."

"You were an amazing man and created an extraordinary organization. You will be missed by so many."
"He had an unshakable will that was only ever overshadowed by his caring heart. He spent a lifetime fighting for all of us to have an equal shot at hope and happiness."

"I want to say thank you for everything you have done, but thank you doesn't seem like enough. There have been countless lives saved because of you and there will be countless more. You will be missed."

"I'm forever grateful for the vision and the dedication he gave this world to help addicts and alcoholics - especially me."

"I really don't know where my life would be today, or if I would even have one if Paul Molloy didn't decide to rally his house mates to operate the house themselves. My heart is so heavy hearing this news. His legacy will live on and he has certainly left his mark on the world."

"Your vision and the movement that came from it is the reason I am the man I am today. The impact you have had in so many lives is unparalleled."

"I remember feeling his kindness, motivation, hope, and inspiration but mostly I will remember his chuckle and warm smile that seemed to come from deep within."

"What an amazing story, what an amazing legacy, and what an amazing individual."

"He is the inspiration behind why we do what we do."

"My life would not be what it is today had you not dreamed of a better life for all people living with addiction."

"Forever Indebted to you, Paul Molloy. You Changed the World my Brother."

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Unity on the Bridge



Unity on the Bridge was an amazing event. The recovery community of Chattanooga gathered early Sunday morning. Vendors began setting up before dawn. The weather was not ideal, but that didn't stop participants from making the best out of a dreary situation. After the prayer across the bridge, speakers shared their experience, strength and hope with others, all while a saxophonist played light jazz for the attendees.

A word from our fearless leader, the head of planning for *Unity on the Bridge*, **Marty Walker**: "Yes, it rained. Yes, we got wet. And yes, we did the bridge! We are serious about our mission and it showed today... All morning. Thank you to all that keep coming, keep helping, and keep putting one foot in front of the other! Proud of our beautiful city, and proud of everyone helping others towards a better life!"

Attendee feedback:

"I don't know who made it all possible but thank you to everyone for being the hope and showing me some light. First time here for me and I'll forever remember going from the bottom to the top of the bridge with all y'all by my side."

The recovery community in Chattanooga joined hands for prayer across the Walnut St Bridge.



The bridge was lit up purple in honor of Recovery Month and International Overdose Awareness Day.



Prayer was lead from the water below, by a group of recovering individuals in their kayaks.

Oxford House Artists

Medium: oil on canvas

"Most of my work deals with contrast. When painting, we must have the darkness to punctuate the light; that is my belief in life and what I try to convey through my work. For if we hadn't the darkness, what is the light?"



SK¹⁶

-S. Christopher Kuithe
Oxford House Huntington
Chapter 4 Chairperson

-Jon Smith, Oxford House Port, Ch 14 HSC CoChair



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Medium: spray paint

"I paint to center myself. When I came off the streets I had to find a new way to use a medium I have always enjoyed. The idea behind the art I do is to incorporate the serenity I have been blessed with in sobriety as well as the chaos of my past."

New Houses in TN

**Oxford House Aura,
home to 10 women**

Nashville

Open 08/15



**New Oxford House Aura shares the property
with existing House, Fleur de Soleil**

**Oxford House Shelton
Estates, home to 9 men**

Jackson

Open 07/01



**Oxford House Raim,
home to 8 women**

Johnson City

Open 09/01



**Oxford House Kairos,
home to 10 men**

Kingsport

Open 09/01



WHY IN THE WORLD are you going to World??



It's going to be an amazing experience, being in the same place with other recovering addicts from Oxford Houses around the world. I can't wait to meet everyone and hear their stories. I look forward to bringing information back to my chapter! -Tia H(TN Ch 21)

I went to World last year and it was such an amazing time. I met so many people. I'm so excited to learn new things and meet so many new people from accross the country!

-Trey F(State Secretary)

I absolutely love the way it feels to be in the presence of a bunch of recovering addicts that have true intentions at heart. I'm so excited to go! -Katy C(TN Ch 3)

I'm totally excited and grateful that I'm a delegate representing chapter 9 at World. I'm looking forward to learning more about Oxford House and bringing what I learn to my chapter.

- Jess W(TN Ch 9)

I'm excited to meet more of my Oxford House Family from around the US. I'm looking forward to all the new memories and laughs that I will share with them!

-Matt K(State Treasurer)

I'm grateful to fellowship with my Oxford House Family and listen to how Oxford has helped them grow in their own recovery.

-Ashley H(TN Ch 14)





Nashville

Purple Porches Homecoming

Purple Porches

Oxford Houses in Nashville have their purple porch lights up in observance of Recovery Month. Recovery Month educates people about substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders, and teaches that recovery is possible. National Addiction Professionals Day will be celebrated on Sep 20, to commemorate all the hard work that addiction professionals do daily. The day was established by NAADAC.

Vickie C. was an Oxford House Alumni and called Oxford House Nye's "home" for almost all of 2020. At the end of that year, she moved out of Nye's and in with her new family. Life takes all kinds of twists and turns. Often, the life we plan is not the one that's been planned for us.

In July, 2022, Vickie found herself in a situation that pushed her to make some difficult decisions. It's often said, that anything we put in front of our recovery, we will lose. When our world falls apart, sometimes the only solution is to take a step backward and see the bigger picture. For Vickie, a step backward can be seen as a step in the right direction.

"It's not just a place you go to change who you are. It's a place you go to become someone. It's a place to be a part of. The grace, hope and faith that I've gained from being here is what makes [OH] Nye's my home. There is no place I'd rather be. Oxford House is a part of my story. It's #1 on today's gratitude list." Vickie has been back at Oxford House Nye's since the end of July, 2022.



Fundraisers

As a house stays open for years, lots of furniture is upgraded. If the house has a storage space, chances are it's full of items collected by previous members, or items donated to the house. An annual yard sale is a great idea for fundraising and keeping the house clutter-free!

Yard SALE
 SEPTEMBER 3-4
 204 BEVERLY DR

Member Spotlight

Matt Kuser

- **Army Veteran**
- **State Treasurer**
- **Tech Wizard**
- **Oxford House
Extrordinare**



"When I was new in recovery, I told myself that I had to accept my new life. A life without fun - this was the consequence for everything I did in the past 10 years. Drugs and alcohol was always a part of my foundation of 'fun.'

My perspective changed when I moved in to an Oxford House. I began meeting so many wonderful people. I started to learn what Oxford House is. It taught me that I can have fun and be social in recovery.

Oxford House has shown me that no matter what my past looks like, life goes on. I look forward to the future with my Oxford House family and the connections I've made with the recovery community. I feel blessed to be a part of Oxford House and to experience all the knowledge, love, and support that my Oxford House family has given me. I hope to give back to the newcomers in Oxford House - the same way people had done for me in my early recovery. Love always, to my Oxford House family."

Oxford House Vision, Chapter 18



Later this Season...

In the Summer edition of the Oxford House of TN Newsletter, we announced a Summer campout. The campout was supposed to happen in July, however, we were hit with a surge of Covid-19 cases that made us wary of a large, social gathering. Three outreach workers and dozens of members accross the state tested postive for Covid-19 during the last weeks of June into early July. Countless members had been in contact with positive cases within those weeks. Although we were excited to go lounge on the river, enjoy an Oxford House speaker jam around a bonfire , and turn the State Association Meeting into a retreat, we decided it was best to postpone this event. Our State Association Meeting was held on Zoom, and the camping trip has been delayed until October. Ghost stories around the campfire anyone??

STATE ASSOCIATION MEETING AND CAMPOUT - JULY 2020 New COVID test required < 48hr prior

POSTPONED

USA RAFT ADVENTURE RESORT
2 JONES BRANCH RD,
ERWIN, TN 37650

**\$40 REGISTRATION
3 MEMBERS, 1 CAR
PER CHAPTER
BRING YOUR OWN
TENT, CHAIR
FISHING PERMITTED**

WHITE WATER RAFTING
Class III & IV Rapids Starting at \$90.00
Class II Rapids Starting at \$55.00

ROCK CLIMBING
4 People - \$85/each
5 People - \$75/each
6-10 People - \$65/ea

ONE WHEEL RENTALS
\$30.00/hour
Lessons - \$55

CAVING
\$60.00

SUP TUBE RENTALS
\$50.00/each
\$25 / person or BYOTube

RAFFLES



Members of Oxford House Thiel happily embrace Spooky Season