



Spring 2018

GLORY HOUSE IS TURNING 50

In the spring of 1968, Rev. Roger Fredrickson's dream of establishing a house where men coming out of prison could live while getting back on their feet



was taking shape. A committee of parishioners came together to organize and run the house. One parishioner rented a big pink house on West 12th St. to house the project.

On April 4, 1968, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. The day

after the assassination, the First Baptist committee walked through the big pink house. They found an old piano in one of the front rooms. In honor of Dr. King, they stopped to sing the Battle Hymn of the Republic. After one last chorus of "Glory, Glory Hallelujah" a light bulb went off. The 'Pink House project should be named Glory House.

Today, the Glory House is a bustling, three building campus at the intersection of West Avenue and 51st St. Despite its growth and change, the mission of Glory House remains the same: **Helping People Claim Their Lives with Christian Compassion, Resources and Support.**

Glory House is planning to host several events to mark this landmark birthday. In September, Glory House will partner with the South Dakota Board of



Addiction and Prevention Professionals to hold a one or two day conference featuring Dr. John Arden, who will speak about how addiction affects the brain and how the brain heals. The annual Glory House Recovery Lunch will be held during September.

No birthday would be complete without a party. The Glory House Birthday Party will be held on Friday night, September 28, 2018. Mark your calendar now and look for updates in your email or on the Glory House Facebook page.

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The Glory House

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www.glory-house.org

Helping people claim their lives with Christian compassion, resources, and support.

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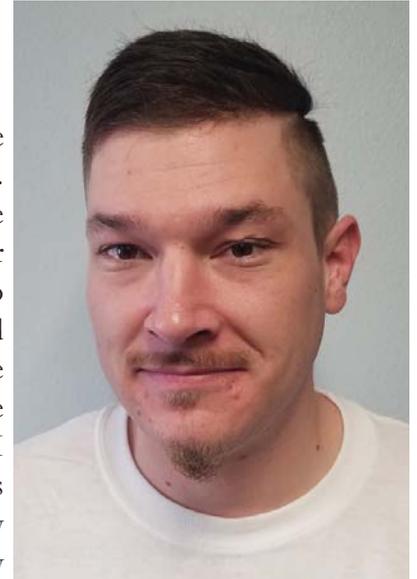
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THE ROAD TO CHANGE

By: Hawk Chavez, Glory House resident

Where did everything go wrong? Sitting here wishing I could take all the pain I caused away. But I can't fix the past. I can only change the path I am currently walking and be a better man than I was. Even as I am struggling to come to terms with the bridges I've burned and the people I have hurt. I can only make amends to those who got hurt during the darkest days of my addictions, back when I was prisoner of impulse and bad situations. As my disease grew bigger and bigger, constantly pushing my loved ones away, trading family for fiends, and choosing the serpents poison coursing through my veins, instead of the righteous path. Violently shattering my hopes and dreams. Not willing to see everything for what it was. I became a person ruled by a bag. One was never enough. Hundreds turned to thousands. Losing values, honor, and respect. My integrity slowly began to crumble under the weight of resentment and mistakes. Wishing I could somehow find the solution to my detrimental problem. Rubbing elbows with thieves and drug dealing thugs, the true definition to societies downfall. Where cut throat attitudes and hateful remarks are as customary as a walk in the park. Not a care for anyone. Not even myself. The allure of the supposed good life. Clouded my mind preventing any possibility for positive change. Living so fast, leaving everything I love behind. Making drugs my number one concern. Distributing bags of destruction, handfuls at the curb. Evil, one hit at a time. Well on my way to becoming a statistic, just another number in a book. Trading my freedom for an orange jumpsuit and my name for a number. Courtesy of the Department of Corrections. The only reward was a 6x9 cell, where depression and anger transform my life into a living hell. Turning any sense of hope into dread. The only way to describe it would be falling into a bottomless well. No amount of wishes would help. But like a sheep without a shepherd, I still manage to fight the wolves off.

**Here is a list of items that are in need at Glory House...**

- Men's carpentry tools
- Work boots
- Bus passes
- Phone cards
- Stamps
- Gift cards
- AA/NA books
- Bikes
- Underwear
- Socks

**For the rewards closet...**

- Candy
- Notebooks
- Towels
- Home essentials
- Male and female hygiene products
- Movie tickets
- Plastic hangers
- Greeting Cards/stationery

Check us out on Facebook to read reviews just like this one!

"I have struggled with opiate addiction for 10 years. I've done horrible shameful things to myself and the people who love me, just as addiction will do.

But today I can say I have over 7 months clean (the longest I've ever been able to get together) and I owe a lot of it to the Glory House and some of the amazing staff that were working there when I was a resident.

There is life after addiction, no matter how far deep you are! I am living proof. Never give up! Life is so beautiful if you want it to be!"

facebook.com/gloryhouse



GLORY HOUSE WORKS

Employment is an important component of the Glory House program. President Dave Johnson explains: “Everyone feels better when they are working. It boosts both self-confidence and self-esteem. In addition, just about every client who walks through our doors owes money to someone. It could be child support, or fines and court costs, or restitution, or bills that never got paid. We help them set up a budget so they can start to make amends and take care of their responsibilities.”

The primary Glory House staff member whose job it is to help clients find jobs is Client Employment Coordinator Bonnie Conway. Bonnie started working at Glory House in 2014 and has been the employment coordinator since 2015. Barb Lueth assists her. Bonnie meets with every new Glory House resident within a few days of their admission. First she determines whether or not the client has the skills needed to apply for a job. If not, she refers them one of two programs in Sioux Falls that teach employment readiness skills

If the client has those skills, Bonnie searches the Internet for job openings that match the client’s skills and which can be reached by walking or public transportation. She then gives the client a packet that includes job postings, maps and bus schedules. Clients are expected to be looking for employment for 18-20 hours a week. If the client has not found a job after one month, Bonnie requires them to sign a contract that details the efforts they will be making. After a client finds a job, Bonnie visits the job site to see how the client is doing on the job.

From that point on, most of the work that Bonnie does is record keeping: how many hours is the client working, are their paychecks coming to Glory House, are required payments being made. Bonnie also helps clients who are having problems on the job. Some supervising agencies require job site checks, Bonnie and Barb make those visits.

Glory House resident Joe Vasquez was hired at Empire Car Wash about two weeks after he entered Glory House. Joe is not from Sioux Falls and appreciated the help that Bonnie and Barb gave him with finding a job that he could walk to. “I have hospital bills and restitution to pay. I feel good about having a job. Glory House helped me tremendously with my job search,” Joe said.

Most Glory House clients work in construction, production or fast food. Despite the fact that there are very few construction jobs available in the winter, 77% of current Glory House residents are employed. For the year 2017, the average employment rate was 83%. In 2017, 338 clients worked for 145 employers. Clearly, Glory House clients contribute to the work force in Sioux Falls.



There is a reason why Glory House residents are hired. Ryan Thomas, Operations Manager of Empire Car Wash says that usually 5-10% of his workers are from Glory House. “I look for people who work hard. Workers from Glory House are dependable, hard workers. And, I like helping people who need a second chance in life.” Ryan hasn’t had much contact directly with the Glory House employment staff because he hasn’t needed to. “I’ve never had a problem that couldn’t be worked out with the employee.” Bonnie seconds Ryan confidence in Glory House workers. “Employers from this neighborhood call looking for a temporary day laborer. They end hiring that person because they worked so hard.”

FREDRICKSON FREEDOM FUND: PLEASE HELP

One year ago, Glory House received a gift that funded the Fredrickson Freedom Fund, money that is loaned to clients to cover emergency expenses that can not be paid for in any other way. The Fund has been used to buy medication (usually psychiatric medications), work clothes and bus passes.

80% of the clients who have used the Fund have repaid Glory House.

However, the Fund has shrunk from \$3000.00 to \$2000.00. Please help us re-fill that gap. Your generous gift will allow our clients to remain healthy and employed. THANK YOU.

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

The 2017 Christmas season at Glory House successfully brought clients, staff and their families together for fun and relaxation without the stresses of the normal work day. Once again, the generosity of many donors made the Christmas season merry and bright.

A generous donor treated staff and guests to a night at Chef Dominique's on December 1st. In addition to great food, the staff played games and exchanged presents.

The client party was held on December 12th. This party is always preceded by the work of an army of volunteers who donate and/or wrap every present that each client receives. Glory House buys each client a hat, socks and a planner. This year Gage Brothers donated clothes for the men. The Sioux Empire Sertoma club donates personal care items for both men and women, which get wrapped and given as presents. Another donor gives each client \$50.00. In



addition, each female resident received at \$50.00 gift card. The mother of a staff member provided spa services to the female residents at their party. They had their nails done and their make up updated.

At the party, clients enjoyed a dinner of pizza and wings. Staff members baked cookies, so in addition to “party food”, each client was able to enjoy home-baked treats.

For the past several years, one donor has given enough money to purchase gifts for clients to give to their children. This is a very emotional event for clients who have been away from their families and unable to see or provide for their children for several years. This year, the donor was unable to

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make a gift and Kelly Cleveringa, the Director of Social Services, worried about how to provide presents for these children. She posted a message on Facebook on a Friday afternoon.

Her worries were unfounded. “When I got back to work on Monday morning, my office was filled with toys. Kelly says, “ It was insane how generous people are. I was overwhelmed.” Every client who has a child was able to give that child a gift. Because of generous gifts of money, Glory House was able to mail gifts to children who live out of town. A touching addition to the Christmas season for clients working to reunite with their families.



The Glory House
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Glory House

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Out Patient Services

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kcleveringa@glory-house.org

CHRISTMAS GENEROSITY

A few days after Christmas, President Dave Johnson was sitting at his desk working. Without any warning, Pastor Jason Mueller, from the Ransom Church appeared in his doorway with Senior Pastor Phill Teague and a couple of member of the Ransom church.

They presented Dave with a check for \$13,000.00.

Senior Pastor Phill explained, "Every Christmas Eve, the Ransom Church has a special Christmas offering. The money is divided between one local charity and a regional or national charity." This year they chose Glory House to be their local charity.

"Our hearts are aligned with an organization with the vision and mission of Glory House. We give as much as we can to an organization that helps people move their lives forward." Pastor Jason Mueller echoed that thought. "Many of our members have been helped by Glory House. We appreciate their attendance at our church and the strength they have shown in changing their lives."

THANK YOU RANSOM CHURCH