



Day by Day

The mission of Christ House is to provide comprehensive health care to sick, homeless men and women from the District of Columbia, and to assist them in addressing critical issues to help break the cycle of homelessness.

RECOVERY THROUGH & FOR COMMUNITY

Celebrating 20 years of Kairos House



First members of the Kairos Program

By Eric Bebber, Kairos Program Director

Stroll past the Kairos House community room just about any morning of the week and you'll undoubtedly catch a glimpse of what hope looks like. You'll be met with laughter so loud and banter so boisterous, you won't be able to hold back your own gleeful grin because you'll realize that the laughter stems from a place of deep gratitude for what God has done and from where God has brought these resurrected souls.

In 1992, Christ House explored ways to create better stability for former patients living with chronic illness who had found

apartments in the nearby neighborhood, who wanted to maintain their sobriety, and who desired to stay connected to the Christ House community. Thus, the Kairos Program was born.

As the program began to grow

and as Christ House sought an even greater level of stability for program members, we purchased and renovated a nearby apartment building and opened Kairos House to its first residents in 1996.

Twenty years have passed since Kairos House opened its doors

"That residents know their neighbors are on similar recovery journeys has been the boon to their sobriety."

to its first residents to live in community together. That residents know their neighbors are on similar recovery journeys has been the boon to their sobriety.

In those first four years of the Kairos Program, before Kairos House opened its doors, program members maintained their sobriety at a rate of two out of three

(not bad for a recovery program!). However, since the first residents of Kairos House moved in and lived as neighbors walking the same journey in recovery, the program has maintained a sobriety rate of four out of five.

If the walls of Kairos House could talk, they'd tell stories of the last 20 years of sorrow turned into joy, of pain turned into healing, and of despair turned into hope.

One such story is of Paul, who says that had it not been for the Kairos Program, he would have drank himself to death. Paul claims that being in an environment with like-minded people who share the

Continued on next page



Paul, Kairos member since 2010

Continued

same struggles and celebrate the same victories gives his life more purpose. He says, "When I came into this program and moved to Kairos House, I realized that my recovery isn't for me alone. It's to help others too... they help me, and I help them. That's how it works."

It has worked for Paul because he just celebrated six years of sobriety. Having drunk for 32 years before coming to Christ House, he never imagined life without alcohol, but with the support of the other program members, he's remained sober. He said, "When I moved to Kairos House, I called my grandmother and told her, 'Grandma, I'm in a program and I stopped drinking.' You know what she said to me? 'Paul, I've been praying for you for 32 years... God's never failed me yet.'"

Living in community and working the 12 Step Program for



Addictions Counselor Petrina Williams answers questions in the New Day Addictions Recovery class

the last six years has thrust Paul into a new way of life. Now he helps others, like James, do the same.

James moved into Kairos House just six months ago. James needed the stability and comprehensive services that the Kairos Program offers: health care, addictions recovery, community, spirituality, supportive housing, and meaningful volunteer service. Having been homeless since he was 12 years old, moving into Kairos House was the first time James had ever signed a lease.

He continues to find ongoing support from his fellow Kairos program members. He says, "I was tired of being homeless and living with emphysema on the streets. Here, I found people in the same predicament as me: homeless, addicted, and sick. And I realized after coming here that life was worth more than what I was making it... I have a brotherhood here

where I can stay clean and sober, and I want to stay in this community because it's not just about getting something out of it; it's about cleansing the soul."

James has one of the most recognizable and contagious laughs in all of the Kairos Program, which is undoubtedly something that helps others on their journeys in recovery as well. He and Paul both



Kairos Program staff, front row: Sr. Marcella Jordan, Chaplain; Petrina Williams, Addictions Counselor; Gloria Tinney, Clinical Support Coordinator. Back row: Eric Bebber, Kairos Program Director; Henry Kabaghe, Housing Coordinator; Chris Paukstis, Addictions Technician. Not pictured: Allen Goetcheus, Pastoral Care; Yordanos Bekele, Home Health Aide.

identify with the words of Psalm 126: "Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy... The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced."

Kairos House is full of beautiful stories much like Paul's and James': stories of God's redemption and of pain and sorrow turned to laughter and singing. They would show us just how far God

has brought them, as well as just how closely our own lives ought to resemble theirs: filled with joy and gratitude, taking nothing for granted.

Since its inception, over 192 men have participated in the Kairos Program. Thanks be to God for Kairos House, a place where the seemingly hopeless can find joy and laughter once again.

"James needed the stability and comprehensive services that the Kairos Program offers: health care, addictions recovery, community, spirituality, supportive housing, and meaningful volunteer service."

HELP US RENOVATE THE COMMUNITY ROOM

The Kairos House community room is the central hub of the Kairos Program. Members use this room for many gatherings - sobriety anniversary receptions, community meetings, birthday celebrations, football watching parties, and as a space for members to spend time in fellowship with one another.

The room hasn't been updated since the building opened in 1996 and is in need of a face lift. We plan to replace the wallpaper with a coat of fresh paint, purchase new furniture, install a new countertop for the kitchenette, and switch the oversized and cumbersome TV for one that can be moved to accommodate larger gatherings.

Francis, a Kairos Program member, says, "It's a nice place to meet with folks in the program who I wouldn't otherwise see. We like to take time to chat with each other."



Kairos Program members await the start of the monthly Kairos House meeting in the community room.

We need your support to make this renovation possible!

Please consider donating to transform this well-worn space into a welcoming haven for the Kairos Program members. The estimated cost of the renovation is \$4,000. To donate, just note "community room renovation" in the Special Instructions box when giving online, on the enclosed envelope when giving by mail, or call 202-328-1100 to donate by phone. Any funds raised in excess of this amount will provide general support for the Kairos Program. Your generous gift will make a difference in the lives of many formerly homeless men.

GIVING THANKS FOR THE LIFE OF MARY COSBY



Mary Cosby, co-founder of the influential Church of the Saviour in Washington, DC, passed away peacefully at Christ House on Sunday, July 3rd. That morning, she attended church, visited with dear friends, and spoke of her late husband, Gordon Cosby, who would have celebrated his 99th birthday that very day.

In her Christ House memorial service, Allen Goetcheus, President of Christ House, recalled how Mary inspired and encouraged their move to DC to work with the homeless:

"I remember the first time that I saw Mary Cosby. It was May 3, 1975 - just over 41 years ago - and Janelle and I were attending a Faith At Work conference in Indiana.

Mary was the keynote speaker and she preached about grace. I remember thinking at the time that I had never heard the gospel presented with such authority, beauty, and attractiveness.

She talked about the Church of the Saviour, her husband Gordon, the Potter's House, and two apartment buildings that were recently acquired for low income housing. It felt so alive and real.

As providence would have it, the next morning Janelle and I were seated next to her at breakfast. She invited us to visit Church of the Saviour. Two weeks later, Janelle and I came for our first visit. Fifteen months later, we moved east to live into the life of the church, and the rest is history."



IN MEMORY



Larry "Lars"
Sullivan

1962 - 2016

Beloved Kairos
Program member,
volunteer, and
friend to many.

GATHER YOUR FRIENDS



Serve
a meal
to Christ
House
patients
together!

Email: volunteers@christhouse.org

2016-2017 YEARLONG VOLUNTEERS



This group of eager, skilled, and caring
volunteers will work among the Christ
House community for the coming year.

Pictured from left to right: Shaina will
serve for a second year as the Unit Clerk,
Melissa will serve as an RN, Francisco
will serve as a Nursing Assistant, Cristin
will serve for a second year as the Case
Management Assistant, and Meghan will
serve as a Nursing Assistant.

CFC #34256 • UW #8385
The Advance #381215 
Advancing hope in Christ's name

Return Service Requested
www.ChristHouse.org



CHRIST HOUSE
1717 Columbia Road, NW
Washington, DC 20009

