# Oxford House, Inc. Annual Report FY 2019

# **Oxford House**<sup>TM</sup>

## Self-run, Self-supported Recovery Housing



## **Oxford House, Inc.**

1010 Wayne Avenue, Suite 300 Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

www.oxfordhouse.org

#### **About Oxford House, Inc.**

Oxford House, Inc. [OHI] is the Delaware nonprofit, 501(c)(3) corporation that serves as the umbrella organization of the worldwide network of more than 2,700 individual Oxford Houses. Its central office is at 1010 Wayne Avenue, Suite 300, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. The Oxford House<sup>TM</sup> program can be developed on a national scale at very low cost and it fosters recovery without relapse.

Oxford House<sup>TM</sup> is a concept and system of operations based on the experience of recovering alcoholics and drug addicts who learned that behavior change is essential to recovery from alcoholism and drug addiction. They also learned that Oxford House provided the living environment that could help them become comfortable enough with abstinent behavior to stay clean and sober without relapse.

The Oxford House Manual<sup>©</sup> is the basic blueprint that provides the organization and structure that permit groups of recovering individuals to successfully live together in a supportive environment. All Oxford Houses are rented ordinary single-family houses in good neighborhoods. There are Oxford Houses for men and Oxford Houses for women but there are no co-ed houses. The average number of residents per house nationally is about 8 with a range per house of 6 to 16.

Oxford Houses work because they: (1) have no time limit for how long a resident can live in an Oxford House; (2) follow a democratic system of operation; (3) utilize self-support to pay all the household expenses; and (4) adhere to the absolute requirement that any resident who returns to using alcohol or illicit drugs must be immediately expelled. Oxford House provides the missing elements needed by most alcoholics and drug addicts to develop behavior that assures total abstinence. It provides the time, peer support and structured living environment necessary for long-term behavior change to take hold.

Individuals living in an Oxford House learn or relearn values and responsible behavior and, slowly but surely, they develop long-term behavior to assure comfortable sobriety – forever. Some individuals live in Oxford Houses a few months; others for many years. By using participatory democracy and self-support, alcoholics, drug addicts and those with co-occurring mental illness achieve long-term recovery.

After 45 years of steady growth and successful recovery outcomes, Oxford House<sup>TM</sup> has been proven to work. It is also a very cost-effective way to support long-term recovery from alcoholism, drug addiction and co-occurring mental illness. At the end of 2019, there were more than 2,700 Oxford Houses with over 22,000 beds throughout the country.

Oxford House has been listed as a best practice on the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices [NREPP] and was singled out as an effective tool for long-term recovery in the U.S. Surgeon General's report: "Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health, 2016."

Silver Spring, Maryland February 15, 2020

#### **Board Members**

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## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**



\*, 2019

National Profile	2
Message from the CEO	3
Management Report	5
Oxford House: Self-reliance; Self-respect	8
Oxford House and the Opioid Crisis	10
Expanding the Network	11
From Prison to Oxford House – Successful Re-entry	12
The Oxford House Family	14
Trust But Teach	18
2019 Oxford House World Convention	20
FY 2019 Financials	28
A Few Houses in the Oxford House Network	32

## NEXT OXFORD HOUSE WORLD CONVENTION Seattle, Washington October 8-11, 2020



#### NATIONAL PROFILE

#### **Good Houses in Good Neighborhoods**



**Oxford House - Evesham** Magnolia, NJ 08049

**Oxford House – Evesham** (pictured at the left) is an Oxford House for 9 men that was established in Magnolia, NJ on September 1, 2002. It is one of 146 Oxford Houses in New Jersey. It has been home to 235 men in recovery. Only 31 residents have had to leave because of relapse. It is an example of how Oxford Houses continue year after year.

There are houses for men; houses for women; houses for women with children; and houses for men with children. There are no co-ed houses.

Creating an Effective National Recovery Network One House at a Time

#### National Oxford House Profile<sup>1</sup>

Number of Houses for Women		872	Recovery Beds for Women	6,847
Number of Houses for Men		1,891	Recovery Beds for Men	15,264
Total Number of Houses		2,763	Total Recovery Beds	22,111
Number	of States with Houses	49	Cities with Oxford Houses	493
		Resident	<b>Profile</b> <sup>2</sup>	
0	Age of Residents ge 17 – 91]	38.1	Percent Veterans	13%
Average	Educational Level	12.2 yrs.	Range of Educational Level	3-19 Yrs.
Average	Cost/Person Per Week:	\$132	Average Rent/Group/Month	\$1,426
Resident	s Working	83.2%	Average Monthly Earnings	\$1,695
Percent Alcohol	Addicted to Drugs and	78%	Percent Addicted to Only Alcohol	22%
Race	White	69.0%	Marital Status –	
	Black	18.0%	Never Married	58.9%
	Hispanic	5.0%	Separated	7.6%
	Native American	3.9%	Divorced	26.6%
	Other	4.1%	Married	4.7%
			Widowed	2.2%
Prior Hor	nelessness	71.1%	Average Time Homeless	2.2 Mos.
Prior Jail		85.2%	Average Jail Time [median 3.2 Mos.]	7 Mos.
Average Per Wee	AA or NA Meetings k	3.4	Percent Going To Counseling <u>plus</u> AA/NA	38.5%
Average House R	Length of Sobriety of esidents	9.4 Mos.	Residents Expelled Because of Relapse	18.9%
Average Oxford H	Length of Stay In an ouse	9.5 Mos.	Average No. of Applicants For Each Vacant Bed	4.4

<sup>1</sup> Total number of houses, beds and locations as of December 31, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Resident profile as of September 30, 2019 based on OHI surveys of 10,209 residents in 17 States and D.C. plus house reports.

#### **Oxford House Fast Facts**

- 22,111 Number of Oxford House Recovery Beds
- 2,763 Number of Oxford Houses as of December 31, 2019
- 49 Number of States with Oxford Houses
- 493 Number of towns and cities with Oxford Houses
- \$1,695 Average monthly income of residents
- \$132 Average weekly share of expenses paid by Oxford House residents
- 71% of Oxford House residents had been homeless for an average total period of 2.2 months
- 78% addicted to drugs and alcohol; 22% only alcohol
- 85.2% had done jail time related to their addiction
- 9.5 months Average length of sobriety
- 393 New Oxford Houses started CY 2019 (163 houses for women; 230 for men)
- 3,242 Total CY 2019 Added Recovery Beds (1,908 for men: 1,334 for women)
- CY 2019 residents: 44,406 with 18.9% expelled because of relapse.

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE CEO**

The Oxford House<sup>™</sup> model is 45 years old and is an important national tool for supporting long-term recovery from addiction. More than 520,000 people have lived in an Oxford House since inception and most have not relapsed. Oxford House enables individuals with substance use disorders (whether addicted to alcohol, heroin or other drugs) to gain the time, peer support and structure needed to change from the chaos of addiction to the comfort of a purposeful life well lived. Since inception, the sole focus of Oxford House has been on providing a recovery housing program that supports long-term recovery without relapse. That's been its only purpose since it began. It worked then and it works now.

I've been asked where Oxford House fits today when the national focus is on the opioid crisis. After all, the founders and most early residents were alcoholics. The fact is that the Oxford House model is as relevant today as it ever was – if not more so! Street drugs may be more potent but the conditions needed to achieve long-term recovery remain constant. Medication and treatment may save lives in the near term but recovery models like Oxford House are essential for providing the time and peer support needed to achieve the long-term behavior change that supports recovery without relapse.

Oxford House, Inc. (OHI) has never been focused on owning property or accumulating wealth. All Oxford Houses are ordinary houses that are rented by the group and the residents share the rent and other household expenses equally. That means that living in an Oxford House is relatively cheap and there are no residency time limits; residents can live in an Oxford House as long as they want – as long as they follow the charter rules.

The charter becomes the entry point for any group to start an Oxford House. In addition to requiring that the group accommodate six or more individuals, the charter sets forth three basic standards: [1] the group must be democratically self-run following the process and

procedures of the Oxford House Manual<sup>®</sup>; [2] the group must be financially self-supporting; and [3] the group must immediately expel any resident who returns to drinking alcohol or using illicit drugs.

Any group of six or more recovering persons can be granted a charter and at no charge. Initially the charter is granted on a probationary <section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text>

Key Manuals To Keep Oxford Houses On Track

basis and, during the first six months, a group must demonstrate that it understands the Oxford House system of operations. Once a new group understands the system, the House is granted a permanent charter.

Every resident pays an equal share of household expenses and has an equal voice in all house operations. Each House elects five house officers with terms limited to no more than six months at a time. Weekly business meetings are held to review House finances and other issues and provide the forum for resolving all issues and disputes that may arise from a group of people living together. Regular or special House meetings may also take up the

acceptance of new residents and the expulsion of residents who relapse. If you ask ten residents, "Who manages the house?", nine out of ten will respond: "Oh, the inmates run the asylum and it works just fine, thank you."

The self-run feature of Oxford House has two main advantages: [1] it saves expenses by not having a paid staff running the House and [2] it builds self-esteem since each resident takes

pride in the self-management of the House. Self-esteem is particularly important because it is tied to commitment to recovery. The absence of a residency time limit is important because everyone in recovery masters recovery at a different pace.

It is pretty easy to find a good house to rent in a nice neighborhood but it was not very easy in the early days of expansion. Fortunately, OHI has provided the oversight and civil rights



protection needed to put houses in good neighborhoods. The first five Oxford Houses in New Jersey all faced NIMBY (not-in-my-back-yard) zoning problems. It was only through the persistence of OHI that we won those cases. In 1995, a Washington State case – *City of Edmonds, WA v. Oxford House, Inc.* reached the U.S. Supreme Court. OHI won and has also won similar civil rights cases with respect to landlord insurance coverage and fire safety issues. OHI continues to help individual Oxford Houses combat discrimination. We are a functional family and act together to protect our civil rights.

As soon as several Oxford Houses exist in an area, a chapter is formed and Houses help each other stay on track by having monthly meetings and frequent workshops. Some states already have more than 20 chapters. As the number of chapters in a state grow, chapters form state associations to organize statewide conventions to teach and learn more about addiction and recovery. Education is always ongoing and has a side benefit of community and socialization. Most of us have been 'bowling alone' for too long and need to become part of a larger social community. We work at being good neighbors and good citizens and, in return, we get respect and long-term freedom from the tyranny of addiction.

OHI employs outreach workers to help groups of recovering individuals open new Oxford Houses. Expansion is greatest where OHI receives financial support from states, localities and behavioral health organizations and where there is a start-up loan fund that permits new Oxford Houses to get no-interest loans to help cover start-up expenses. Start-up loans were initially authorized by the U. S. Congress in 1988 and have proven to be an important catalyst for expansion. Recovery requires more than treatment. There is enhanced recognition that the evidence-based Oxford House model greatly increases the likelihood that an individual will achieve long-term recovery without relapse. Both the former Surgeon General and the current Surgeon General have attested to the success of Oxford House<sup>TM</sup>. In the coming year, OHI anticipates further expansion to help address the current crisis.

Once a year, residents and alumni from around the country gather for an annual convention. The 2019 convention was held in Washington, DC and more than 1,600 people attended. Most realized that living in an Oxford House makes recovery fun. If recovery were not fun, what alcoholic or drug addict would ever stay in recovery? The 2020 national convention will be in Seattle, Washington October 8–11, 2020. Join us there.

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#### **MANAGEMENT REPORT**

FY 2019 was another successful year for Oxford House, Inc. (OHI). Over the course of the year, the total number of Oxford Houses (and recovery beds) continued to rise, quality remained high, and finances remained stable. Our primary focus has been on expanding our program to provide more opportunities for individuals recovering from alcoholism and drug addiction to achieve long-term sobriety without relapse and become fully integrated into the broader society.

#### Expansion

Led by Paul Molloy, CEO, and Kathleen Gibson, COO, Oxford House chartered 393 new Oxford Houses with 3,242 recovery beds. Of the new Houses, 163 were for women and 230 were for men. At the end of CY 2019, the Oxford House network consisted of a total of 2,763 individual Oxford Houses with a total of 22,111 recovery beds. Demand for Oxford House residency remained high and, on average, there were more than four applicants for each vacancy that arose during the year. Expansion was particularly strong in those states and localities that supported the creation of new Oxford Houses through the provision of start-up loan funds and grants to enable OHI to send trained outreach workers to help start new houses and teach the system of operation. Once started, Oxford Houses are self-run and selfsupported in accordance with their three charter conditions.



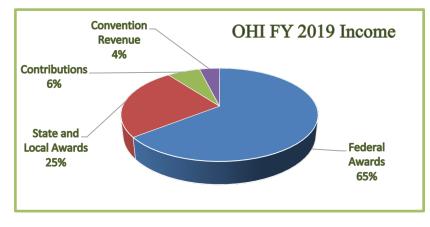
In FY 2019, OHI had development contracts with twenty-four states as well as with some treatment providers, behavioral health organizations, localities and drug courts. Those contracts cover most – but not all – of the development and maintenance costs. Oxford House residents and alumni continue to provide support for development in areas without government support. At the annual convention, the Board of Directors recognized the 862 Houses earning the *Directors' 100-Year Award* – an award for Oxford Houses, chapters and state associations that each voluntarily donate at least \$600 to OHI during the year. These contributions provided nearly 6% of the organization total expenditures in FY 2019. Our goal continues to be total self-support by the year 2075! The goal is long-term, but not unrealistic!

Once a cluster of houses is developed in an area, it becomes easier to expand because of help from existing Oxford Houses. Once providers and state officials see the effectiveness of Oxford House<sup>™</sup> development, experience has shown them to be interested in supporting the expansion of the network of houses. The 393 new Oxford Houses added in 2019 are an indication of the growing realization by states that Oxford House<sup>™</sup> is an important resource for fostering long-term recovery. By the end of CY 2019, more states, counties and local governments asked OHI to submit proposals for the development and maintenance of Oxford Houses. It is anticipated that OHI will get support in additional states in 2020 as more states recognize the important role that Oxford Houses play in addressing the opioid crisis.

OHI uses a number of time-tested protocols to establish and maintain the network of individual Oxford Houses. Clusters of houses are encouraged to form mutually-supportive chapters to facilitate networking between houses and to help monitor charter compliance. In a similar way, chapters group together to form mutually-supportive statewide associations. Training materials and standardized operating procedures are provided to all chartered houses, chapters and state associations. The OHI central office in Silver Spring, Maryland, also trains and supervises field workers to do outreach to states and communities throughout the United States and in some foreign countries.

#### **Financial Results**

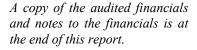
Overall, OHI finances remained stable even though financial activity increased by 35%. OHI continued to support the expansion and maintenance of the network of Oxford Houses in an extremely cost-effective manner. Expenditures by OHI in FY 2019 were \$646,031 less than income.



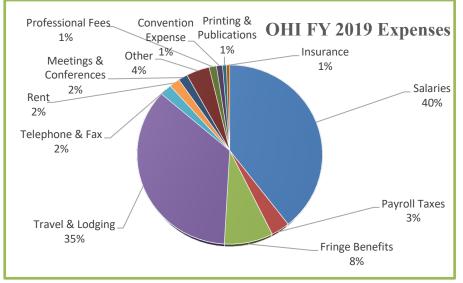
Total income in FY 2019 was \$12,542,854. Income sources are shown in the graph at the left. *Federal Awards* are almost entirely state block grant funds used by various states to pay for development and maintenance of existing networks of Oxford Houses. *State and Local Awards* are agreements that do not include block grant or pass-through federal funding. Contributions of \$805,371 include \$675,664 in voluntary contributions from individual

Oxford Houses either directly or through chapters. The rest comes from foundations and individuals.

OHI's expenditures for FY 2019 totaled \$11,896,823. The OHI expenditures are shown in the graph at the right. Over 99¢ of every dollar spent went directly to program costs – expanding and maintaining the network of Oxford Houses. Travel, telephone and personnel costs account for nearly 87% of costs. In 2019, OHI outreach workers operated in 28 states and Ghana.



#### **Transparency and Research**



Throughout the year, OHI continued to encourage Oxford House residents to participate in research. While anonymity has long been the norm for recovering alcoholics and drug addicts, OHI, since its inception, has encouraged residents and alumni to participate in research in order to continually evaluate the Oxford House model to better understand recovery from alcoholism and drug addiction.

OHI conducts internal surveys and continues to invite independent third-party research. Since 1991, both NIAAA and NIDA have devoted federal behavioral research dollars to studying the Oxford House program and its effect on developing long-term recovery. DePaul University has been a major recipient of such grants. The DePaul studies have produced more than 322 articles showing how Oxford House living affects recovery. From the DePaul research, Oxford Houses have been able to confirm that they are on the right track. OHI continues to encourage the DePaul researchers and other third-party researchers to evaluate the Oxford House program and assess its effectiveness.

#### Proven Effectiveness of the Oxford House Model

Beginning in 2011, the government (SAMHSA) listed the Oxford House program as a best practice on the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP). While the 1988 Anti-Drug Abuse

Act [PL 100-690] represented political acceptance of Oxford House, the NREPP listing verified the soundness of the Oxford House model as an evidence-based program that significantly improves addiction treatment outcomes. This finding was reinforced in the 2016 U. S. Surgeon General's report, "Facing Addiction in America" and in ONDCP's 2020 National Strategy Report that acknowledged the quality of the Oxford House<sup>TM</sup> program and held it up as an organization with a mission to improve the quality of recovery support services that should be emulated.



#### Litigation

Establishment and maintenance of an adequate network of recovery homes sometimes requires legal actions under the Federal Fair Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act to protect the civil rights of residents. It has now been twenty-five years since the U. S. Supreme Court found in favor of Oxford House<sup>TM</sup> in the landmark case, *City of Edmonds, WA v. Oxford House, Inc. 514 US 1776 [1995]*. Nevertheless, local jurisdictions and insurance companies continue to test the limits of the law. In 2019, OHI was engaged in several legal cases to protect the right of recovering individuals to live together in order to increase their opportunity for long-term recovery. Fortunately, OHI's attorney's fees and court costs were minimal. OHI continues to be a leader in defining the extent and scope of rights under the Federal Fair Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. It will continue to do so as it is important not to let the hard-fought rights obtained in the past be eroded by indifference to discrimination.

#### FY 2020 Focus and Challenges

In FY 2020, OHI will focus on continuing to expand the network of Oxford Houses to provide more opportunities for individuals seeking long-term recovery without relapse via Oxford House living. The current opioid epidemic has encouraged additional states to enlist OHI's support for the development of statewide networks of recovery homes. Oxford House anticipates further expansion during FY 2020 and to provide more needed recovery housing that's cost-effective and works.

Well-meant calls for recovery home certification continue to pose a challenge. Fly-by-night operations need to be regulated but that should be done in a way that protects proven programs like Oxford House<sup>™</sup> that rely on being treated as ordinary families; not as treatment facilities that require certification and regulation. The Oxford House system of operations has been time-tested and its principle of not owning real property or accumulating wealth has shielded it from the malpractice that often plagues recovery house operations.

The 2020 Annual Oxford House World Convention will be held in Seattle, Washington from October 8–11, 2020. This annual gathering provides an opportunity for residents and alumni to join together to learn and socialize. All participants leave conventions with renewed energy, stories and skills to bring back home.

#### Conclusion

We end the year with a profound sense of gratitude to all who have made the year so successful. Our contributors – the states, foundations, individual Oxford Houses and others – have seen the value of the Oxford House concept and support it. They have also seen that the staff of OHI and the residents and alumni of the individual houses work tirelessly to achieve the OHI goals and objectives – the creation of more opportunity for alcoholics, drug addicts and those with co-occurring mental illness to achieve long-term recovery. Most of all, we are grateful for all of the residents and alumni of Oxford House who daily prove that 'the inmates can run the asylum' and, in doing so, foster long-term recovery without relapse for most residents.

## **OXFORD HOUSE<sup>™</sup>: Self-reliance and Self-respect**

The 2019 Oxford House<sup>™</sup> World Convention was held in Washington, DC over Labor Day weekend. Each year the convention focuses on a different theme that relates to Oxford House. The 2019 theme was "Oxford House: Self-reliance • Self-respect," a theme that was emphasized on the cover of the original 1975 Oxford House Manual<sup>®</sup>, the entirety of which has changed very little. The Manual identified Oxford House as "An Idea Based on a Sound System for Recovering Alcoholics and Drug Addicts to Help Themselves", and then highlighted the four elements of that sound system – Housing, Fellowship, Self-reliance and Self-respect. The 2019 theme focused on the last two elements.

These attributes – self-reliance and self-respect – go hand in hand with the 2018 convention theme, which was 'Recovery, Fellowship and Fun.' While recovery itself is central, it's not enough. Abstinence alone doesn't work; long term-recovery requires more than that. In the 'rooms,' it's often said that newcomers need to change their "people, places and things" if they are to achieve recovery. Oxford House residents make these changes. They begin to practice recovery and find fellowship among others seeking the same goal. There is also an essential third element – fun. Back in the first Oxford House, Paul said, "If we can't have fun in recovery, what's the point?" All three elements – recovery, fellowship and fun – are necessary for sustained long-term recovery without relapse and are a big part of what makes Oxford House work. All are important and lead Oxford House residents toward developing (or re-developing) self-reliance and self-respect.

#### Self-reliance and Self-respect

Self-reliance and self-respect get established in an Oxford House resident in large part because each Oxford House emphasizes the importance of self-determination consistent with responsibility. Self-determination alone isn't a recipe for success in the long run. However, selfdetermination coupled with responsibility works. How does this happen?

Each Oxford House obtains a charter that spells out three conditions each Oxford House must follow to achieve the maintenance of an alcohol and drug-free living environment; namely, the



House must be democratically self-run, financially self-supported and the residents must agree to immediately expel anyone who uses alcohol or illicit drugs. All Houses have a copy of the Oxford House Manual<sup>©</sup>. It explains how Oxford House works, how to elect officers and how to hold business meetings, manage finances and run the House democratically. The tee shirt message at left emphasizes the importance of the Oxford House Manual<sup>©</sup> not only to the wearer but to all Oxford House residents and alumni. The participatory democracy aspect of Oxford House is key to the development of self-reliance and self-respect. The notion that residents themselves decide who will live in an Oxford House is central to the operation of an Oxford House. When a House vacancy occurs, prospective applicants apply to the House and are interviewed by the House residents. It takes an 80% vote of the residents for an applicant to be accepted for residency and invited

to move in. Once admitted, residents immediately feel part of the group (though perhaps awkwardly at first) because they know that they have been selected to join the group. It's like a sorority or fraternity or country club – you have to be voted in.

Participatory democracy also extends to the fact that each resident pays an equal share of House rent and other expenses. The person who makes more money doesn't pay more; everyone pays an equal share. If a new resident doesn't have a job, other residents will quickly point out where there are job openings. It's in everyone's interest to have everyone working and paying their equal share. Some House members may be retired or on disability and don't have formal jobs; they are encouraged to perform volunteer work, usually within the recovery community. Getting a paycheck or performing valuable volunteer service pays off in helping to build both self-reliance and self-respect.

House leadership is also participatory. All House members get to hold office because of the number of House officers and because there are explicit term limits; no resident can hold a particular office more than six months at a time. This policy allows for shared leadership and discourages 'bossism.' Residents get together weekly for their House meeting and hash out problems, go over finances, elect officers and occasionally vote to evict a resident who has relapsed. It doesn't happen often but when it does, residents call a special House meeting to vote on expulsion. In addition to working together at weekly House meetings, residents get together regularly just to socialize and bond with each other.



Within the Oxford House family, it is not uncommon to hear that the only good thing that can be said about addiction is that it is egalitarian. Rich and poor, male and female, Black and White,

educated and under-educated, straight or LGBTQ, young and old – all can become addicted and all are welcome in Oxford House. The very diverse Oxford House population features egalitarianism as a core principle – each individual has an equal vote, officers are term-limited and expenses are divided equally among all residents. This participatory democracy minimizes the "we versus them" attitude that can detract from a focus on recovery and development of self-reliance and self-respect. In an Oxford House, residents respect each other and support each other's sobriety – for both selfish and unselfish reasons.

Go to any homeless shelter, jail, prison or detox unit and you'll find out that the residents' family and friends are long gone. Underneath the shakes and hard-luck stories, you usually find isolation, loneliness and hopelessness. All of us addicts have been there and most of us didn't find it fun. Oxford Houses provide a way back to a life worth living.

In 1975, when Oxford House<sup>TM</sup> began, there was considerable doubt that the Oxford House<sup>TM</sup> concept and system of operation would work. Few believed that the "inmates could run the asylum." Time has shown the Oxford House<sup>TM</sup> concept and system of operation has worked well. More than 520,000 individuals have lived in Oxford Houses and most have stayed clean and sober. In an Oxford House, residents buy into the concept that relapse doesn't need to be part of the disease and, as a result of that belief, most residents don't relapse.

#### Conclusion

Oxford House fosters self-reliance and self-respect in its residents and alumni. Oxford House provides the structure needed to evolve from scared, addicted human beings into confident human beings comfortable in sobriety and long-term recovery. Oxford Houses provide the environment and incentives to make long-term recovery a reality.

#### **OPIOID ADDICTION AND OXFORD HOUSE** The Opioid Crisis and the Oxford House Experience

Opioid addiction continues to be a national crisis. For those of us in Oxford House, opioid addiction is not a new issue. Since its beginnings in 1975, Oxford Houses have been home to residents recovering from addiction to opioids and most have achieved long-term recovery. Over time, however, opioids have become more lethal. Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) is now the norm for opiate addiction; it stems craving without negative consequences and MAT clients are more likely to achieve long-term sobriety – particularly if they receive recovery support. Many Oxford House residents today are using MAT and achieving sustainable long-term recovery through medication AND Oxford House living.

Opioid addiction was a major topic at recent Oxford House conventions. At the 2018 convention, Bertha Madras, Ph.D., a member of the President's Opioid Commission, gave an overview of the Commission's Final Report and the topic was addressed by experts in other sessions. In the recent 2019 convention, the topic again received considerable attention in a variety of panel discussions – some were history and policy-related, such as at the Addiction Research Panel where experts, including Wilson Compton of NIDA; John F. Kelly of Harvard and the U.S. Surgeon General, discussed current trends and policies; other panels dealt with "housekeeping" issue such as the use of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) in Oxford Houses and how to deal with overdoses in Oxford Houses (rare events – but they occur and residents need to know what to do if they do occur). (See the convention section of this report for photos and a convention report.)

At the 2019 convention, a keynote panel was entitled, "The Opioid Crisis – The View from the Trenches" featured two physicians specializing in addiction and six Oxford House alumni who have dealt with their opioid addiction and now work with others in Oxford House who are new to recovery. Two panelists had clean dates of 2002 and 2006, respectively; the others got into recovery more recently. Both Dr. Gitlow, who moderated the panel, and the panelists with longer sobriety, spoke of their evolution in recognizing the value of MAT and the role it can play in helping opioid addicts avoid death and achieve recovery. (A link to that panel discussion can be found on the Oxford House website at <a href="http://www.oxfordhouse.org">www.oxfordhouse.org</a>.)

Panelists also aserted that MAT alone is unlikely to result in long-term recovery. Four tools are generally acknowledged to be necessary for achieving recovery without relapse: (1) intervention; (2) detoxification; (3) treatment; and (4) long-term behavior change. These tools are most effective when used together. Traditionally, there has been support for the first three stages but the weakest link is support for environments that foster long-term behavior change. While 12-Step programs have long preached the need to 'change people, places and things', that is easier said than done. More often than not, individuals completing treatment go back to where they came from. Returning 'home' may thwart even the most highly-motivated individual; e.g., a recovering incarcerated person re-entering society who goes back to an old neighborhood is likely to be welcomed home only by his or her drug dealer. That's a recipe for relapse.

Oxford House residents and alumni addicted to opioids (and/or other substances) achieve long-term recovery mainly because Oxford Houses offer peer support, a time-tested structure and no time limits on residency. Oxford House living builds self-confidence in recovery. Residents share in the elected leadership of their House, participate in Oxford House social activities, get jobs, mentor new residents, and abstain from the use of alcohol and illicit drugs. These Oxford House characteristics work to support long-term recovery for most Oxford House residents, whether or not they also use medication to support recovery.

Oxford House residents and alumni, including many who have been addicted to opioids and who have used or are using MAT, have proven the value of peer-supported recovery housing that requires residents to govern themselves, pay their own rent and expenses, and immediately expel any House resident who relapses. The program works.

## **EXPANDING THE NETWORK**

The current opioid epidemic has focused the nation on the problem of addiction and the need for more and better recovery resources. Experience and research have shown that Oxford Houses provide the peer support and time needed by individuals to attain long-term sustainable recovery AND that they are fairly easily replicated. Replication of Oxford Houses is not cost-free but it is far cheaper than the costs of incarceration or more traditional fully-staffed housing facilities. All Oxford Houses are self-supporting once established but there are initial start-up costs required for replication. The successful expansion of the network of Oxford Houses requires the existence of funding for both start-up loans and trained outreach staff.

Over the past year, with the support of state grants, OHI has expanded the Oxford House network of houses across the nation. In CY 2019, OHI received grants from 24 states, including three new states – Florida, Arizona and Indiana. Over the course of the year, there was a net gain of 241 Oxford Houses nationwide. In Florida, there were 31 Oxford Houses in operation by calendar yearend; the Florida network of Oxford Houses was thriving and the state has been very supportive of the venture. Pictured below are a group of folks gathered for the first training workshop for residents in Florida Oxford Houses. The workshop focused on the role of Houses officers and also included testimonials and socializing. It was very successful and bodes well for the future of the Oxford House network in Florida.



Oxford Houses in other states also hold training workshops, state conventions and other gatherings that serve to build community and permit residents and alumni to share their experiences and celebrate recovery.

Expansion of the network of Oxford Houses began in earnest in 1988 when Congress included §2036 in the 1988 Anti-Drug Abuse Act [PL 100-690]. The provision authorized start-up loans for creation of self-run. self-supported recovery housing and was a significant factor in the expansion of Oxford Houses. New Oxford Houses typically get no-interest start-up loans of \$4,000–\$6,000 to cover the first month's rent, security deposit and basic house furnishings. Outreach workers, who are all Oxford House alumni, teach residents the disciplined system of self-operation and self-support. The outreach workers also help clusters of houses to organize chapters for mutual support and quality control. Experience has shown that both start-up loans and technical assistance are needed to develop strong statewide networks.

Once a house has been established, the group living in the Oxford House pays all the household expenses. Each house not only becomes self-supporting but also repays the original start-up loan over 24 months. Repayment into the loan fund enables more homes to be started. The system of operation and the organization of mutually supportive chapters assure quality control. The system works and is highly cost-effective.

## FROM PRISON TO RECOVERY IN OXFORD HOUSE

Over three-quarters of the Oxford House population has done some jail or prison time. Many Oxford House residents have served only a few days but other residents have served many years in prison. In America today, a majority of individuals in jails or prison are addicted to alcohol and/or drugs. Each year, thousands of those who are incarcerated re-enter society. Within one year of re-entry, many of them will commit another crime and be headed to conviction and re-entry to incarceration. This is very costly for both the individual and for society.

The experience of those who enter an Oxford House following incarceration is usually long-term recovery and crime-free behavior. In some states, Oxford House has developed relationships with re-entry programs that permit those leaving incarceration to go straight to an Oxford House. This process has worked very well. Other residents come to Oxford House at the recommendation of drug courts or parole officers, who have found that their clients tend to do well if they live in an Oxford House. Not only does such intervention motivate clients to begin to master the recovery process, it also saves taxpayers the costs of incarceration and recidivism.

Oxford House residents who enter an Oxford House from incarceration are exposed to participatory democracy rather than institutional authority. They are elected to leadership positions and undertake shared responsibility for the operation of the house. Most residents rise to the occasion. This kind of real-life training is rare for most individuals re-entering society.

Breakout panels on re-entry have been held at recent Oxford House annual conventions. A 2019 convention panel entitled, Working with Drug Courts, Parole and Prison Re-entry (pictured below), featured Oxford



House residents and alumni who have served jail or prison time and who now work with re-entry as well as other professionals in the field. The panelists discussed the need for post-incarceration recovery opportunities; [2] practical ways to facilitate getting individuals leaving incarceration into an Oxford House; (3) how Oxford Houses can help drug court clients achieve long-term recovery and meet the expectations of the drug courts and (4) how Oxford House living facilitates the transition to long-term, crime-free recovery for most residents. Carson Fox, CEO, National Association of Drug Court Professionals, spoke of how drug courts work with Oxford House and how Oxford House living enhances the chances that Drug Court clients will achieve long-term recovery.

OHI began working with the prison system in Texas after a parole official did a small informal survey of what happened to a group of folks released from that system either to an Oxford House or back to where

they had lived prior to incarceration. He found that most of those who went to an Oxford House were still clean and sober whereas those who had gone home had had new encounters with the criminal justice system.

The three Oxford House alumni pictured at right were featured on a reentry panel at the 2015 Oxford House convention. Each of them spent time in prison before entering Oxford House. All are still in recovery and

working with Oxford House residents and alumni. Noe Soriano (left) spent 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years in prison – much of it in solitary – before being released and finding a place in Oxford House. Steve Polin (center) came into Oxford House following a Federal prison stint for drug dealing. Following his subsequent admission to the Bar, he became Oxford House's General Counsel and is a leading attorney in civil rights litigation.



Kurtis Taylor (right) led the Oxford House re-entry program in North Carolina; he currently serves as the Executive Director of the Alcohol Drug Council of North Carolina and was on the 2019 panel.

The Oxford House re-entry program in North Carolina has been highly successful in facilitating the transition of incarcerated individuals from prison to an Oxford House. Funded in part with State funds, since 2005, the program has enabled 1,418 individuals to transition directly from incarceration to an Oxford House. Over the last six months of 2019, 141 individuals transitioned from prison to an Oxford House. Programs have been established at numerous correctional facilities in the state and members of Oxford House's Criminal Justice Outreach Staff regularly make presentations at correctional facilities to educate individuals about Oxford House. Oxford Houses conduct telephone admission interviews with individuals about to leave incarceration and, if accepted into an Oxford House, they are taken directly to their new residence upon release.

Other states including New Jersey, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington State, Oregon and Hawaii also have strong Oxford House re-entry programs. Many individuals just being released from prison have no place to go except back to their old neighborhoods and friends. More often than not, that kind of transition leads to a return to drug use, crime and incarceration.

Oxford House works closely with drug courts and many drug court judges encourage clients to seek admission to an Oxford House. They have generally found that sending a client to an Oxford House leads to a better outcome that imprisonment.

Oxford House is one of the few sober living environments in the country that truly integrates individuals from all strata of society – rich and poor, educated and uneducated, as well as 'has beens' and 'never weres.'

Oxford House residents who come into an Oxford House from incarceration are exposed to participatory democracy rather than institutional authority. They are elected to leadership positions and undertake shared responsibility for the operation of the house. Most residents rise to the occasion. This kind of real-life training and round-the-clock peer support is rare for most individuals re-entering society.



### THE OXFORD HOUSE<sup>TM</sup> FAMILY

The statistical profile of Oxford House residents shows a demographic picture of the Oxford House family but it doesn't capture the people themselves. Since its inception, over 520,000 people have lived in Oxford Houses. Many residents and alumni have written their personal stories of addiction and subsequent recovery. These stories go well beyond the statistics and illuminate what Oxford House means to its residents and alumni. Below are excerpts from a few of the stories that were published in the 2019 Oxford House Convention Program. The full versions can be found in the 2019 Oxford House convention program on the Oxford House website (www.oxfordhouse.org).

- My clean date is 12/20/2015. I grew up in Mobile, Alabama. .... I played sports in High School and hurt my knee playing football. I found opiates. I fell in love with them. Fast forward, I got married and had a kid around at age 23; my wife had a job at a doctor's office with access to a prescription pad. I got free opiates as much as I wanted. She got caught and the free meds were gone but I was a full-blown addict by then. ... I discovered Meth and needles. I ended up unemployed and unemployable and was still in full- blown addiction. .... I overdosed and woke up scared to death and I haven't looked back since. I made some calls, found a halfway house but then I made my way to an Oxford House in Nashville. Oxford House has taught me how to be a positive, productive member of society as well as how to be accountable and hold others accountable. **Billy Culbertson Tennessee**
- ... What started off as just drinking every night turned into pills, then into Heroin. .... I got heavily involved in the manufacturing and distribution of methamphetamine. .... My heroin addiction got worse and eventually landed me in a drug house with a pimp selling me. .... My last run ended with me homeless and selling my body to maintain my heroin addiction until I decided to go back to rehab on June 19, 2018. When I completed the program this time, I interviewed for Oxford House Cherokee Park in Louisville, KY from a hospital bed beaten and broken and they accepted me. I moved into the Oxford House on July15, 2018 and it changed my life. ... In this house I had an actual bed, not just a mattress on the floor. I had a clean safe place to grow and learn and amazing women to support me. Oxford House wasn't just a place to sleep when I had nowhere else to go; it became my home and the people involved with Oxford House became my family.
- I am the Chapter Chair for Chapter 31 from Lewiston Idaho. I am Native American from the Nez Perce Tribe of Lapwai Idaho. I was born and raised in Lewiston, Idaho most of my life. .... I was placed in foster care where I was in and out of homes and the juvenile detention center until I was seventeen. ... I got clean December 10, 2018 and moved into the women's Oxford House in January of 2019. I hit the ground running once I moved in, found a part-time job that paid enough to let me pay my EES, made a commitment to my recovery and began getting involved more not only in my community but also with my chapter.
- I joined the U.S Army in 2013 as a combat medic. During my time spent in the military, I developed an addiction to opiates, which followed me into the civilian life. In 2016, I started working as a career firefighter for the city of Petersburg, Virginia. ..... In 2018, my addiction caught up with me and ultimately cost me my career as a firefighter. After losing my job, I used even more frequently, and I subsequently lost my home, family and everything I loved most. I spent the next two months living in my truck in the city of Richmond with no job and no money to feed my habit. When the Army found out about my situation, they attempted to intervene. I entered a two-week detox program at Fort Belvoir. The military then arranged for me to enter a 60-day residential treatment program, I moved into Oxford House in September of 2018. I became the House President in February 2019 and, in the same month, I became the Chairperson of my Chapter. In May, 2019, I accepted a full-time position as an Oxford House Outreach Worker covering the Central Region of Oxford Houses in Virginia. I have been clean and sober since July 14, 2018. Today I am not only an Outreach Worker but also a REVIVE Trainer as well as a Pre-Law student at Liberty University.
- I am a survivor of the foster care system and a man in long-recovery since April 20, 2013. ... Oxford House changed everything for me. I stayed about 15 months and took the next step into my recovery by moving out on to my own. ... Before Oxford, I sometimes lived with friends and sometimes I was homeless and slept in my car or on a park bench. .... I was a high school dropout who couldn't do anything right and, even worse, no matter how much I tried, I couldn't stay sober before Oxford House. .... A few months into my recovery, when I had less than 6 months sober, I started working at an adolescent treatment center, Odyssey House, where I had been a client when I was sixteen. I have been in the field ever since. .... I got a GED at 20 years old and went back to

school to be an LCDC and I hold several state level certifications. Earlier this year, I took a job I never thought I would have – Texas Oxford House Outreach Representative for Houston and Beaumont. ... I have been given a sense of satisfaction working for the organization that saved me from myself and gave me a chance even as I had burned out of all the rest. Justin Roshto, LCDC-I, PRSS, PM/PRC – Texas

- I moved into Oxford House on February 1, 2019. ... It took me awhile to adjust to the Oxford House lifestyle the accountability, giving back, and being there for your housemates. ... On March 25, 2019, I moved into and helped open Indiana's very first Mom and Me Oxford House. Oxford House is a safe and sober environment for those who are committed to recovery; if you are open-minded and willing, Oxford House will teach you so many core life skills without your even knowing it. You build a family and a strong accountability foundation that will help you in any way possible but will still call you out on your bullshit. ... I have gained so many skills and grown emotionally, mentally and spiritually with Oxford House. Christina Gardner Indiana
- When I found opiates, I found the answer to all my problems, or so I thought. ...Finally, after one particularly bad spree, someone suggested that I go to Oxford House. Wanting change in my life so bad, I tried it. When I was accepted into Oxford House, guys showed me what recovery looked like. They actually had sponsors and worked a 12-step program. They helped me dive into my program like never before. Finally, I fit in. Finally, I had friends, real friends, who actually cared about my well-being. When I went through hard times, they were there. I've cried on my brothers' shoulders in my House and them on mine. Oxford House has given me a safe place away from the noise of my past life to build a solid foundation in my life.
- I've been in recovery since August 6, 2016. ..... Being in Oxford House for the last 35 months has taught me so many key elements to life. .... I can never repay what Oxford House has given me: A LIFE!!! Before Oxford House, all I knew was getting high, distributing drugs and partaking in other criminal activities that led me to a lifestyle of insanity and jail and prison stays. ..... I'm forever grateful to have let Oxford House have such a major impact on my life, and I look forward to becoming a product of the 87% of people who become successful in never returning to their old way of life!!!!
- I haven't had the need to put a mood or mind-altering substance in my body since April 23, 2015 and for that I am grateful. I am not proud of the things I did when I was using but today I do not have to be ashamed of them. I am a FORMER drug dealer and a FORMER drug manufacturer. I am a FORMER delinquent mother, a FORMER wayward child and a FORMER drain on society. .... That is not to say that I am not still recovering. I see recovery as a life-long process. .... Oxford House has given me my life back to be the mother, friend, daughter and employee and that I was intended to be. Annie Cleveland Washington State
- My stealing started with change from the money mugs my parents had; by the time I got clean, I was cutting open ATMs. ... Multiple stints in prison didn't curb the infatuation. ..... When I got caught for a bit of criddle; my prison counselor looked at my history and asked if I had any plans to do literally anything with myself...ever. He recommended Diesel Tech school and I went. .... (When I got out, I relapsed but had a job.) My P.O. at the time was so stoked that I actually had a job and checked in when I was supposed to that he gave me another shot. He said to get into an Oxford House or end up on his list. ... A few days later I was in Hughes Oxford House with less than a week sober. This changed everything. About a year into my Oxford life, having held a position as Chapter Secretary, I was asked to be a core member of a new Oxford House. I realized then that I had value as a member of a community that focused on the addict and alcoholic and the positive changes that occurred when they wanted a better way to live. .... Today, I am a mechanic for the union. I don't drink or use. I get involved and help when I can and use that help to inspire others. .... Oxford House has opened me up to the possibility that helping others helps me and that the cycle can be infectious to others like me. **Christopher Jensen Oregon**
- I had my ups and downs while in Oxford House; however, being there taught me how to live without the use of drugs, build up a greater foundation of support around me, open up communication with my loved ones, balance a job and service work and cope with other women while growing through mistakes and becoming a productive member of society again. Flash forward to today. I am happy I have chosen the road back into recovery. I am at peace knowing I don't have to ever live that way again. I am not only an alumna, I also work as a manager in a restaurant, and have healthy friendships in recovery. I do service work by being part of a subcommittee for H&I, sharing my experience, strengths and hope by going into the women's prison and detox facilities. I am blessed and honored to have the gifts of carrying the message to those still out there.

- I chose to get clean after several years of heavy addiction. .... I have been to jail numerous times. ... I went to treatment in the Spring of 2017. ... However, I made a huge mistake. After completing treatment, I naively moved back to my hometown, with familiar neighborhoods and all too many familiar faces. Even though I had gained tools and understanding while in treatment, I relapsed almost immediately upon my return. After a monthlong binge, an opportunity seemingly fell into my lap. I received the chance to move into an Oxford House, except this time it would be 300 miles away from "home." I have been clean since August 24, 2017 and I moved into an Oxford House three days later in Tri-Cities, Washington. Every day, recovery is a struggle and a gift. I'm grateful to provide service to Oxford House, Inc. It has shown me how to work towards my true potential, be accountable, and live my life outside of a self-centered mindset. Natasha Sprinkle Washington State
- July of 2015, I totaled my car and was arrested in the process for possession of Adderall that was not prescribed .... to me, and for the pipes and needles throughout the trunk and car. This would be the beginning of the end for my old way of life. .... I would then move into an Oxford House. ... it wasn't necessarily for the right reasons. It was one of my few choices since I was on felony probation for a relatively recent charge. ..... Oxford provided exactly what I needed to grow to another level in my recovery, and it still does today. Service within Oxford House and life has now become a passion of mine. ..... I am grateful not only for my sobriety but also to those I have met through Oxford. I had no idea what would come nor what I was missing when I first moved into Oxford House just looking for cheaper rent and not ha/ving someone breathing down my neck. Today, I have three years and nine months of sobriety and I can say without any doubt that Oxford House has played an important and intricate part in my personal recovery, growth, and life.
- On the day my son was born (with cocaine in his system), I knew that I had to change everything for myself first and then for my child. So, I called Oxford House Beaumont in Greenville, NC. It was the only women and children's house in eastern NC and it gave us a chance. The day I moved into the house was the same day my son was released from the hospital and also the day the Department of Social Services took him to foster care. But I didn't use. The girls gave me one of only two mother/child rooms and I am grateful for that chance every day. With the help of AA and God, I showed up for life. I went to a program for felons to help with job readiness skills and I got two jobs. I went to AA and found a sponsor and started working the steps. I also took every class DSS said I needed. ... Seven months later, I got my son back and he lives here with me in the Oxford House. While being here in the Oxford House, I realized how much I would like to help other addicts and alcoholics. I am now in school to be a drug abuse counselor. I wake up every day grateful to be sober and grateful for life. ..... Oxford House gave me the support, structure and guidance I needed to become the person I was meant to be. I live my life knowing that as long as I put my sobriety first, anything is possible. Monica R. North Carolina
- I came into Oxford House on August 15, 2014. I had exactly 7 days of detox when I was interviewed and accepted by Oxford House Pembroke in Virginia Beach. I was trying to leave a life of Heroin addiction that had gone on for 22 miserable years. I wish that I could say that I was an ideal House member (I was not!). ... One woman took me under her wing. She took me to meetings, donated clothing to me and fed me when I was hungry. Just as important, these women held me accountable. I had to be out of my house from 9-3 looking for employment.. It was the best thing they could have done for me. I managed to get a job but, with no vehicle and a 45-minute walk to the bus stop, it was difficult. However, those long walks and many bus rides ... taught me to overcome my circumstances. I felt empowered and self-sufficient. I learned to overcome adversity and stop making excuses. Most importantly, I was proud of myself for a change. ... Month by month, I became more confident and self-sufficient. I became very involved in my House, holding all house positions and served as Chapter Vice Chair, HSCC and Treasurer. I am forever grateful to Oxford House for the huge role it has played in my life.... So, from the broken woman who sat at the park, cursing the women in her house for making her look for a job, to the confident, hopeful, new Outreach Worker in Virginia, Thank You, Oxford House! **Deborah Jackson –Virginia**
- I was a drug dealer and user of methamphetamines for 29 years. I wasn't a good role model for my children and I even sold drugs to them when they turned 18. ... Well, I decided in 2016 to change my life and to become the father figure I should have been years ago. After absconding for 5 years on 3 felony warrants, I turned myself in. I was facing 2 years in prison so that was no easy decision. But, I did it. The judge took into consideration my age and the fact that I had done the first right thing I had done in many years and gave me only 90 days. Well, I did my time and got out on March 3, 2017 and, having nowhere to go, I headed to a shelter. I was about to check in when a friend told me I was to come and stay with him until I could get into an Oxford House. Two days later, after not getting into the first Oxford House I applied at, I was voted into the Rick Dougherty Oxford House and

I have been there ever since. ..... I am a legal, licensed driver with my own car for the first time in 13 years and ... I am able to be a role model for my children. I love being of service ... and helping others get what I have gotten is a passion for me. I love my life and owe it all to God for giving me the strength to face my fears and to Oxford House for being an awesome place to stay clean and get my life together. **Dwayne Fagan – Oregon** 

- I have acquired 6 Felonies. I have been to prison 3 times and gone through treatment 7 times all to no avail. In 2015, I picked up my 7<sup>th</sup> felony 20 days out of prison. ... I then wrote letters to the judge, prosecutor, and my lawyer telling them I needed help, that I was an addict and that prison was not helping me. I was released 3 days later and given the opportunity to participate in Drug Court, which I completed sanction-free. This, however, was not the end of my drug use. I relapsed 9 months after Graduation. This is when I decided to move into an Oxford House. It was the best decision I have ever made. I not only moved into an Oxford House, I got involved. I went to fundraisers. I got a Chapter position. I went to the State Association Meeting. I had the privilege of going to the 2018 World convention in Kansas City. That is when I knew I wanted to do this for a living. On March 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, I became an employee of Oxford House Inc. Oxford House gave me the structure and support I needed to change my life to rebuild relationships with family and friends and to be the father I have always wanted to be. For this I am forever grateful.
- I came to the Oxford Houses in 2012. I'd left everything behind to start a new life. It was the hardest thing I've ever done but also the most worthwhile. .... I stayed in Oxford Houses until 2016, and that welcoming attitude never changed. That collective resolve to get better, to do better, never changed either. As I got older, and got a job, the Houses and their community stayed behind me, holding me up. When I came out to them as a gay man, they didn't falter in the slightest but continued to be the rock I needed. It would have been difficult to convince the version of me that existed before living in Oxford House that it would be better that there was a future version of me that paid bills on time, that had been managing a restaurant for years, that had three beautiful, adorable puppies. And yet, that is where I am now. Oxford House has given me the tools necessary to make the changes to my life that we all want. I've never been more passionate about anything than I am about allowing others to get the same help I did. My current involvement in Oxford House is being a part of the DC and MD Alumni Association. Oxford House continues to be one of the most meaningful parts of my life a life that, thanks to the Oxford Houses, is now full of meaning.
- On February 22, 2017, I totaled my car and received a 4<sup>th</sup> offence DUI and ended up back in jail. ... After 4 months I got pretrial release and was awarded the opportunity to go to Campus of Hope Treatment Center. After completing treatment, I went to an Oxford House for a year. I was then sentenced to 2-10 years for the 4<sup>th</sup> offence DUI. I was bitter but I swallowed it and told myself God had a plan for me. I was then paroled to an Oxford House that was struggling but, over the next 7 months, my brothers and I built this house up and it was amazing to be a part of that. My time at being a resident was eventually up. Oxford gave me the tools I needed to live a life free from active addiction and I moved into my own place and became the Oxford House Alumni Committee Chair. My life today is amazing. ... I am currently an alumnus but I still have a strong connection to Oxford. I stay involved and am the first to help a House that needs it. I freely give back what was so freely given to me. I chair meetings and I sponsor guys and Houses. I help with fundraising and event planning. I do presentations for Oxford at treatment and detox centers. I have built a family in Oxford and I love my life today and the friendships I've built for a lifetime. None of that would have been possible without Oxford.
- At age 26, I tasted alcohol, snorted cocaine, took pills and smoked cigarettes for the first time, all in one night. My life and way of thinking was forever changed. I was hooked! Within six months, I was smoking crack and had completely abandoned my children. I lived to use, and used to live. I had sex with strangers for money, robbed people and stole from local businesses. ... I was sentenced to prison for the third time. ... The Oxford House prison reentry program arranged for me to interview with an Oxford House and I was accepted. Upon release, my parole officer took me to Raleigh and I was welcomed home by the ladies at North Hill Oxford House. ... I got a job waiting table at IHOP, attended 12 step meetings, got a sponsor, and kept showing up. ... I completed my NC Peer Support Certification. I started applying for full-time inpatient peer support positions but ... my criminal background was a barrier. .... I began to work with Oxford House residents as a peer advocate... Soon after, I interviewed with the Alcohol Drug Council of NC and accepted a position as an Integrated Recovery Resource Specialist... My life is blooming.

Oxford House living saves lives and creates responsible and productive citizens. Many more recovering people deserve the chance to experience recovery in an Oxford House.

#### **TRUST BUT TEACH**

Each Oxford House<sup>TM</sup> within the large network of Oxford Houses operates the same way. The members of the House make all the decisions affecting the operations of the house. Each member pays an equal share of household expenses. Each member has an equal vote in resolving issues, admitting new members and expelling members who have returned to using alcohol and/or illicit drugs. The group of men or women in the house live as an ordinary family but follow a disciplined, standard system of operation as set forth in the Oxford House Manual<sup>®</sup>.

A few years ago, a stranger walked up to a group of Oxford House convention attendees gathered in front of the hotel and wearing their convention badges and asked: "What is Oxford House?" She was enthusiastically told about Oxford House and continued to show interest, asking, "Who manages each house?" she asked. "We do," was the response. Several added, "Its simple. The 'inmates run the asylum'."



Several added, "Its simple. The 'inmates run the asylum'." Everyone laughed, but the group went on to explain more seriously and in detail about the weekly House meetings, the election of five House officers, the term limits of six months, the duties of each officer, the way individuals are "voted in" and the sadness when a member is "voted out" because of relapse. That snapshot illustrated why Oxford House has succeeded – it trusts recovering individuals to help themselves by helping each other, gives them the standard system of operation that works, and permits such trust to be justified.

For forty-five years, the story of Oxford House has been told and retold – over and over and over – by the evergrowing number of Oxford House residents and alumni and by thousands of friends in the treatment profession,

court system and recovery community. About 520,000 individuals have moved through an Oxford House somewhere in the country. Each has been "voted into" the house and most have not been "voted out" because of relapse. Since 1991, when CBS aired a segment about Oxford House on "60 Minutes", every newcomer to an Oxford House is shown the video as his or her first indoctrination to the democratically-run, financially self-supported Oxford House system of operation. At first, the newcomer learns just the basics: "Don't Drink;" "Don't use illicit drugs;" "This is the equal share of household expenses;" "Here is the kitchen;" "This is your shelf in the 'fridge;" "Be at the weekly business meeting at 7 PM on Monday;" and "Here is your key to the house."

The new resident starts out by avoiding the use of alcohol or drugs because he or she does not want to be thrown out and quietly takes pride in the fact of having been trusted enough to be given a key to the House. At the first House meeting, people are friendly but the newcomer just sits and listens. The meeting follows a specific schedule and the newcomer is told he or she has an equal vote and is expected to vote whenever the group has a vote on a motion or a resolution. Everything is open and reports are given about the last meeting, the house checking account, bills paid, bills due and upcoming events. When it is over, other House members will probably ask the newcomer how things are going and get early impressions about the meeting. The Chore Coordinator will explain that the new resident has a chore to do daily or before the next meeting. The Treasurer will provide a reminder of when the next equal share of expenses is due.

Within a few weeks, the newcomer will probably have had to vote on admission of a new resident and may well have been elected to a House office – but by then he or she is an old-timer in Oxford House and will share his or her knowledge about how Oxford House operates with the next newcomer. Now he or she

avoids taking a drink or using drugs in order to set a good example. Before long, abstinence is becoming a habit and sobriety is becoming more comfortable week by week. He or she learns that sobriety is habit-forming. At some point, the individual will feel comfortable enough in sobriety to move on to make room in the house for someone else but he or she knows that voluntarily moving out is entirely up to the individual. There are no time limits so long as a resident follows the Charter conditions.

Sometimes a resident becomes so dedicated to helping others that he or she will move into a newlyestablished Oxford House to live and help teach others the Oxford House system of operation. Other residents who move out become active alumni, working with Houses and Chapters, attending social events, helping newcomers find jobs and otherwise helping to strengthen the network of Oxford Houses – while reinforcing their own sobriety.

Officers from clusters of Oxford Houses in a given area meet once a month as a chapter to share their knowledge. While all individual Oxford Houses are autonomous, guidance from chapters can be very helpful, particularly for new Oxford Houses. Chapters also hold social events where members of individuals Oxford Houses get to know each other.

The role of the outreach worker has turned out to be very important. Since expansion began, many trained outreach workers – all of whom are Oxford House alumni – have traveled from Alaska to Australia to teach others in recovery from alcoholism and drug addiction how an Oxford House<sup>TM</sup> works and to explain why living in an Oxford House<sup>TM</sup> is the best road for achieving recovery without relapse. The outreach worker is trained by OHI for the following tasks: helping to find a suitable house to rent; helping the group apply for a charter from OHI; helping to open a House bank account and get an FEIN number from IRS; helping to recruit initial House residents; teaching residents the system of operations; helping build mutually-supportive chapters; developing linkages to providers; working with drug courts and parole officers; employment linkages; documenting success/failure; trouble-shooting problems and coordinating with state and local agencies. Outreach workers aren't House managers but they are able to teach residents the system of operations so that new Houses run smoothly from the get-go.

Financing of outreach workers comes from two sources: [1] contracts with local or state governments and behavioral health organizations; [2] voluntary contributions from Oxford House residents and alumni and

other donors. At the first Oxford House World Convention in 1999, the residents and alumni voted to suggest that each Oxford House send monthly contributions to OHI to further expansion. Such contributions are entirely voluntary; OHI charges Houses no fees. To encourage regular voluntary contributions from the individual houses, the OHI Board established the 'Directors' 100-Year Awards that are given to Houses that contribute at least \$600 a year.' (See photo at right with some Idaho residents receiving their award at the convention in 2019.) Time has shown that the voluntary scheme has produced a rewarding outcome. This income covers expenses that are uncompensated and permits outreach to states and areas where local government



agencies have not contracted with OHI to provide outreach workers to develop networks of self-run, self-supported Oxford Houses. (*Other sections of this report discuss the awards in more detail.*)

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2019 OXFORD HOUSE WORLD CONVENTION**

Over 1,600 Oxford House residents, alumni and friends participated in the 2019 Oxford House World Convention in Washington, D.C. over Labor Day weekend. The theme of the convention was: Oxford House: Self-reliance • Self-respect. The convention featured general sessions, breakout panels, campaign speeches, awards, good food and social events. (*A copy of the convention program is on the website.*)



A very large audience listened intently to the opening general session. It opened with an invocation by the Msgr. Tolentino; welcoming remarks by Barbara Bazron, Ph.D., Director of the DC Department of Behavioral Health; a convention overview by COO Kathleen Gibson and CEO Paul Molloy; a review of World Council election rules by James McClain. The opening keynote address was given by John F. Kelly, Ph.D., ABPP, a professor of psychiatry in Addiction Medicine at Harvard Medical School.



During the convention, there were 25 breakout panels. The Friday morning breakouts included a panel on Addiction Research with noted addiction experts including Joshua Sharfstein, M.D. of Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; Wilson Compton, M.D., Deputy Director of NIDA; John Kelly, Ph.D.; Kevin Sabat, Ph.D., CEO of SAM; Stuart Gitlow, M.D.; and Westley Clark, M.D., former CSAT Director They were joined at the last minute by VADM Jerome M. Adams, M.D. M.P.H., U.S. Surgeon General.



There were also nine other Friday morning breakout panels. A panel on "Working with Drug Courts, Parole and Re-entry" is reviewed in the Re-entry section of this report. Other panels focused on 'housekeeping

issues' including, "Leadership v Bossism – Practicing Democracy"; and "Conducting House Chapter and Association meetings." These panels featured Oxford House residents and alumni who discussed their experience and provided good suggestions for House residents.

The World Council Update panel (photo at right) discussed their activities over the prior year and plans for the future. The Oxford House World Council is an elected body of Oxford residents and alumni. Dealing with the broader community was addressed in panels on "Engaging with the Recovery Community"; "Oxford



House and Behavioral Health Organizations"; and "Working with State Agencies." The latter panel featured representatives from State Agencies in Tennessee, Louisiana, North Carolina, Kentucky, Florida and New Jersey who discussed their work with Oxford House. Oxford House, Inc. has contracts with 24 states to help recovering individuals establish new Oxford Houses and teach them the system of operation.

Pictured below is a photo of the "Going Back to School as Residents or Alumni" panel. Active addiction interrupted the educational plans of many Oxford House residents and alumni. Now in recovery, many of



them have ventured back to school – some get GEDs; some take certification courses and others get undergraduate and graduate degrees. The panelists at this session are all Oxford House residents or alumni who have taken this route successfully. They talked about their experience and provided tips for other Oxford House residents interested in continuing their education. Many colleges now recognize the need to support students in recovery; UNC has been a leader in supporting Oxford Houses for students and one of the panelists is a resident of a UNC Oxford House.

The convention also featured a very well-attended panel entitled: "Out of the Closet and Into an Oxford House – Understanding Recovery and the LGBTQ Community." Many members of the LBGTQ community have found Oxford Houses very welcoming. All members of the panel were members of the LBGTQ community and residents or alumni of Oxford House. They discussed their own experiences in applying to and living in Oxford Houses and responded to audience questions.



The Friday afternoon keynote panel on the Opioid Crisis is discussed in

the opioid section of this report. Following the opioid panel, candidates for open seats on World Council presented three-minute speeches explaining why they should be elected. The World Council consists of nine resident members and three alumni members; all with staggered 3-year terms. Some photos are below.



The campaign speeches were followed by the presentation of the OHI Board of Directors' 100-year Awards to those Oxford Houses, Chapters and State Associations that voluntarily contributed at least \$600 over the past year to Oxford House, Inc. to support expansion of Oxford Houses in areas where no other support is available. Oxford House, Inc. levies no fees or charges of any type to individual Oxford Houses; however, many Houses, Chapters and State Associations choose to make voluntary contribution to show their gratitude for what Oxford has done for them and to enable others to receive the same opportunity. Over the past fiscal year, Oxford House, Inc. received over \$675,000 in contributions from grateful Oxford House residents and alumni. The award certificates are presented at the convention by state. Some of the award recipients are pictured below.



The Oklahoma group is shown above; directly below are groups from Nebraska (left) and Missouri.



Pictured above is the large contingent of Oxford House residents and alumni from Washington State.



Texas



Kentucky

Delaware

As seen in the photos, many of the participants are wearing colorful tee shirts that are designed to represent their state. They create their state logo and designs and wear them at various convention events. Some of the tee shirt logos are shown in other parts of this report. All of the slogans celebrate recovery in one way or another.



District of Columbia



South Carolina

Colorado

West Virginia



Virginia

Saturday morning was busy with three breakout sessions – with five breakout panels in each. Photos of a few of the panels are shown below. At all sessions, there were lively question and answer periods.



The Medication panel (above) reviewed medicines that fit within an Oxford House environment. A second panel (far left below) was on "MAT and MAR in Oxford Houses and Dealing with Opioid Overdoses." The panel talked about the role of MAT and how Oxford Houses are dealing with the use of MAT among residents. The middle photo below shows the Children in Oxford Houses panel. In the Oxford House network, there are Oxford Houses for Women with Children and Oxford Houses for Men with Children.



The panel at left below focused on Educating the Public about Recovery and featured Oxford House alumni as well as Ivette Torres, formerly of CSAT, and Westley Clark, M.D. Board member of Faces and Voices. Below at right is the panel on Generation X and Millennials in Oxford House and the photos as bottom show the Fun in Oxford House panel where Tinkerbell (a.k.a. Brandie) made an appearance.



Other panel topics included: Keeping Alumni Involved and Forming Alumni Associations; Nuts and Bolts of Finding and Starting a New Oxford House; Oxford House Research and Upcoming Studies; Four Stages and Five Core Principles of Oxford House; Filling Vacancies; Working with Treatment Providers; Working Together – Houses, Chapters, Associations and Alumni; and a Civil Rights Update. Oxford House, Inc. was a trailblazer in seeking court definition and affirmation of the 1988 Amendments to the Federal Fair Housing Act, including the landmark 1995 U. S. Supreme Court decision in *City of Edmonds, WA v. Oxford House, Inc.* Despite that favorable decision, some jurisdictions continue to try to avoid accommodating Oxford House residents and OHI challenges those barriers in court when they arise.

A well-attended alumni lunch followed the morning breakouts. Lynn Williams was the alumni speaker and Corey Yancey received the alumni achievement award.

The afternoon General Session began with a keynote speech by Stuart Gitlow, M.D., a psychiatrist specializing in addiction medicine and a member of the OHI Board of Directors. As at previous conventions, his talk was met with great enthusiasm and was informative, inspirational and entertaining. Furthermore, no one works an old-fashioned flip chart as well as he does.



The afternoon General Session also featured the announcement of the new members of the Oxford House World Council. The photo below shows all the current members of the Council.



The General Session concluded with discussion and votes on resolutions presented to the participants. Following the close of the General Session, there was some down time before the evening banquet.

The Saturday night banquet featured good and plentiful food, presentation of well-earned awards, good company and an exceptional recovery speech. The banquet was followed by a dance. The celebration opened with an invocation by Msgr. Joaquin Bazan, a D.C. priest who, years ago, helped Paul and the other residents of the first Oxford House. He has remained a strong supporter of Oxford House. OHI Board Member James McClain presented the Reggie Midget Award to Jason Bliss; CEO J. Paul Molloy presented the Founder's Award to Bill Moses and Dave Johnson; and COO Kathleen Gibson presented the Tom Fellows Award to Dick and Doris Kelsey. Oxford House alumnus and outreach worker Marty Walker was the exuberant and inspirational recovery speaker.



The Sunday morning closing General Session started early at 8:15 a.m. following the breakfast buffet. Despite the early hour, the room was packed for the convention summary, the remembrance of those who died over the prior year and the tradition-renewal and closing of the 2019 Oxford House convention.























## FY 2019 Financials

#### Oxford House, Inc.

#### Statement of Financial Position June 30, 2019

ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash		\$ 465,650
Accounts Receivable, Net		2,413,306
Employee Advances		15,867
Prepaid Expenses		89,195
Loans Receivable, Current Portion		178,439
Total Current Assets		3,162,457
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT		
Furniture and Office Equipment		359,273
Less Accumulated Depreciation		(250,934)
Net Property and Equipment		108,339
OTHER ASSETS		
Loans Receivable		12,561
Restricted Cash		96,451
Deposits		15,285
Total Other Assets		124,297
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>\$ 3,395,093</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET A	SSETS	
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable		\$ 556,888
Program Advances		158,704
Accrued Payroll Taxes		12,039
Accrued Salaries		98,185
Deferred Lease Obligation		86,256
Total Current Liabilities		912,072
Total Liabilities		912,072
NET ASSETS, Unrestricted		2,483,021
TOTAL NET ASSETS		2,483,021
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		\$ 3,395,093
Statement of A	ctivities	
Statement of A SUPPORT AND REVENUE	ctivities	
SUPPORT AND REVENUE Federal Awards	ctivities	8,068,994
SUPPORT AND REVENUE Federal Awards State and Local Awards		
SUPPORT AND REVENUE Federal Awards		8,068,994
SUPPORT AND REVENUE Federal Awards State and Local Awards		8,068,994 3,150,492
SUPPORT AND REVENUE Federal Awards State and Local Awards General Contributions Convention Revenue Litigation Settlement Income		8,068,994 3,150,492 784,377
SUPPORT AND REVENUE Federal Awards State and Local Awards General Contributions Convention Revenue		8,068,994 3,150,492 784,377 489,609
SUPPORT AND REVENUE Federal Awards State and Local Awards General Contributions Convention Revenue Litigation Settlement Income		8,068,994 3,150,492 784,377 489,609 16,610
SUPPORT AND REVENUE Federal Awards State and Local Awards General Contributions Convention Revenue Litigation Settlement Income Combined Federal Campaign		8,068,994 3,150,492 784,377 489,609 16,610 21,057
SUPPORT AND REVENUE Federal Awards State and Local Awards General Contributions Convention Revenue Litigation Settlement Income Combined Federal Campaign Conference Revenue		8,068,994 3,150,492 784,377 489,609 16,610 21,057 10,265
SUPPORT AND REVENUE Federal Awards State and Local Awards General Contributions Convention Revenue Litigation Settlement Income Combined Federal Campaign Conference Revenue Interest Income		8,068,994 3,150,492 784,377 489,609 16,610 21,057 10,265 880
SUPPORT AND REVENUE Federal Awards State and Local Awards General Contributions Convention Revenue Litigation Settlement Income Combined Federal Campaign Conference Revenue Interest Income Other Income	\$	8,068,994 3,150,492 784,377 489,609 16,610 21,057 10,265 880 269
SUPPORT AND REVENUE Federal Awards State and Local Awards General Contributions Convention Revenue Litigation Settlement Income Combined Federal Campaign Conference Revenue Interest Income Other Income Total Support and Revenue EXPENSES	\$	8,068,994 3,150,492 784,377 489,609 16,610 21,057 10,265 880 269 <u>12,542,853</u>
SUPPORT AND REVENUE Federal Awards State and Local Awards General Contributions Convention Revenue Litigation Settlement Income Combined Federal Campaign Conference Revenue Interest Income Other Income Total Support and Revenue <u>EXPENSES</u> State and Local Program – Federal Funds	\$	8,068,994 3,150,492 784,377 489,609 16,610 21,057 10,265 880 269 12,542,853 8,066,184
SUPPORT AND REVENUE Federal Awards State and Local Awards General Contributions Convention Revenue Litigation Settlement Income Combined Federal Campaign Conference Revenue Interest Income Other Income Total Support and Revenue <u>EXPENSES</u> State and Local Program – Federal Funds State and Local Program–State/Local	\$	8,068,994 3,150,492 784,377 489,609 16,610 21,057 10,265 880 269 <u>12,542,853</u> 8,066,184 3,153,366
SUPPORT AND REVENUE Federal Awards State and Local Awards General Contributions Convention Revenue Litigation Settlement Income Combined Federal Campaign Conference Revenue Interest Income Other Income Total Support and Revenue EXPENSES State and Local Program – Federal Funds State and Local Program – Other	\$	8,068,994 3,150,492 784,377 489,609 16,610 21,057 10,265 880 269 <u>12,542,853</u> 8,066,184 3,153,366 116,657
SUPPORT AND REVENUE Federal Awards State and Local Awards General Contributions Convention Revenue Litigation Settlement Income Combined Federal Campaign Conference Revenue Interest Income Other Income Total Support and Revenue <u>EXPENSES</u> State and Local Program – Federal Funds State and Local Program – Other World Convention	\$ \$	8,068,994 3,150,492 784,377 489,609 16,610 21,057 10,265 880 269 12,542,853 8,066,184 3,153,366 116,657 413,560
SUPPORT AND REVENUE         Federal Awards         State and Local Awards         General Contributions         Convention Revenue         Litigation Settlement Income         Combined Federal Campaign         Conference Revenue         Interest Income         Other Income         Total Support and Revenue         EXPENSES         State and Local Program – Federal Funds         State and Local Program – Other         World Convention         Total Program Services	\$	8,068,994 3,150,492 784,377 489,609 16,610 21,057 10,265 880 269 <u>12,542,853</u> 8,066,184 3,153,366 116,657
SUPPORT AND REVENUE         Federal Awards         State and Local Awards         General Contributions         Convention Revenue         Litigation Settlement Income         Combined Federal Campaign         Conference Revenue         Interest Income         Other Income         Total Support and Revenue         EXPENSES         State and Local Program – Federal Funds         State and Local Program – Other         World Convention         Total Program Services         Supporting Services	\$ \$	8,068,994 3,150,492 784,377 489,609 16,610 21,057 10,265 880 269 12,542,853 8,066,184 3,153,366 116,657 413,560 11,749,767
SUPPORT AND REVENUE         Federal Awards         State and Local Awards         General Contributions         Convention Revenue         Litigation Settlement Income         Combined Federal Campaign         Conference Revenue         Interest Income         Other Income         Total Support and Revenue         EXPENSES         State and Local Program – Federal Funds         State and Local Program – Other         World Convention         Total Program Services         Supporting Services         Management and General	\$ \$	8,068,994 3,150,492 784,377 489,609 16,610 21,057 10,265 880 269 12,542,853 8,066,184 3,153,366 116,657 413,560 11,749,767 146,756
SUPPORT AND REVENUE         Federal Awards         State and Local Awards         General Contributions         Convention Revenue         Litigation Settlement Income         Combined Federal Campaign         Conference Revenue         Interest Income         Other Income         Total Support and Revenue <u>EXPENSES</u> State and Local Program – Federal Funds         State and Local Program – Other         World Convention         Total Program Services         Supporting Services         Management and General         Fundraising	\$ \$	8,068,994 3,150,492 784,377 489,609 16,610 21,057 10,265 880 269 12,542,853 8,066,184 3,153,366 116,657 413,560 11,749,767 146,756 300
SUPPORT AND REVENUE         Federal Awards         State and Local Awards         General Contributions         Convention Revenue         Litigation Settlement Income         Combined Federal Campaign         Conference Revenue         Interest Income         Other Income         Total Support and Revenue         EXPENSES         State and Local Program – Federal Funds         State and Local Program – Other         World Convention         Total Program Services         Supporting Services         Management and General         Fundraising         Total Supporting Services	\$ \$	8,068,994 3,150,492 784,377 489,609 16,610 21,057 10,265 880 269 12,542,853 8,066,184 3,153,366 116,657 413,560 11,749,767 146,756
SUPPORT AND REVENUE         Federal Awards         State and Local Awards         General Contributions         Convention Revenue         Litigation Settlement Income         Combined Federal Campaign         Conference Revenue         Interest Income         Other Income         Total Support and Revenue <u>EXPENSES</u> State and Local Program – Federal Funds         State and Local Program – Other         World Convention         Total Program Services         Supporting Services         Management and General         Fundraising	\$ \$ \$	8,068,994 3,150,492 784,377 489,609 16,610 21,057 10,265 880 269 12,542,853 8,066,184 3,153,366 116,657 413,560 11,749,767 146,756 300 _147,056
SUPPORT AND REVENUE         Federal Awards         State and Local Awards         General Contributions         Convention Revenue         Litigation Settlement Income         Combined Federal Campaign         Conference Revenue         Interest Income         Other Income         Total Support and Revenue         EXPENSES         State and Local Program – Federal Funds         State and Local Program – Other         World Convention         Total Program Services         Management and General         Fundraising         Total Supporting Services         Total Supporting Services         Total Supporting Services	\$ \$ \$	8,068,994 3,150,492 784,377 489,609 16,610 21,057 10,265 880 269 12,542,853 8,066,184 3,153,366 116,657 413,560 11,749,767 146,756 300 
SUPPORT AND REVENUE         Federal Awards         State and Local Awards         General Contributions         Convention Revenue         Litigation Settlement Income         Combined Federal Campaign         Conference Revenue         Interest Income         Other Income         Total Support and Revenue         EXPENSES         State and Local Program – Federal Funds         State and Local Program – Other         World Convention         Total Program Services         Supporting Services         Management and General         Fundraising         Total Supporting Services         Total Supporting Services         Management and General         Fundraising         Total Expenses         NET ASSETS Beginning of Year	\$ \$ \$	8,068,994 3,150,492 784,377 489,609 16,610 21,057 10,265 880 269 12,542,853 8,066,184 3,153,366 116,657 413,560 11,749,767 146,756 300 <u>147,056</u> 11,896,823 1,836,990
SUPPORT AND REVENUE         Federal Awards         State and Local Awards         General Contributions         Convention Revenue         Litigation Settlement Income         Combined Federal Campaign         Conference Revenue         Interest Income         Other Income         Total Support and Revenue         EXPENSES         State and Local Program – Federal Funds         State and Local Program – Other         World Convention         Total Program Services         Supporting Services         Management and General         Fundraising         Total Supporting Services         Nett ASSETS Beginning of Year         NET ASSETS End of Year	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$	8,068,994 3,150,492 784,377 489,609 16,610 21,057 10,265 880 269 12,542,853 8,066,184 3,153,366 116,657 413,560 11,749,767 146,756 300 147,056 11,896,823 1,836,990 2,483,021
SUPPORT AND REVENUE         Federal Awards         State and Local Awards         General Contributions         Convention Revenue         Litigation Settlement Income         Combined Federal Campaign         Conference Revenue         Interest Income         Other Income         Total Support and Revenue         EXPENSES         State and Local Program – Federal Funds         State and Local Program – Other         World Convention         Total Program Services         Supporting Services         Management and General         Fundraising         Total Supporting Services         Total Supporting Services         Management and General         Fundraising         Total Expenses         NET ASSETS Beginning of Year	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$	8,068,994 3,150,492 784,377 489,609 16,610 21,057 10,265 880 269 12,542,853 8,066,184 3,153,366 116,657 413,560 11,749,767 146,756 300 <u>147,056</u> 11,896,823 1,836,990

#### **Oxford House, Inc.**

#### FY 2019 Expenses By Category and Function

Expense Item	State/Local Program	G&A	Total Expenses
Salaries	\$4,731,894	\$ 36,390	\$4,768,284
Fringe Benefits	967,805	6,102	973,907
Payroll Taxes	370,146	3,363	373,509
Total Personnel	6,069,845	45,855	6,115,700
Travel & Lodging	4,226,743	833	4,227,576
Telephone and Fax	254,399	1,327	255,726
Rent	224,481	4,276	228,757
Meetings/Conferences	200,448		200,448
Other*	139,956	23,914	163,870
Professional Fees	141,034	19,054	160,358
Convention Expense	129,189	1,756	130,945
Insurance	56,689	15,848	72,537
Printing/Publications	82,617	1,900	84,517
Outreach Supplies	56,891	22	56,913
Office Supplies	39,447	5,648	45,095
Local Training	39,460		39,460
Postage and Supplies	22,410	12,813	35,223
Depreciation	32,600	642	33,242
Payroll Services	21,754	9,467	31,221
Bank Charges	11,534	3,701	15,235
Total Expenses	<u>\$11,749,767</u>	<u>\$147,056*</u>	<u>\$11,896,823</u>

\* Includes \$300 which is the total amount used for fundraising.

In 1999, at the annual Oxford House convention, delegates voted to make voluntary contributions to help expand network of Oxford Houses. In FY 2019, more that 30% of Oxford Houses earned the Director's Hundred Year Award by contributing at least \$600 during the fiscal year.

That amounted to over \$675 thousand during FY 2019 and was used for expansion of the Oxford House network of houses. That represents more than 5.7% of the total expenses for expansion and monitoring during FY 2019.

A full copy of the Oxford House, Inc. audit and IRS form 990 is available from Oxford House, Inc. Telephone 301-587-2916 or e-mail Info@oxfordhouse.org\_to receive a copy of the audit. The IRS form 990 is available to download at <u>www.oxfordhouse.org</u> under "About Us/Finances".

<sup>1</sup>Audit notes are the pages that follow.

#### OXFORD HOUSE, INC. NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS JUNE 30, 2019

Note 1 - Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### Organization

Oxford House, Inc. is a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware on October 25, 1987 for the purpose of aiding in the rehabilitation and to improve social condition and environment for recovering alcoholics and drug addicts. This is accomplished by developing plans and programs for their recovery and by establishing homes for recovering substance abusers. Independently chartered "Oxford House" operates throughout the country as self-run, self-supported recovery houses. Oxford House, Inc. acts as the national umbrella organization and provides overall direction and technical, assistance to the independent "Oxford Houses."

#### Basis of Accounting

Oxford House, Inc. presents its financial statements on the accrual basis of accounting, whereby revenue is recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

#### Basis of Presentation

Financial statement presentation follows the recommendations of the Financial Accounting Standards Board in FASB ASC Topic 958, Not–for–Profit Organizations. Under FASB ASC 958, Oxford House, Inc. is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets: unrestricted net assets, temporary restricted net assets, and permanently restricted net assets.

#### Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### Allowance For Doubtful Accounts

Accounts receivable are considered to be fully collectible.

#### Property and Equipment

Property and equipment is stated at cost or donated value and is depreciated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets.

All acquisitions of property and equipment in excess of \$1,000 are capitalized. Expenditures for major renewals and betterments that extend the useful lives of property and equipment are capitalized. Expenditures for maintenance and repairs are charged to expense as incurred.

#### Grant Contract Revenue

Grant contract revenue is recorded when earned under the provisions of the applicable contracts.

#### Contributions

Oxford House, Inc. accounts for contributions in accordance with the recommendations of the Financial Accounting Standards Board in FASB ASC Topic 958, Not–For–Profit Entities. In accordance with FASB ASC 958, contributions received are recorded as unrestricted, temporarily restricted, or permanently restricted support, depending on the existence and/or nature of any donor restrictions.

Support that is restricted by the donor is reported as an increase in unrestricted net assets if the restriction expires in the reporting period in which the support is recognized. All other donor-restricted support is reported as an increase in temporarily or permanently restricted net assets depending on the nature of the restriction. When a restriction expires (that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished), temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

#### Income Taxes

Oxford House, Inc. is exempt from Federal income taxes under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and has been classified as a publicly supported organization. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization the organization is also exempt from State income taxes. Accordingly, no provision for income taxes is required in the accompanying financial statements.

Functional Allocation of Expenses

The costs of providing the various programs and other activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of activities. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among the programs and supporting services benefited.

#### Cash Equivalents

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, Oxford House, Inc. considers all highly liquid debt instruments with maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. There were no cash equivalents as of June 30, 2019.

#### Restricted Cash

Oxford House, Inc. maintains restricted bank accounts and certificates deposit under various contractual obligations.

#### Escrow Funds

Grants from individual states for funding of the loan program (Note 6) are segregated into escrow accounts for the benefit of the individual states. Those funds are not included in the financial statements of Oxford House, Inc. as they are considered to be state funds.

#### Major Customers

Oxford House, Inc. derives a substantial portion of its income from State awards funded in whole or in part by Federal funds.

#### Subsequent Events Evaluation

Management has evaluated subsequent events through January 17, 2020, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

#### Note 2 – Loans Receivable

Oxford House, Inc. makes start-up loans to certain recovery houses and temporary loans [bridge loans] to other recovery houses. At June 30, 2019 loans receivable were \$191,000, net of allowance of \$-0-.

#### Note 3 – Accrued Salaries

Included in accrued salaries are salaries and royalties owed to an officer of Oxford House, Inc. as follows:

J. Paul Molloy, President	_\$	<u>98,18</u> 5
	\$	98,185

Note 4 – Line of Credit

Oxford House, Inc. has a line of credit note of \$75,000 of which \$0 is outstanding at June 30, 2019. The note is secured by a \$31,132 certificate of deposit, which is included in restricted cash appearing on the statement of financial position. The interest rate is currently 6.5%. Oxford House, Inc. is to make minimum monthly payments of interest only. The note is considered payable on demand. The interest expense for the year ending June 30, 2019 was \$-0-.

#### Note 5 – Retirement Plan

Oxford House, Inc. has a 403(b) retirement plan. All full time employees over the age of twenty-one [21] that have completed three months of service are eligible to participate. The plan is funded through pre-tax salary reductions by the employees.

Note 6 – State Escrow Accounts

Oxford House, Inc. has received restricted funds from various entities to be used solely for the purpose of extending revolving loans to establish new houses, which are then repaid by these houses.

Oxford House, Inc. managed funds or held and managed funds in escrow accounts under contracts with various states to meet the requirement of Public Law 100-690, "The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988." Such escrow accounts are not reflected in the accompanying financial statements of Oxford House, Inc. Held funds, including outstanding loan balances approximate \$1,943,000 at June 30, 2019.

#### Note 7 - Lease Commitments

Oxford House, Inc. leases office space and office equipment under operating leases. The office space lease is subject to operating cost increases. This lease commenced July 2018 and is scheduled to terminate November 30, 2023. Lease expense for the year ended June 30, 2019 approximated \$228,748, which included parking spaces and common area fees.

The following is a schedule of approximate future minimum lease payments under non-cancelable operating leases for office space with initial or remaining terms of one year or more as of June 30, 2019:

2020	\$219,861
2021	\$225,935
2022	\$232,148
2023	\$238,499
2024	\$102,107
5-Year Total	<u>\$1,018,550</u>

Note 8 -of Credit Risk

Bank balances in excess of Federally insured limits at June 30, 2019 were \$312,100.

Note 9 – Claims and Litigation

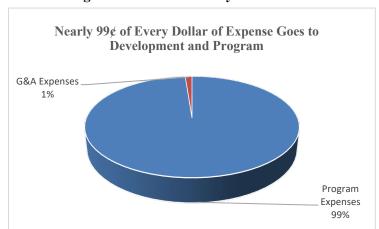
Oxford House, Inc. is subject to other various claims and litigation. In the opinion of management, the outcome of such matters will not have a material effect on the financial position of Oxford House, Inc.

Note 10 - Liquidity and Availability of Resources

Oxford House, Inc. has a policy to structure its financial assets to be available as its general expenditures, liabilities and other obligations come due.

Oxford House, Inc. has \$3,057,395 of financial assets available within one year of the statement of financial position date to meet the needs for general expenditures consisting of cash of \$465,650, accounts receivable of \$2,413,306 and current portion of loans receivable of \$178,439. None of the financial assets are subject to donor or other contractual restrictions that make them unavailable for general expenditures within one year of the statement of financial position.

Note: The auditor's full report, including supplemental single state audits, can be obtained by sending an e-mail to <u>info@oxfordhouse.org</u> or writing Oxford House, Inc., 1010 Wayne Avenue, Suite 300, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.



#### Getting the Most Out of Every Dollar of Income

Oxford House: Creating a National Network of Recovery Houses One House at a Time

## Oxford House Creating a National Network of Recovery Houses One House at a Time



A few of the more than 2,700 Oxford Houses

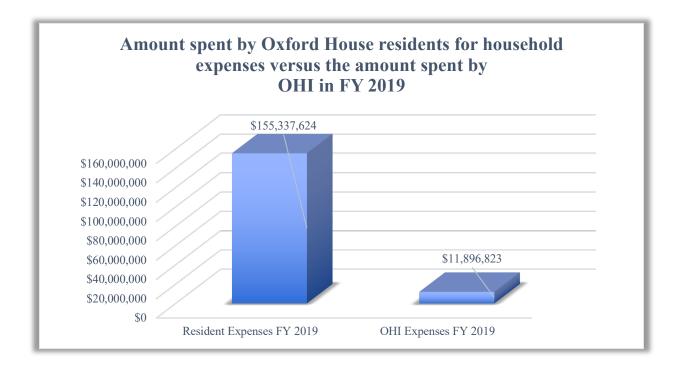
Oxford House<sup>™</sup> is a cost-effective way to help alleviate the alcoholism and drug addiction crisis in the United States. Spread the good news!

#### ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ADDICTION

- About 25 million Americans are actively addicted to drugs with about 15 million alcoholics, 2 million opioid addicts and about another 6 million addicted to other drugs. (SAMHSA – 2018)
- 22.7 million persons aged 18 or older needed treatment for an illicit drug or alcohol abuse problem in 2018 (8.6 percent of persons aged 18 or older). (SAMHSA)
- Of these, only 1.75 million 7.1 percent of those who needed treatment received it.
- Government reports show that alcohol and drug abuse is responsible for the admission of almost 1.5 million people to emergency rooms nationwide. Drug addiction results in nearly half a trillion dollars in economic loss annually; the equivalent of \$1,426 per American. [2010]
- For those receiving treatment, 60% had been in prior treatment an average of more than three times and 14% five times or more. [TEDS]

#### **OXFORD HOUSE TRADITIONS**

- 1. Oxford House has as its primary goal the provision of housing for the alcoholic and drug addict who wants to stay clean and sober.
- 2. All Oxford Houses are run on a democratic basis. Our officers serve continuous periods of no longer than six months.
- 3. No Member of an Oxford House is ever asked to leave without cause -- drinking, drug use, or disruptive behavior.
- 4. Oxford House members realize that active participation in AA and/or NA offers assurance of continued sobriety.
- 5. Each Oxford House should be autonomous except in matters affecting other houses or Oxford House, Inc. as a whole.
- 6. Each Oxford House should be financially selfsupporting.
- 7. Oxford House should remain forever nonprofessional.
- 8. Propagation of the Oxford House, Inc. concept should always be conceived as public education.
- 9. Members who leave an Oxford House in good standing should become associate members.



# Oxford House™ 1975-2020

45 Years of Organized Self-Help To Enable Alcoholics and Drug Addicts to Recover Without Relapse

- Providing Sole Authority for Oxford House Charters
- Providing Technical Assistance to Establish New Oxford Houses
- Providing Technical Assistance to Keep Existing Oxford Houses on Track
- Providing Organization of Chapters to Help Oxford Houses to Help Themselves
- Providing the Time, Living Environment and Support to Enable Alcoholics and Drug Addicts to Achieve Recovery Without Relapse
- Providing the Legal, Philosophical, and Scientific Framework for a Cost-effective, Worldwide Network of Supportive Recovery Housing.

Write or Call

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