

# OXFORD HOUSE GRAPE

May 20, 2008

Oxford House

*Time for Recovery*

The Oxford House 2008 Convention will be in New Orleans

September 4-7

Hilton Hotel

Register ToDay



## Friday Night Dinner Cruise Set For Oxford House Convention

### Friday Night Reception – Jazz, Dinner and Awards New Orleans 2008

Each year, the Friday night event is special because of the 100-Year Awards, free food and great socializing. The New Orleans Oxford World Convention will be no exception.

The 100-Year Award is granted to every house that made a \$50 per month contribution to Oxford House World Services during the year to help expand the number of

Oxford Houses. In 2007, Oxford Houses in the nation donated more than \$200,000. That enabled Oxford House, Inc. to finish the year in the black, add more than 120 new Oxford Houses to the national network, hold a lot of state workshops and solve day-to-day problems facing Oxford Houses.

This year Friday night will be spent on the Creole Queen – a paddle wheeler that goes up along the river, provides good New Orleans food and great jazz. The Creole Queen features outer decks with authentically

patterned wrought iron trims inviting guests to stroll back in time as they settle into the mood of a bygone era. The interiors are richly appointed with plush Victorian style draperies, soft period lighting, wooden parquet dance floors, and Louisiana Cypress bars accented with brass railing for a warm and welcoming setting. . This Dinner Jazz Cruise is pure New Orleans, pure pleasure!

This will be just part of great memories of fun and friendship from the New Orleans Convention.

## Tenth World Convention

**A place to strengthen the network of houses and recovery for the 20 million addicted Americans**

Last September, 560 Oxford House residents and alumni attended the 9th Oxford House World Convention at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. The theme was “What If ...?” The men and women of Oxford House speculated *what if* more states participated in developing a statewide network of Oxford Houses. What if Oxford House itself accelerated the opening of new houses? Along with all the “What Ifs” you can think of the goal is as big today as it was then. There are at least 25 million American addicted to alcohol and drugs.

This is the same story that Abraham Lincoln faced in 1842 - nearly two decades before he was elected President. At the address before the Washingtonian Society in Springfield, Lincoln compared the drunkard being hooked on drink to slavery. He also was critical of self-righteous promoters of prohibition and called upon the expertise of reformed alcoholics in the Washingtonian Movement to lead the way to teach self-improvement and



## The Hilton New Orleans Riverside

*Close to the French Quarter*

*Right on the Mississippi*

*In the very heart of New Orleans*

*Go to our website and click on convention for a virtual map tour of the great city*

*Download a registration form and register now*

sobriety. He concluded his address with the following optimistic note:

*When the victory shall be complete – when there shall be neither a slave nor a drunkard on the earth – how proud the title of that Land, which may truly claim to be the birth-place and the cradle of both those revolutions.*

A century and half later, alcoholics and drug addicts still are enslaved in great numbers. By coming to the

Annual Oxford House Convention, we can work together to learn more about the ways and means to achieve Lincoln’s dream. For most of us, living or having lived in an Oxford House, we know that recovery without relapse possible. Oxford House living makes sobriety comfortable enough to avoid relapse.

We are in many ways the experts. We have benefited from Oxford House. Come to help shout the good news: *Oxford House: Time for Recovery.*



**In keeping with the tradition of the first nine Oxford House Conventions the Hilton New Orleans Riverside is a first class hotel. The picture above is a typical room.**

## “Hollywood” Henderson A Hero in Recovery

Thomas “Hollywood” Henderson was first round draft choice of the Dallas Cowboys and a Pro Bowl linebacker – until alcohol, crack and cocaine got the best of him. His recovery story is told in his book *In Control* and tells of his rise and fall and final victory over addiction.

James McClain recently heard speak and had a chance to chat. Thomas knows many in the Texas Oxford Houses and is a good friend of Oxford House. If his schedule

permits, he will be the banquet speaker Saturday evening at the New Orleans World Convention.

What a great story! Not only did Thomas hit a low bottom and jail but he blew a fortune, got and stayed sober and won the Texas lottery for more than \$20 million. Let’s hope he can make it to speak Saturday night.

Even sober Redskin fans can appreciate the great example Thomas brings with his solid recovery and help to other addicts who want comfortable sobriety. Keep your figures crossed. Thomas is going to try to be with Oxford House at the

# Theme: Time for Recovery

Recovering alcoholics and drug addicts need time in an Oxford House to become comfortable enough in sobriety to forever avoid relapse

This year's convention, September 4-7 in New Orleans, has the theme "*Oxford House – Time for Recovery*," which has a double meaning. The first meaning is obvious to every Oxford house resident. Oxford House living permits each resident to have the time, peer support and structured living environment to become comfortable enough in sobriety to stay clean and sober without relapse. It gives each of us "*Time for Recovery*."

The other meaning for the theme "*Time For Recovery*" relates to the Nation, as a whole. If the United States wants to make serious inroads toward solving the national alcohol and drug problem, it must utilize new ways to assure that alcoholics and drug addicts have an opportunity to successfully recover. In other words, what can be done to assure "time for recovery?"

Over the last three decades, it has become clear that Oxford House is the best practice to assure long-term sobriety for the alcoholic and drug addict. As the nation elects a new President, it is perhaps the right time for politicians and policy-makers to consider the proposition that they should consider providing a realistic "time for recovery" for the 25 million alcoholics and/or drug addicts by promoting the establishment of many more Oxford Houses. They are the best way to provide a cost-effective opportunity for recovery without relapse. All of the individuals attending the Oxford House world convention in New Orleans will provide the best evidence that, in fact, Oxford House provides that time for recovery about five times better than anything else.

It is important that as many residents and alumni of Oxford House as possible come to the world convention to propagate the truth. Treatment providers, drug court officials, jail and prison treatment personnel, homeless advocates and the recovery community are all welcome to attend. The common objective for the Oxford House family and treatment professionals is recovery without relapse from alcoholism and drug addiction. That common objective becomes easier to achieve if professionals who know the problem best are able to share the expertise of individuals who have Oxford House experience. Individual Oxford House residents, outreach workers and alumni know firsthand in their own communities that treatment professionals are amazed and pleased when they learn the cost-effective simplicity of the Oxford House model. The convention affords an opportunity to reach other professionals and policy

makers – many of whom are from localities having few, if any, Oxford Houses. It is also an opportunity to share the results of the De Paul University studies. Those studies prove that Oxford House is the best way to stop the recycling of alcoholics and drug addicts through treatment facilities, homeless shelters and jails. It is time for Oxford House to be the best practice when it comes to recovery from addiction to alcohol and/or drugs.

While the simplicity of the Oxford House model arises from a fairly complex system of operations, the annual Oxford House World convention is the time and place to share how new houses can be started..

Register today to attend the convention so that your experience can be shared with other recovering individuals and policy-makers. You will learn more about how Oxford House provides a "*Time for Recovery*." Your presence will help convince policy-makers that a substantial increase in the number of Oxford houses can provide thousands of newly recovering alcoholics and drug addicts with their "*Time for Recovery*."

There is also time to get your own personal story in to the Oxford House World Services Office so that it can be included in the Convention Program. On the website: [www.oxfordhouse.org](http://www.oxfordhouse.org) you can look at programs for the last two annual conventions. Both programs include personal stories by Oxford House residents and alumni. The sharing of stories helps all to understand that comfortable sobriety is within reach.

It is "*Time for Recovery*" and today it is time for you to register for the convention. Also send in the one or two page story of your recovery and the role Oxford House living played in it. See you in New Orleans September 4th through 7th.

To register use the enclosed registration form or download one from the website: [www.oxfordhouse.org](http://www.oxfordhouse.org)

## ***Time for Recovery***

*Oxford House World Convention  
September 4-7, 2008  
Hilton Riverside Hotel • New Orleans*

## Individual Houses Contribute to Expand the Network of Oxford Houses

There are no dues or fees for an Oxford House charter or to be a member of the National Network of Oxford Houses. However, the umbrella organization obviously has expenses – both to establish new houses and to keep existing houses on track. While not



Jerry Conlon, Board Chairman, awarding Texas houses an award for their 2007 contributions toward expansion.

conventions adopted resolutions encouraging voluntary contributions as the best means for assuring that Oxford House residents and alumni control the organization.



Washington State contributed more than \$80,000 to expand Oxford House World Services in 2007



Virginia Oxford House residents at convention getting an award for their voluntary contributions made in 2007 toward expansion

required, contributions from individual houses to pay expenses of the umbrella organization have been substantial. Most Oxford Houses would like to make a regular contribution to help expand and strengthen Oxford House. Contact Mollie or Leann at World Services to find out how automatic \$50 a month contributions can be made.

The pictures at the left show representatives of houses receiving recognition for their efforts from Jerry Conlon, Chairman of the Oxford House, Inc. board. More than 100 individual houses received the Director's Hundred-Year Award – an award to those houses contributing at least \$50 a month to finance expansion by Oxford House World Services. This effort is completely voluntary although delegates at the previous national

conventions adopted resolutions encouraging voluntary contributions as the best means for assuring that Oxford House residents and alumni control the organization. Voluntary contributions from individual Oxford Houses to finance national growth and maintenance support are important but at present they are insufficient to fully fund either expansion or the umbrella organization. Grants or contracts to develop specific targeted areas have been the primary source of funds for development of the existing network of houses and will continue to be for the foreseeable future. During FY 2007 Oxford House, Inc. relied upon contracts with eight states and the District of Columbia. This method of financing has continued the pattern of development followed since expansion began in 1989.

During 2007, Oxford House, Inc. fulfilled contracts with the District of Columbia, Montgomery County Drug Court program and the states of Washington, North Carolina, Missouri, Hawaii, New Jersey, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Virginia and West Virginia. Historically state or local contracts can be ongoing or until a sufficient number of houses have been established to assure continued development without the use of paid outreach workers.

During FY 2007, individual houses and chapters contributed more than \$200,000 to Oxford House, Inc. – their umbrella organization.

Get your house to contribute beginning today. Call Mollie at 800-689-6411 or Leann at 301-587-2916 to get coupons or a form to complete for electronic transfer from your house checking account.



**Oxford House -  
Time for Recovery  
- "One house at a  
time."**

# Outreach Worker Training Retreat

More than thirty outreach workers gathered in Silver Spring at the Crown Plaza for a 3-day training during April to learn and share ways to effectively strengthen the National Network of Oxford Houses.

Learning from each other Oxford House residents, alumni and World Services employees met to share what works to keep Oxford House strong and growing. Pictured above is Paul Molloy and James McClain enjoying a birthday cake for James at Paul's house along with all those who had attended the training retreat.



Anna Mable Jones, left, shared both her experience in the central office and current job as an outreach worker in Maryland and the District of Columbia.

She was able to share the importance of the interconnection between the field and the central office.

Picture above center is Kathleen Gibson, Chief Operating Officer who prepared and

organized the formal training retreat. At the right is Gino Pugliese, a senior outreach worker [WA] and OHI outreach manager. At top left James McClain was given a birthday cake at Paul's house on the last night of the retreat.

At the right is Joe Chavez [HI] who published a beautiful coffee table book on Oxford House. Orders for delivery of the book at the Convention are being taken. It costs \$80 but most houses will want to order one. It covers the history of Oxford House in text and pictures including great shots from previous conventions.

One of the most important subjects covered at the outreach training retreat was utilization of the Oxford House website. It is essential that every house check on the site every week. Otherwise the vacancy information will not be accurate. Everyone asked themselves how they would feel as a counsellor talking a client into applying to an Oxford House only to find that the vacancy data was wrong. We will be judged on how good we are by the accuracy of our data.

It is important to teach each House Secretary to log in once a week. The House Meeting form is being revised to



make sure house members ask the Secretary if he or she has kept data about the house up-to-date on the national website. All the outreach workers were asked to remind all the houses in their area to up-date the website every week. It is the job of the Secretary and if he or she has misplaced the password call Mollie Brown who can provide a new one. Write it in the Record Book so the next person will have it.

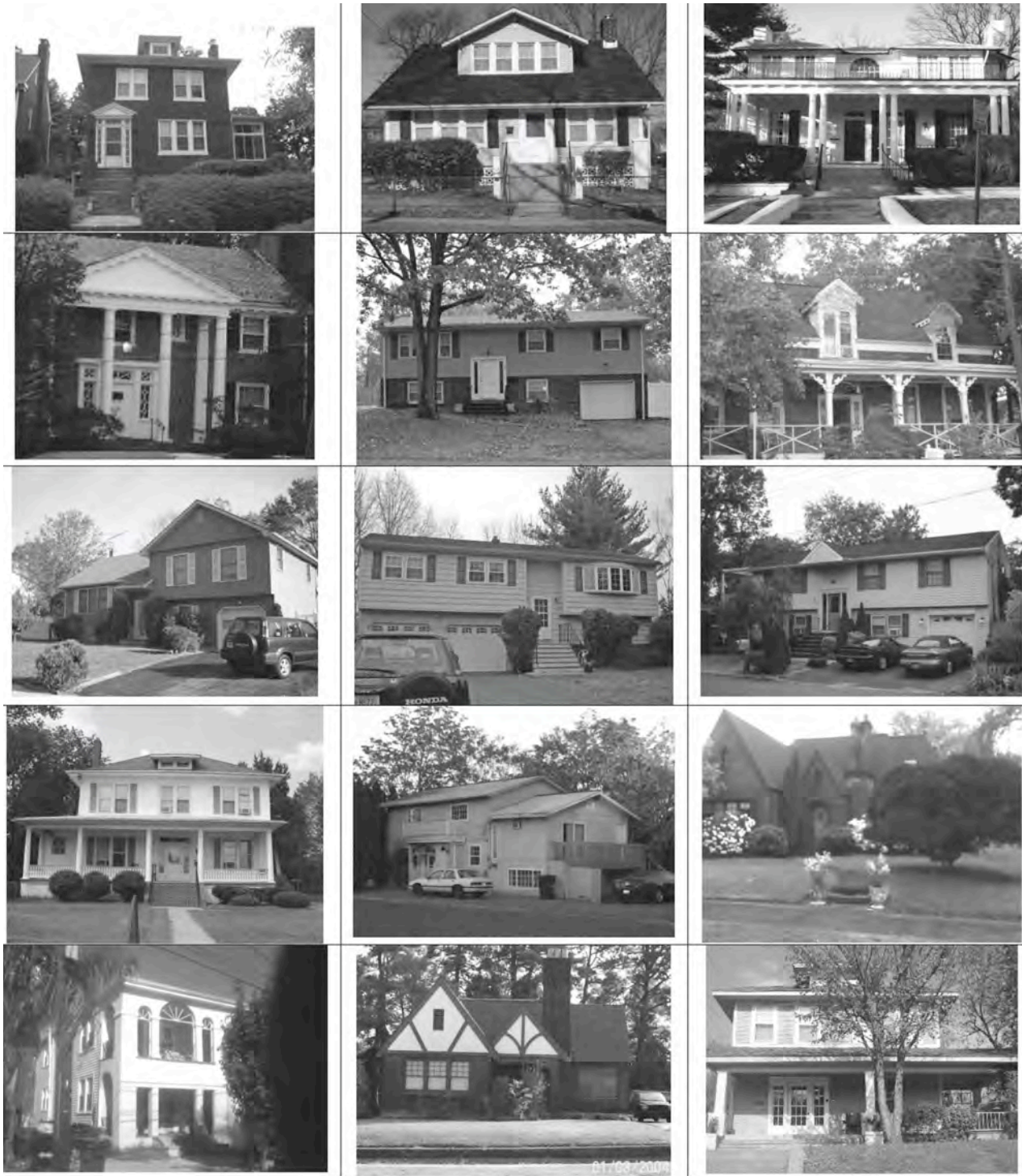
Oxford House
Self-Help for Sobriety Without Relapse






Home
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Houses
Manuals
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Site Map
Links
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*Oxford House: Creating a National Network of Recovery Houses One House at a Time*



***At the end of 2007, it would take 85 pages like this one to show pictures all of the Oxford Houses in the United States Network of Oxford Houses. The fifteen Oxford Houses above are typical of all Oxford Houses.***

*Each Oxford House™ is a good house in a good neighborhood and more than 9,500 recovering individuals are living in the national network of 1,256 Oxford Houses at any given time. During the course of the year, nearly 30,000 individuals lived in the houses with more than 80% staying long enough to master sobriety comfortable enough to avoid relapse. Visit the Oxford House website: [www.oxfordhouse.org](http://www.oxfordhouse.org) to see more.*

## Good Houses in Good Neighborhoods



Oxford House-Aycock, at the left, was established in 2001 in Greensboro, North Carolina. It is home to eight recovering men who had been homeless during their active addiction. Since established, more than 145 recovering men have lived in the house. Projecting the DePaul University study sponsored by NIAAA, more than 80 percent of the residents in this house have become clean and sober and will stay that way.

*Creating an Effective National Recovery Network One House at a Time*

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

Number of Women's Houses:	346	No. of Women Residents:	2,540
Number of Houses For Men:	910	No. of Men Residents:	7,216
National Network of Houses:	1,256	Total Number of Residents:	9,756
Number of States with Houses:	39	Cities with Houses:	276
Cost Per Person Per Week:	\$94.25	Rent Per Group Per Month	\$1,380
Percent Veterans	18%	Average Age	36.2 yrs.
Residents Working 6/15/01:	92%	Average Monthly Earnings:	\$1,440
Percent Addicted To Drugs or Drugs and Alcohol:	73%	Percent Addicted to Only Alcohol:	27%
Race --		Marital Status --	
White;	54%	Never Married	45%
Black;	42%	Separated	18%
Other	4%	Divorced	33%
		Married	4%
Prior Homelessness:	53%	Average Time Homeless:	6 Mos.
Prior Jail:	76%	Average Jail Time:	13 Mos.
Average AA or NA Meetings Per Week:	5.1	Percent Going To Counseling and AA or NA:	44%
Average Length of Sobriety of House Residents:	16.5 Mos.	Residents Expelled Because of Relapse:	19.4%
Average Length of Stay In An Oxford House:	10.1 Mos.	Average No. of Applicants For Each Vacant Bed:	13

## Oxford House Highlights

- **9,756 Number of Oxford Recovery Beds**
- **1,256 Number of Oxford Houses as of December 2007**
- **39 Number of States having Oxford House**
- **276 Number of towns or cities having Oxford Houses**
- **\$1,440 average monthly income of residents**
- **\$94.25 average weekly share of expenses paid by Oxford residents**
- **53% of Oxford House residents had been homeless for an average of 6 months**
- **73% addicted to drugs in addition of alcohol**
- **76% had done jail time connected to their addiction**
- **16.5 months average length of sobriety**
- **122 New Houses started CY 2007**
- **45 for Women; 77 for Men**
- **Total Added Recovery Beds: 965 Men: 618; Women: 347**

**32** Years **OXFORD HOUSE - "WHAT IF?"**  
**9TH ANNUAL WORLD CONVENTION**

**Oxford House World Services**  
 1010 Wayne Avenue, #300  
 Silver Spring, MD 20910

Telephone 301-587-2916  
 Website: [www.oxfordhouse.org](http://www.oxfordhouse.org)

<sup>1</sup> As of June 30, 2007 based on standard OHI survey and house reports.

# State Workshops Build Oxford Strength

Washington • Texas • New Jersey • Virginia • Kansas • North Carolina • Oklahoma • Louisiana



*Texas held a workshop and 3-day conference at Wimberly Cowboy resort between Austin and San Antonio. Workshops are a place to teach the right way to operate a house.*

## National Conventions Teach and Showcase the Success of the Oxford House Model

Each Oxford House convention has been a place where ordinary residents and alumni of Oxford Houses are able to learn from experts [medicine, psychology, government, law and addiction] and to apply good business practices to the running of Oxford House.

Part of every Convention is also housekeeping with respect to the the World Network of Oxford Houses – the election of four of the twelve World Council members to three-year terms of office. Oxford House is self-run from bottom to top. To make that real houses should try to attend the Convention and put the best residents and alumni up for election. Remember the World Council is made up of two-third resident members and one-third alumni. Also only one



member of each class of membership on the Council can be from the same state. The Council members have a telephone conference every month and get together in Chicago each April and at the Convention. The policies they set effect all Oxford Houses so it is important to get good people elected.

The National Drug Czar and the Director of the Federal Center on Substance Abuse Treatment have addressed most of the 9 prior conventions. Those high officials recognize the good work hundreds of recovering individuals are doing in establishing new Oxford Houses and keeping the existing ones on track.

Of equal importance, is that Oxford Conventions are fun. Everyone has a good time and new friends are made to share the strength, experience and

hope of Oxford House living. The individuals who make the Convention great are residents and alumni who participate. Register today so that



Oxford House can enjoy another successful year. Last year 560 attended. Can we have 700 attending this year? Most people believe that we can.



**The 100 page plus coffee table book by Joe Chavez can be ordered by calling Mollie Brown. The price \$80.**