

Oxford House Profile Series 2014



Oxford Houses in Louisiana *and* The People Who Live in Them

This report is an evaluation of the network of Oxford Houses in the State of Louisiana – the state sponsored program that has enabled over 3,000 recovering individuals in the state to help themselves stay clean and sober without relapse.

Oxford House, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit umbrella organization dedicated to helping recovering individuals achieve comfortable, long-term sobriety without relapse.

June 2014

About Oxford House, Inc.

Oxford House, Inc. is the Delaware nonprofit, 501(c)(3) corporation that serves as the umbrella organization of the worldwide network of more than 1,757 individual Oxford Houses. Its central office is at 1010 Wayne Avenue, Suite 300, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. The Louisiana network of Oxford Houses has 78 houses with 577 recovery beds.

Oxford House™ 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 recover 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® 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 is about eight with a range per house of six to sixteen.

Oxford House works because it has: (1) no time limit on how long a resident can live in an Oxford House, (2) follows a democratic system of operation, (3) utilizes self-support to pay all the household expenses, and (4) adheres to the absolute requirement that any resident who returns to using alcohol or drugs must be immediately expelled. Oxford House provides the missing elements needed by most alcoholics and drug addicts to develop behavior to assure 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, responsible behavior, and slowly but surely 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 develop long-term recovery.

After 39 years of steady growth and successful recovery outcomes, Oxford House™ is the most cost-effective way to assure long-term recovery from alcoholism, drug addiction and co-occurring mental illness. The network of 78 Oxford Houses in Louisiana confirms their effectiveness and this evaluation should motivate everyone to establish more Oxford Houses in the state.

Oxford House is listed as a best practice on the National Registry of Evidence-based Practices and Procedures. [NREPP].

Silver Spring, Maryland

June 5, 2014

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Rockville, MD 20852

Eric Heber*
World Council Chairperson
Baton Rouge LA 70806

*Oxford House Resident or Alumni

2014 Oxford House Profile Louisiana Oxford House Spring Survey Results

The resident profile is derived from 253 confidential responses submitted by residents of Louisiana Oxford Houses and is representative of the 78 Oxford Houses in the state.			
Total Number of Oxford Houses:	78	Total Number of Recovery Beds	577
Number of Women's Houses:	30	Number of Female Residents:	218
Number of Men's Houses:	48	Number of Male Residents:	359
Cost Per Person Per Week for Rent [range \$85 to \$135]	\$110	Rent Per Group Per Month [average]: [range \$900-2200)	\$1,355
Average Age:	44.2 yrs.	Current length of sobriety	15 mos.
Percent Military Veterans	9%	Average Years of Education	14.8 years
Residents Working 1/30/2014	84%	Average Monthly Earnings:	\$2,061
Percent Addicted To Just Drugs or to both Alcohol & Drugs:	38%	Percent Addicted Only to Alcohol:	62%
Race –		Marital Status –	
White	88.5%	Never Married	56.9%
Black	9.5%	Separated	5.9%
Nat American	1.6%	Divorced	29.6%
Asian	0.4%	Married	4.0%
		Widowed	1.6%
Prior Homelessness:	53.4%	Average Time Homeless:	6 Months
Prior Jail:	81%	Average Jail Time:	6 Months
Average AA or NA Meetings Attended Per Week:	5 Times	Percent Going To weekly Counseling <i>in addition to</i> AA or NA:	29%
Average Length of Stay In An Oxford House:	9 Months	Residents Expelled Because of Relapse:	16%
Average Number of Applicants For Each Vacant Bed:	4.0		
Oxford Houses of Louisiana			

Louisiana and Oxford House™ An Effective Partnership

There are now 78 Oxford Houses in Louisiana. The Houses are thriving and Oxford House continues to expand the network of Houses and fulfill the hopes of its early supporters.

Entry into Louisiana. In the spring of 1998, the late Alton E. “Jake” Hadley, MSW, Assistant Secretary, Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, contacted Oxford House, Inc. [OHI] about developing Oxford Houses in the state as part of a continuum of halfway house support. His hope was to double the state’s halfway house capacity by shortening the duration of stay at the halfway houses from six months to three months by establishing enough Oxford Houses to permit recovering individuals to move from a halfway house into an Oxford House. Michael Duffy, who took over direction of the state agency following Jake’s illness and death, fulfilled this hope. By the end of 2005, there were 40 Oxford Houses in Louisiana and the halfway house network had reduced the average stay from six months to 87 days – a little better than Jake’s original goal.¹



Oxford House - Acadiana
104 Parduton Street
Lafayette, LA 70503
8 Men • Established April 1, 2001

¹ See the 2005/2004 Evaluation of Louisiana Oxford Houses for a detailed discussion of the development of the first 40 Oxford Houses in the state at Oxford House website: www.oxfordhouse.org under “Publications/Evaluations.”

The current partnership. Today, the 78 self-run, self-supported Oxford Houses in the state have, in many ways, replaced the network of institutionally run halfway houses of an earlier era. Louisiana’s current contract with Oxford House, Inc., the non-profit 501(c)(3) umbrella organization for all Oxford Houses is for \$180,000 a year. That works out to a taxpayer cost of about \$311 a year per Oxford House recovery bed.



Oxford House - Uptown
2837 Napoleon Ave
New Orleans, LA 70115-6915
10 Men • Established July 1, 2004

Each Oxford House is a rented, ordinary single-family home. Oxford Houses work because they: (1) have no time limit on how long a resident can live in an Oxford House, (2) follow a democratic system of self-run operations, (3) utilize self-support to pay all of the household expenses, and (4) adhere to the absolute requirement that any resident who returns to using alcohol or drugs must be immediately expelled. Oxford Houses provides the time, peer support and living environment necessary to support long-term recovery without relapse. Some individuals live in an Oxford Houses a few months; others for years. Together, these individuals develop each Oxford House into a place where residents can learn to live a responsible life without the use of alcohol and drugs.

Civil Rights Protection and Litigation. Oxford House, Inc. [OHI] does not own property. Good rental housing is available in good neighborhoods almost every where in the state and throughout the country. OHI has been able to help groups of recovering individuals rent good houses in good neighborhoods because the 1988 Amendments to the Federal Fair Housing Act prohibited discrimination against “handicap” individuals. The US Supreme Court in *City of Edmonds, WA vs. Oxford House, Inc. et. al*, 514 U.S. 725 (1995) found that individuals in recovery from alcoholism and drug addiction were within the meaning of “handicap” under the law and therefore localities had to make a reasonable accommodation in zoning laws to avoid discrimination claims under the FHA.

For the most part, the Supreme Court decision has served as a deterrent to traditional NIMBY [not-in-my-back-yard] cases against locating Oxford Houses in neighborhoods restricted to families. However, some cities and towns in Louisiana and other states continue to attempt to restrict where groups of recovering individuals can rent a suitable house to establish an Oxford Recovery Home.



Oxford House - Drusilla
12142 Gebhart Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70816
8 W/C • Established November 3, 2010

On November 3, 2010, eight women established Oxford House – Drusilla, an Oxford House for women with children, at 12141 Gebhart Drive in Baton Rouge after receiving a charter from OHI to do so. On February 2, 2011 the City of Baton Rouge notified the land-

lord that the property was in violation of the UDC because more than two unrelated persons lived there. On February 4, 2011, counsel for OHI responded and asked for a reasonable accommodation under the Federal Fair Housing Act. In particular, the city was asked to treat the house as if it were a single family because the residents of the House are the “functional equivalent” of a family and to waive the two-person rule as it applies to the house. The city refused to change its position and issued a citation to a second house in the city. The litigation lasted more than two years until the Federal District Court on March 19, 2013 granted OHI a summary judgment on the key question of accommodation.²

It is ironic that litigation by local government can work against efforts by the state to alleviate the cost, hardship and harm that arises from alcoholism, drug addiction and co-occurring mental illness. However, Oxford House has prevailed to date and the existence of a large network of successful Oxford Houses may produce an informed public that encourages accommodation by localities to the development and maintenance of a strong network of effective recovery homes.

Effectiveness of the Network of Oxford Houses in Louisiana. The 78 Oxford Houses now in Louisiana are producing remarkable results. During 2013 more than 1,200 individuals lived in the state’s network of Oxford Houses. Only 93 individuals were expelled because of relapse.

The profile on subsequent pages tells the statistical story of residents in Louisiana Oxford Houses. Included in this report after the profile are the stories of two Oxford House residents – one an alumnus and one a current resident. These stories were previously published in convention programs where, each year, stories of residents and alumni are published.

² While that decision settled the matter about the location of the two houses in litigation and by extension the other 25 Oxford Houses in Baton Rouge even in May 2014 the city had not settled on the matter of attorney fees and court costs.

SURVEY OF LOUISIANA OXFORD HOUSE RESIDENTS

The resident profile is derived from 253 confidential responses submitted by residents of Louisiana Oxford Houses and is representative of the 78 Oxford Houses in the state. The data tell a lot about the residents of Oxford House. The profile covers where Oxford House residents were prior to coming into Oxford House and provides information about their age, education, military service, recovery programs and related information.

Referrals to Oxford House. Over the past 15 years that Oxford Houses have been in Louisiana, counselors, judges, parole officers and folks in the recovery community have learned that even “hopeless” cases could become comfortable enough in sobriety to avoid relapse by living in an Oxford House. Today, most residents in Louisiana Oxford Houses are encouraged to apply because of contact with professionals or individuals they meet in 12-Step programs. They also come to houses because while in formal treatment someone representing Oxford House has made a presentation about the benefits of living in an Oxford House. Table 1 is a representative sample of where Louisiana Oxford House residents went through treatment immediately before moving into an Oxford House.

Of course, many residents did not come directly from in-patient treatment. The survey results show that over 12% came directly from being homeless on the streets. This compares to the 53.4% of residents who had experienced homelessness [averaging 6 months in duration] at some period during their addiction. Another 12% came directly from jail, a mental hospital or a halfway house. Few would doubt that but for Oxford House these individuals would have returned to marginal existence that likely would have led to relapse. By getting into an Oxford House the odds against relapse were greatly increased.

Table 1

Treatment Centers and Number of Oxford House Residents Coming From Each

Provider	Number
Acadiana Recovery Ctr	30
Alliance Detox	1
ARRNO	5
ATS	1
Bethel	1
Brentwood	3
Bridge House	10
Briscoe	3
Buckhalter	2
CADA	23
CARP	7
CDU	1
Cenikor	12
Edgefield	2
Fairview	8
Fountainbleau	5
Gate House	1
Gateway	2
Greenbrier	1
Harbor House	1
Hope Center	2
House of Grace	9
Keystone	1
New Denning	3
New Beginnings	4
Odessey House	4
O'Brien House	1
Palmetto Addiction	6
Pathways	1
Pine Grove	12
Pines	4
Prison/Jail	6
Progressive	2
Promise Hospital	2
Rayville Recovery	9
Red River	26
Recovery Center	1
Responsibility House	5
Riven Oaks	5
Salvation Army	3
Tau	2
Twelve Oaks	2
VA	2
Vermillion	1
Woodlake	7
Willie Knighton	1

Treatment of individuals immediately prior to coming into an Oxford House also includes simple referrals from the 12-Step recovery community.



Oxford House - Cole
 3565 Cole Drive
 Baton Rouge, LA 70806
 8 Men • Established October 1, 2009

Resident Profile

The resident profile in the Louisiana Oxford House is similar to the national resident profile. The average age is 44.2 years [range 17-72]. The average age nationally is younger – 36.8 and when the Louisiana Oxford House residents were surveyed in 2005 the average age was 34.7 years. The reason for the change is that as a network of Oxford Houses in a particular state gets older so does the average age of the residents. Individuals staying sober often continue to live in an Oxford House and they tend to raise the average age. New clusters or networks of Oxford Houses tend to attract younger individuals and, if enough of the houses in a state are relatively new, the residents on average will tend to be younger.

The relapse rate in Louisiana – as elsewhere in the network of Oxford Houses – tends to be highest during the first three months of residency. About 16% of the Louisiana Oxford House residents will be expelled because of relapse and most of those will have relapsed within the first month or two of residence. Staying clean and sober is habit forming and those who stay that way during the first three months are likely to be clean and sober at the end of a year or later.

Education

The average years of educational attainment in the current survey was 14.8 years – higher than the national average of 12.2 years. In the 2005 survey, the Louisiana average level of educational attainment was 12.9 years. The range of educational attainment continues to be 3 years to 19 years.

The high level of education may be a result of the location of houses and the recruitment of new residents. OHI will examine that issue in the coming months to try to encourage as diverse a population among Oxford House residents as possible. The one thing about alcoholism, drug addiction and co-occurring mental illness is that they are egalitarian diseases and tend to cut across society irrespective of education, class or income.

Race

The following table shows the racial breakdown among the Louisiana Oxford House residents participating in the survey in 2004 and 2014.

Table 2

Race	US Census Louisiana	2004 OH Survey - LA	2014 OH Survey- LA
White	63.7%	76.7%	88.5%
Black	32.4%	16.7%	9.5%
Other	3.9%	4.3%	2.0%

The U. S. Census shows that about 32% of Louisiana’s population is Black or African American alone and 63% is White alone. Residents in a statewide network of Oxford Houses generally reflect the racial breakdown reported by the U.S. Census but this is not the case in Louisiana.

The 2012 TEDS data shows that as far as primary treatment is concerned the percentage of Blacks and Whites more closely reflects the overall population diversity: 65.8% White and 32.0% Black. Recruitment of more Blacks for Oxford Houses will enable the development of a racial profile within the network of Louisiana

Oxford Houses that more closely reflects the overall racial diversity in the state.

While the number of Black residents seem low relative to the general population, it is important to note that there is significant racial diversity within individual Oxford Houses.

Marital Status

The marital status of Louisiana Oxford House residents is about the same as for Oxford House residents throughout the nation and the same as it was in the 2004 study of Louisiana residents. While not statistically significant, the “never married” was 57% in 2014 compared to 44% in 2004. Slightly fewer residents were “separated” and slightly fewer are in the still “married” category.

Table 3

Marital Status OH Residents	All States 2013	Louisiana 2004	Louisiana 2014
Never Married	44%	44%	57%
Divorced	33%	31%	30%
Separated	18%	10%	06%
Married	05%	11%	04%
Widowed	<1%	04%	02%

Early addiction probably contributes to the “never married” category. Likewise, it is likely that addiction contributed to the “separated” and “divorced” categories.

Prior Marginal Living

The living situation of residents prior to moving into an Oxford House is one measure of the importance of Oxford House living. If the prior living situation resulted in a bleak or marginal existence, it would most likely result in a rapid return to addiction if the individual were to return to where he or she came from following a short period of sobriety after detoxification or limited primary treatment. Of course, even if the prior living situation had been stable on its face – for example, living in an owned home – there is no guarantee of its availability following primary treatment nor is there any

assurance that it would be supportive of recovery. Nevertheless it is useful to consider prior living situation in evaluating the importance of Oxford House.



Oxford House - Gretna
3217 Mallard Lane
Gretna, LA 70056-7796
6 Men • Established July 1, 2004

About forty-four percent of the Louisiana Oxford House residents had the following living situations prior to detoxification or primary treatment before moving into an Oxford House – homelessness, jail, halfway house, mental hospital or rented room. Going back to any of those living situations following short term sobriety would seem to add to the risk of relapse. Table 4 shows the prior living situation of Louisiana Oxford House residents.

Table 4

Prior Living Situation	Number	Percent
Homeless	30	16.9%
Jail	16	09.1%
Halfway House	13	07.3%
Mental Hospital	4	02.2%
Rented Room	15	08.4%
Rented Apartment	26	14.7%
Rented House	24	13.6%
Owned House	49	27.7%

Few would doubt that going back to “homelessness” would be unsupportive of becoming comfortable enough in sobriety to avoid re-

lapse. As a matter of fact, a good case could be made that being homeless would produce the opposite result – use of alcohol and other drugs in order to alleviate the discomfort of being homeless.

The sample size for this particular question [177] represents about 35% of the 509 individuals actually living in all of the Louisiana Oxford House during the months of March and April 2014. That number would be a little too small to draw meaningful conclusions except for the fact that [1] it is consistent with larger surveys taken in other states and those taken in 2004 and 2005 among Louisiana Oxford House residents and [2] among the specific houses surveyed more than 80% of the residents answered the questionnaire.

Criminal Background of Residents

Most residents in Oxford House nationally and in Louisiana have been arrested, convicted and have served jail time. The duration of jail time ranges from a day or two to many years. What does not vary is the fact that alcoholism, drug addiction or co-occurring mental illness contributed to the crime leading to arrest, conviction and jail time.

The Louisiana Oxford House survey shows that 81% of the residents have served jail or prison time. This compares to 76% prior incarceration of Oxford House residents nationally. The average length of time incarcerated for Louisiana Oxford House residents is six months versus 11 months for formerly incarcerated residents nationally. The range of incarceration is from one day to ten years with Louisiana residents falling more to the short term incarceration than the national sample. Nevertheless, ten percent of the Louisiana residents who had been incarcerated had been incarcerated for a period greater than four years.

Cycling in and out of jail or prison is the norm for alcoholics and drug addicts who have been incarcerated. The only way to break the cycle is

the achievement of sobriety comfortable enough to avoid relapse because relapse really does invite behavior that leads to criminal behavior.

Prior Relapse Pattern – Present Behavior

Oxford House prides itself on promoting “recovery without relapse.” The belief held by many is that alcoholism and drug addiction are chronic diseases in which relapse is part of the disease; this belief tends to invite relapse. For the Oxford House resident, relapse means expulsion by a vote of his or her peers. Experience has shown that this zero tolerance policy has a deterrent effect on relapse. It has also been shown that sobriety without relapse is habit forming. Almost all relapse-caused expulsions from Louisiana Oxford House occur during the first three months of residence. And almost none occur after two years of sobriety.



Oxford House - Canal
122 N. Jefferson Davis Pkwy
New Orleans, LA 70119
9 Men • Established April 21, 2007

Staying clean and sober is a new experience for the typical Oxford House resident. Survey results show that residents had made an average of 5.8 sobriety tries before moving into an Oxford House including an average 4.7 times

through residential treatment. Obviously a number of factors contribute to the newfound sobriety without relapse. The most significant factor is the uniform democratic system of operation followed by each house. The inmates do “run the asylum” and in doing so each member of the house accepts responsibility for discrete jobs in the house. This produces an individual sense of satisfaction associated with staying clean and sober.

In 2004, John Majer, Ph.D., then at DePaul University under a NIDA, grant studied Oxford House residents compared to 12-step members having similar backgrounds. His article Optimism, Abstinence Self-Efficacy, and Self-Mastery, A Comparative Analysis of Cognitive Resources in the March 2004 issue of Assessment [V. 11, No. 1] found that living in an Oxford House make positive self-efficacy and mastery of sobriety happen much faster than by a protocol of only formal treatment and attendance at AA/NA meetings. The article is downloadable from the Oxford House website: www.oxfordhouse.org under the heading of “Publications/Evaluations/DePaul.”

The survey shows that residents attend a lot of AA/NA meetings – an average of 5 each week. This compares with an average of only 2 meetings per week for the typical AA member. The living environment of an Oxford House seems to encourage socialization and abstinence through residents’ frequent attendance at 12-Step meetings.

Counseling is also very likely to contribute to sustained sobriety. In Louisiana 29% of the residents attend weekly counseling. This compares to 45% of Oxford House residents nationally.

Satisfaction of Residents

Several of the questions on the survey are designed to measure how satisfied residents are with Oxford House living. Residents are questioned about their satisfaction with Oxford

House living and whether or not they would recommend Oxford House living to others.



Oxford House - Haven
4301 Spurgeon Drive
Monroe, LA 71203-4523
6 Women • Established October 1, 2012

When asked for a self-assessment of the importance to Oxford House living for their personal recovery, Louisiana residents responded positively. 89% responded “very important” the strongest possible endorsement. Less than 1% found Oxford House living “not really important” in terms of their own recovery and less than 10% chose “somewhat” [3%] or “moderately” [5%].

In a related quality assessment question respondents were asked if they would recommend Oxford House living to a friend. All but one person [N. 253] said they would recommend Oxford House living. The sole dissenter had just moved into the house 6 days earlier and was consistent in answering an earlier question by choosing “insignificant” when asked to rank the importance of Oxford House to recovery.

Self-Reported Health

The residents in Louisiana network of Oxford Houses thought of themselves as pretty healthy. When asked to evaluate their personal health, 96.4% reported either “very good” [38%] or “pretty good” [58%]. Only 1 person [< 1%] classified his health as “quite poor.”

Next Steps

The growth in the number of Oxford Houses in the state depends upon continued support by the state to fund Oxford House outreach workers in the state.

The program would be enhanced if Oxford House were to be given a one-time grant of \$100,000 to permit establishment of a start-up revolving loan fund for expansion similar to such funds in a number of states. The status quo requires chapters and the state association to save start-up money which slows the pace of expansion. A dedicated start-up loan would permit faster expansion.

Finally, additional funding would permit OHI to devote another outreach worker to the state to better reach underserved communities. For example, much better outreach is needed in the African-American community.

Conclusion

Jake Hadley would have been very proud of the growth and strength of the Louisiana Network of Oxford Houses. He also would be urging more growth and continued good performance.

The two autobiographical stories on the following pages are success stories typical of Oxford House residents. They are included in their entirety to give the reader of a sense of the journey traveled by selected Oxford House residents.

Eric H's Story

Hi, my name is Eric Heber, and I have been a resident of Oxford House Essen since April 24, 2008. My sobriety date is March 24, 2008. I am currently the Housing Services Chairman for the state of Louisiana and comptroller for my house.

I guess before I tell you about my time in OH Essen, I should tell you how I got there. I was actually in an OH before, in New Orleans, before coming back to Baton Rouge. My stay at OH Crescent City was brief and I left in full relapse. I was not

ready to do whatever it took to stay sober and the result was nil.

My journey to the OH started in November of 2007, while I was in Fontainbleau Treatment Center in Mandeville, LA. Marty Walker, who is an outreach worker for LA, did a presentation about OH and what it had to offer. I thought it was an awesome concept. I am all about running the show and in my mind; I thought OH could use me more than I could use it. I actually thought that!

I came into the Crescent City house in early December and managed to stay clean for 4 months before I planned out my relapse and went through with it. In just 3 days, I found myself in a rundown motel on Canal Street, broke, and bewildered once again wondering how I had gotten there. The guilt and shame I felt drove me back to Baton Rouge. I didn't even have the five dollars it costs to take the LA Swift bus from New Orleans to Baton Rouge, so I bummed it from someone on the streets. This was nothing new to me since my addiction had left me homeless before; panhandling money from strangers to get high.

In March, I talked to the last person that would talk to me and managed to talk her into letting me stay with her until I could get into detox. My ex-wife, Jackie, was very leery of me. My addict behavior had driven her to divorcing me six months before. After an hour of that desperate pleading so many of us have done before, she reluctantly agreed to let me stay one night. I don't know if it was love or pity that she had for me, but at that point but I didn't care. I knew I was going to a safe place. That night I managed to find a bed at LHRO and was ready to take another shot at recovery.

In the morning, I arrived at detox with only a few changes of clothes and some change my ex-wife had given me. I had been here just five months prior and was thankful to be in better shape this time. Last time, I had been homeless for two months and hadn't taken a bath or had a decent meal for a couple of weeks before going there. My stay was short, only three days, and the time had come to decide what my next step would be. I had been to all the rehabs in Baton Rouge and a few outside of it and none would take me. Finally, one of the guys there said he was going to the Salvation Army. That was good enough for me. The "Sally" was more like a work camp than anything but they fed me and gave me a place to stay until I figured out what the hell I was going to do. I kept in touch with my ex and we had talked about me going back to an OH and where some were in Baton Rouge. She had become friends with a guy at a coffee shop who was open about living in an OH and the connection was made. After a month at the Sally, I was ready to interview with the Essen house, thanks to Cookie. Obviously, this was his nickname and he was very openly gay. I had never been friends with, or let alone lived with, a very openly gay man before and honestly I wasn't too keen about it, but that didn't matter at this point. I wanted in so bad, I was willing to accept a ninety day probation period and grateful to be accepted in. I had managed to hustle up a couple hundred bucks while at the Sally and Jackie lent me the rest in order for me to afford to move in and have enough money for food and bus fare.

After moving in my two bags of clothes, and not much else, I was faced with the task of getting a job in a city with horrible public transportation. The nearest bus stop was almost a half

mile away and it was getting into the warmer months. So, for the first week I would get up before dawn and start my walk before it got too hot. I would stay gone all day going to any business I could find on the bus route to ask for a job. When I got home at night, my roommate, Steve, would take me to meetings with him. Steve had been sober for awhile, and I kinda clung to him those first few months. He introduced me to a lot of people in the program and I'm truly grateful for the help and support he gave me in that critical time. Finally, I managed to get a job at Wal-Mart as a janitor for a little more than minimum wage, but I didn't care. It was just a relief to finally be making some money.

After my first month at Essen, the guys decided to go ahead and let me off probation due to the progress I had made. I was glad because at this point my ex and I had been talking and spending more time together. I had gotten to know Cookie and Mark pretty well at this point as well, and had gone to them at certain times when I was struggling. Just having someone to talk to at those moments was what I needed to get through. I was surprised by how I had gotten to where I didn't even see Cookie as a gay man anymore but just as another friend who was there to support me. That's one of the many things I've learned here, tolerance for other peoples differences. Mutual respect is another thing. Even if I don't really like you, I have respect for you. That's what OH is about. You don't have to like each other, but you do have to have respect for them.

I got a sponsor, which is something I've done before but never really used, and shortly after he offered me a job. I still have that job, which is something else I'd never done before. Other than the business I owned for eight years, I'd never been able to keep a job for very long. Soon after, a friend of mine gave me his old work truck. It was an old Ford with 250,000 miles and three different colors, but I didn't care. I was mobile and could start fellow-shiping more and got to help new guys in the house get to meetings. I was grateful to do for them what Steve had done for me.

The hardest thing that I had to learn was principles over personalities. Guys that I had come to like would relapse and we would have to kick them out. That's the worst, to know exactly how they feel and not be able to do anything for them. Some would cry when we caught them using and beg to stay because they had nowhere to go, but we had to stand on the principle that no one can stay after using drugs or alcohol. To do so would jeopardize everyone else, and the house as a whole comes before any one member. Sometimes, I would have to confront a member because of their behavior and that's not easy either. Confronting people about their behavior has taught me to be able to offer constructive criticism and help them change that behavior that is not conducive to recovery. I didn't know it then, but it was teaching me how to be a sponsor.

The longest sobriety I ever had was six months, and I had now surpassed it. I finally made a year sober. I was pretty active in the Baton Rouge Chapter and was asked to be the Chapter President. Everything was great. I was sponsoring people, doing loads of service work, Jackie and I were doing well, and my life was full of the promises of AA. I had been helping one of the new guys in the house and he became like my little brother, when one day he confessed to me that he was smoking pot. I can't tell you how hard it was for me to inform the rest of the house about this and we asked him to leave.

At the next house meeting, I made a motion that we hold a bed for him for thirty days and he be admitted back in. We had interviewed someone else that night, but the motion passed with two people disagreeing because that meant the interviewee would have to find another house. Things were pretty heated that night, but I was so determined to help this kid, that I didn't care if we turned a new guy away.

The next night, Housing Services was called over, and I was targeted by one of the alumni for eviction. The basis for my eviction was the fifth tradition of OH. The argument was that my actions had detrimentally affected OH as a whole. Apparently the treatment center, where our interview had come from, was upset with our decision. Thankfully, it didn't pass, but I was asked to step down as Chapter President and was put back on contract for thirty days. As to not lose our good name, I also had to go to the treatment center, where our interviewee came from, and explain to the discharge coordinator what happened. We also decided that our interviewee would be admitted ASAP. Needless to say, that was the worst experience I've had in OH. I was embarrassed and my pride was hurt because being Chapter President meant a lot to me. I was very close to relapse, but my housemates got me through it.

For the next month, I was like a ghost around the house. I was afraid to do anything that would be deemed disruptive behavior. I was also working through the resentment that I had for a particular alum as well as a member in my house that had called Housing Services. Things had gotten worse in the Chapter as well. The alumni and Housing Services were frequently going to houses kicking people out for behavior and putting people on contract arbitrarily. No vote was needed by the house. They just basically did what they wanted to.

Finally, one night I came home to find a guy from another house on our porch saying that he was told by HS that he was going to live in our house and someone from our house had to move to his. I was stunned! We hadn't voted this guy in, and as per the third tradition of OH, no one at our house had been asked to leave by the members. I told the guy to go home and proceeded to tell my house members about this. We learned that an emergency meeting was called by HS at his house, not his house members, and their paperwork was not in order for their books. A decision was made that all the house members would be separated and moved into other houses, and senior members from around the Chapter would move in.

All of us were opposed to this decision by HS, and we all started pouring through the OH manuals to find out what HS could and couldn't do. We were hosting the next Chapter meeting, and we began to prepare our "manifesto" against the alumni and HS of our Chapter. We contacted the house in question, and told them not to do anything and make sure all of them would be at the Chapter meeting in a few days. As far as the other houses in the chapter, we contacted only a few people we knew we could trust and told them what we had learned. We were afraid that HS would find out what we were up to and come try to evict us for it. It's crazy to think about it but that's how it was back then. The day of the meeting came and we read the "manifesto," which basically quoted the OH manual, and informed everyone that what was going on was wrong. People spoke up on both sides, and in the end things were put right and HS and alumni were limited to an advisory role. After

the meeting, the alum, who had wanted me evicted came up to me and told me he would be stepping back from his involvement in the Chapter and I said I think that's a good idea.

For two years, our Chapter saw no growth while this mess was going on. HS was so focused on micromanaging houses; that most of them couldn't see that if we follow the founding principles of self governance, then all would be well. The whole reason the first OH was started was because there were too many rules at the halfway house they were at, and addicts always buck when you try to tell them what to do. With a basic foundation of accountability, upon which each house is based, they will succeed. It's been proven by the hundreds of OH around the world. Don't use, pay your share and don't mess with anyone else, and you can stay as long as you want. In the ten months following that meeting, we have opened three new houses and HS is rarely called to a house, and when they are, we only offer suggestions and the problem is resolved by the members.

Today, I'm so grateful for all the good times, and some bad, that I've had while at the Essen OH. It has taught me so many lessons on how to live life and how to be a real friend. I am now a supervisor at my job with keys to the office and all the vehicles! They even gave me a company credit card. That's crazy for a dope fiend like me. The interviewee, Tommy, has since become one of my closest friends, and we even have purchased two houses together, that are now OH. Jackie and I are planning to buy a house together soon and our relationship is better than it's ever been. I have friends in OH all over the state and am preparing to make more at the 2010 Annual World Convention in Chicago next month.

I've been trying to get clean for the last five years. I've lost a business, a marriage, house, vehicles, friends, and my sanity for a while. Three years ago, I even had an overdose and suffered a heart attack, but I still couldn't stop using. OH has given me the support and purpose I needed to make it this far. I will soon be moving on, but will continue to be involved, as an alumnus, and will always be grateful for what my stay here has done for my life.

BRANDI B.'s Story

To God be the glory. I'm the child of an alcoholic mother and a bar-tending father. From a very young age I saw the effects of this disease, not knowing it was that, a disease. I vowed never to be like her, always drinking, with brief spouts of sobriety when attending church, followed with, as the Big Book says, "a still worse relapse" when we didn't go. Daddy was never around both because he owned two bars, and she drove him crazy...as we do. Oh how I wish I knew then what I know now about the solution. Divorce happened eventually.

At a very young age, say maybe 6, I became the victim of sexual abuse. It happened on a regular basis, so much so I began to expect it or even look for it from all the men that dated Momma. What they saw was a pretty little girl and a drunken woman oblivious to what they did. Predators see this as a great opportunity. As long as she had beer, they could do as they please. I, of course, I liked the attention; starved for affection, I said nothing for years. Once, I told her and she confronted him with me sitting right there and he denied it. It continued. I never told her again for fear of her disbelief or that uncomfort-

able situation. Then, another time, I told my father about the next guy and what he did. The next thing I knew, a few days later, my dad busted through the apartment door with a gun and this guy takes off out the back window, and gets away, thank God, because Daddy was going to shoot him. I never told Daddy again for fear of him going to jail for killing a man. I accepted what always happened to me and eventually I liked the attention from men. I believe, at this young age, that I became addicted to changing the way I felt...just not by drugs or alcohol, yet. I also thought that was all I had to offer was sex. I've learned a lot different now. Thank you, Lord.

Well, Mother could no longer take care of me, so I thought, and she left me when I was about 9 with my dad. Now I see – because of my very own actions of abandoning my children, and becoming like her – why she did it...selfishness, fear, guilt, shame, so many others things and all WE wanted to do was numb the pain. Thank God for the 12 steps!

I didn't see or hear from her for years. I thought she was dead because I remember numerous times my forehead met the windshield on our nightly drives, or the new dents on car due to saying hello to the bridge over the lake.

Daddy was very strict on me growing up. I wasn't allowed to wear makeup or date until I was 16 and that was limited even. I smoked weed once and it scared the crap out of me because I just knew he was going to kill me. I didn't do that again for a few years down the road. Then Mom showed back up in my life and Daddy agreed to let me go to Texas to see her. What does she do? She shows up at the house to pick me up drunk. He wasn't going to let me go but I talked him into letting me go because I had just gotten my license and could drive us safely there. Woo-hoo – 80 to nothing all the way there! Freedom!! She let me do whatever I wanted while there with her...I see now she was trying to make up for lost time because I do the same with my children today...to an extent. I got drunk with her once and threw up in the bed that night in my sleep. It wasn't for me although I enjoyed the feeling. Smoking cigs became a normal thing as did staying out all night with different boys roaming the streets. She didn't care, she was always passed out when I'd come in to say "hey."

I always hated coming back home to Daddy's because of his strictness. One day I was complaining to my sister about how I didn't understand why he was so strict and what she told me next rocked my world. She told me that that when she was 16 she had a baby and that this baby was me. Wow! So my sister is my mother and my father is my grandfather and to this day I don't know who my biological father is. Back in the day this is what they did – adopted the baby to keep them in family. Moved the family from one town to another in hopes of no one knowing this secret, which everyone but me knew, and he raised me with care so I wouldn't do like she had been. So, all of a sudden, my nieces and nephews become my brothers and sisters; I'm a big sister now and not the baby of the family anymore, and all my brothers and sisters are now really my uncles and aunts. I kept this secret for years. He had told her to never tell me or she couldn't see me again, and she asked me not to tell. So I didn't. I didn't want to hurt Daddy. He will always be my Daddy.

What a disappointment to Daddy I thought I had become when instead of at 16 like my 'sister', I got pregnant at 17. I got mar-

ried and we had the family life to make Daddy proud for about three years. Then I got divorced and on to the next one. I got pregnant again and married again because I wanted to make Daddy happy. I was about 21 years old and this is when I was introduced to everything and the devil. First was weed and pills, then came meth, finally my devil – cocaine. I loved to smoke it and shoot it. We blew through his 401k and inheritance from grandfather in under a year and I was miserable. I went to behavioral unit a few times and got no relief. I then left and went back home to Daddy, leaving our child with him and the house and taking my oldest with me. A geographical change should work, I thought. I started stripping to help pay the bills round the house, because y'all know how I love getting some attention! It was just right up my alley. And I stayed drunk.

Before long I met a guy and, guess what? Pregnant again. Today, I believe that there is never a reason to have an abortion, but back then I had one for the wrong reason – selfishness. I had met back up with friend from high school who I was crushing on and I was afraid he wouldn't want anything to do with me if pregnant. So I hooked up with him and guess what? Pregnant again times two. Twins! Are you seeing a repetitive thing here? I never did until this past year and half. I moved back home though while about four months pregnant because he was cheating on me with someone who later became their stepmother and now is the only mother they know. My life had gone full circle and I see my life in my children's lives; what happened to me with my mother and the disease had happened to them.

When the twins were about 6 months old and the oldest was 9, I began using cocaine again. My Daddy/grandfather was old in age and was dying. I couldn't handle watching him die. The moment he took his last breath I was in the bathroom at the VA hospital smoking crack. I don't remember the funeral other than that I wanted to drive his truck and not ride in a limo with the rest of the family because I wanted to numb my pain. MY pain.

My 9-year-old then had to grow up and take care of not only me but also be the parent to those twins. Feeding and changing and bathing them while all I did was use. You don't think of them being hungry when you're not. Neglect in its worst way. We all four stayed isolated from the world. Me on the top bunk so I could shoot and smoke my dope and them on bottom so they couldn't "see" or interfere. I then left all of them to go stay with an enabler and, when he was broke, I began stealing in order to supply my dope. Finally there was nothing or no one left. I was so hopeless and whooped.

A police officer in my hometown suggested I go to steps detox so I did. From there I went to 30 day treatment...then to live in therapeutic community for 6 months. From here I went back to club stripping but remaining "sober" and did a lot of the things they suggest not to do, like relationships, for example, and, you guessed it, it wasn't long before I was pregnant with #5. Before I got pregnant I had had surgery and abused the pain medication without telling my sponsor...only to relapse on crack cocaine while 7 or 8 months pregnant. Don't keep secrets from your sponsor.

I went to behavioral unit again then to treatment only to leave early because I just wanted everyone off my back. I had my 5th

son and he is healthy to this day, thank the good Lord. The relationship was sick between his father and me. We both began to use due to untreated alcoholism and we became very abusive to one another. I was sickly codependent and he had become my god and my new drug...my obsession. I abandoned seeing my other boys on visitation days due to being worried about him and where he was.

I started using suboxone and stealing his things and money to get it. I drove him away...once again just like my mother. I picked up a Schedule III charge and became a convicted felon on probation for having half of one of those in my purse during a traffic stop. I also got a theft charge two days before Christmas. I was trying to save dollars so I could buy more dope. He left me and I fell off hard. I had nowhere to go and nothing left to steal but his checks. Desperation and hopelessness consumed me. Then one night, as my dope sat on the table, I cried out that simple but powerful prayer: God help me.

Being afraid that when he realized his whole checkbook was gone because I got greedy and I was running from other consequences of my use due to not going to check in with PO or going to court for theft, I ran. I ran to the behavioral unit again so I thought no one could get me and everything was going to be made better. I stayed two weeks. From there I went to the therapeutic community again. I was kicked out after 30 days for guess what? I was messing with men again.

I was still afraid of consequences so I went to 30-day treatment. While in this facility I had the opportunity to work Steps 1-5 and felt the results of doing so. I had a new sense of freedom. Many things were revealed to me as I thoroughly reviewed my past and became honest with myself and others. I was the problem, not men, drugs, my mother or circumstances. It's me! I then saw the relentless cycle of pain I played the victim role in and affected everyone in my path. I graduated from this program and thought that since I'd completed 2½ months of treatment and got better, all consequences would be forgiven. I lived in the mission for two days and went to go check in with my PO. Investigators were there and I suppose that because of the honesty I gained working the few steps I had, I told them everything! All they wanted to know was about the checks.

To jail I went on July 8, 2011. I am grateful for this because it was the first time I sat still. While sitting still for 7 months, I built a relationship with God. It was a beautiful thing. At first I was always on the phone calling anybody I could, trying to get out because, "Don't you people realize who I am? Don't you know that I went to treatment and I'm better?" LOL! I was far from better and I still have a long way to go today. Anyway, one day I was making a daily call when I heard a voice say to me. "Take your hands out of it." So I did. And I experienced the most freedom I'd ever felt, and this was behind locked doors! I had a peace within me that made it possible for me, who had never been to jail before for more than two hours, to tolerate the place. I don't recommend it at all by the way. I'm grateful for it but don't want to do that EVER again.

So, my consequences caught up with me and I was looking at 5-25 years. My ex dropped charges upon my promise to pay restitution for all I had taken. So, I got a 90-day turnaround, then 30 here for court costs and 30 here for something and 30 for this and that...while all along going to 3 different jails in 2 different parishes. By time I was released I had paid my dues

for all my actions while high or trying to get high. On January 13, 2012, I walked right down the street with nothing but the clothes on my back and a trash bag over my shoulder full of jailhouse stuff....y'all know.....my jailhouse mail from my "lover" in a MAN's jail who wrote me daily..LOL. It entertained me while there at least.

Well, having yet to complete the suggested program of recovery, the 12 steps, I went straight back to some old people, places and things. Guess what? No! I didn't get pregnant. I did use again though. My sponsor tells me that if you have God in one hand and AA in the other, you've got to drop one to pick up the other. Two days later that hopelessness had returned. I didn't know where I was going to go and, fortunate for me, my ex suggested Oxford. So here I am.

My sobriety date is January 15, 2012 and I moved into an Oxford House on January 22, 2012. To God be the glory for it has taught me something I didn't know....well a lot ... but Number 1 is being how to LIVE sober. I never knew how to do that and, treatment after treatment, I always returned to same people, places, and things and ended up with the same results. Mind you, I had nothing. I started from the bottom and now I'm here! Ha! Within two weeks as my house suggested I got a sponsor whom I called EVERY DAY and a job as a barber February 5, 2012.

To show you God has a plan before you are even aware of it, here is a story in a story. Back when my last baby daddy and I were together, he was on my back about getting a job when all I wanted to do was live off him and stay home and take care of our baby. So, to make him happy, I thought I'd go to hair school and put off getting a job for another 9 months or so. I received my license and shortly after all that I went to jail. I never had any experience in the salons. Oh, man, how good God is. Two weeks after moving into Oxford, I got my dream job (not a strip club) at a local old-fashioned barber shop and, within a month, my name was on the sign at the street for the world to see! What? A convicted felon? A crack-headed junkie who lied and stole? I had a real job that I love. Within 6 months I bought my own car!

The house voted me President and I feel that this alone taught me great responsibility and accountability. I had to grow up. This I have done and continue to do. I'm 34 years old and never before in my life had I done so. I always depended on a man for everything....even for self worth and confidence. Not today. God's grace and mercy show me so much more. I began working the 12 steps with my sponsor and applying the principles I am learning in all my affairs. I've learned so much about me this past year and a half. I'm no longer playing that victim. I am a survivor who has been to hell and back and lived to tell another, in hopes it may help the still suffering. I am a strong independent mother today who has recovered from a hopeless state of mind! Who would have thought I could depend on only God instead of man? I never knew till now.

I have been voted Presentations chair and have been doing presentations for almost a year, I guess. Time flies when you LOVE what you do. I get to help people find out there is another way, a place to go to learn to live sober. A place with the support and love that I've always searched for, that the LADIES have given me. As I share my experience, strength, and hope, I've seen eyes light up with hope and this is an awesome

high – a new high that I enjoy more than any other I've ever experienced.

I've received more abundantly than I've lost and I have regained relationships with people and family that I had never imagined was possible. I went from being a 'hopeless dope fiend' to a 'dopeless hope fiend' almost immediately as the promises were being fulfilled in my life. They continue and it keeps getting better. I see all of my boys except for the twins and even had the opportunity to get custody of my youngest, turning our home into Chapter1's first women and children's Oxford House!

My twins – I've been blessed that God chose wonderful women to take my place in all of my boys lives when I wasn't there. This is true for the twins as well and she loves them as a mother loves her own. I have faith today that they are taken care of and that a reunion will occur in God's time, when He thinks I'm ready.

While living in Oxford I can afford to make financial amends to all I owe. It's a beautiful thing! Some even forgiven – my ex, for example – the restitution that I promised to pay. I started paying it and when my Sponsor and I reached Step 9, I asked him what the total amount was that I owed so that I could make it right with him. He said not to worry about it and to just keep doing what I'm doing. So I do. I do today what I did yesterday one day at a time.

I call Oxford my training wheels that keep me on this path of self discovery. It's not about the destination anymore and what can I get – now it's about the journey and what can I give. I just picked up 18 months sober and that's the time I've lived in Oxford. I'm grateful to God, for the 12 Steps, for Oxford, and for you, my fellow Oxford brothers and sisters, for helping me every step of the way. I LOVE OXFORD AND MY LIFE.

More will be revealed. I can't wait. Much love, Brandie B. Shreveport, Louisiana



Oxford House - Roma
421 Albert Street
Shreveport, LA 71106
6 Women • April 25, 1994

Brandie moved out of Oxford House this month – clean and sober and with a determination to stay that way forever.

Directory of Oxford Houses

Oxford House - Red River 1605 Magnolia Drive Alexandria, LA 71301 318-321-1497 6M Established: Jun 03	Oxford House - LaSalle 1203 Normandy Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70806-7640 225-361-0091 7W Established: Sep 10	Oxford House - Bon Temps 3023 Cedarcrest Ave Baton Rouge, LA 70816 225-296-4228 8M Established: Apr 14	Oxford House - Whittington 170 Whittington Dr Lafayette, LA 70503-2742 337-889-5759 6M Established: Apr 12
Oxford House - Belle 5303 Random Dr Alexandria, LA 71302-2738 318-528-8778 8W Established: May 13	Oxford House - Drusilla 12142 Gebhart Dr Baton Rouge, LA 70816-1017 225-389-6321 8WC Established: Nov 10	Oxford House - Gretna 3217 Mallard Lane Gretna, LA 70056-7796 504-304-0468 6M Established: Jul 04	Oxford House - Pinhook 116 Bayou Street Lafayette, LA 70503-2202 337-412-6914 7M Established: Jun 12
Oxford House - South Alexandria 3704 McCann Drive Alexandria, LA 71302-2531 318-528-8803 8M Established: Dec 13	Oxford House - Village Creek 15281 Jones Creek Village Avenue Baton Rouge, LA 70817-1556 225-753-4244 9W Established: Dec 10	Oxford House - Kenner 4157 Ole Miss Drive Kenner, LA 70065-1707 504-287-4462 7WC Established: Jan 03	Oxford House - Flannigan 110 Shadycrest Ave Lafayette, LA 70501-7748 337-534-4204 8WC Established: Jan 13
Oxford House - Essen 1124 Sharp Road Baton Rouge, LA 70815-4747 225-928-5117 7M Established: Mar 04	Oxford House - Shawn 1858 Shawn Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70806-8449 225-454-6680 7W Established: Mar 11	Oxford House - Acadiana 104 Parduton St. Lafayette, LA 70503-2524 337-456-5398 8M Established: Apr 01	Oxford House - Ragin Cajun 316 Harrell Dr. Lafayette, LA 70503 504-940-7751 6M Established: Apr 14
Oxford House - St. Thomas 10926 Ellsworth Ave Baton Rouge, LA 70816-2135 225-636-5359 8M Established: Jun 04	Oxford House - Erlanger 1924 Erlanger Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70816-8635 225-273-7378 7M Established: Jul 11	Oxford House - Harrell 1111 Dulles Dr Lafayette, LA 70506-3869 337-412-6932 7M Established: Jul 01	Oxford House - C'est Bon 104 Coulee Shore Dr Lafayette, LA 70503 504-940-7751 7W Established: Jun 14
Oxford House - Coursey 11801 Parkmount Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70816-4630 225-292-6799 7M Established: Jun 05	Oxford House - Dena Lynn 2807 Dena Lynn Ave Baton Rouge, LA 70816-2616 225-364-2962 7WC Established: Dec 11	Oxford House - Lafayette 319 Karen Drive Lafayette, LA 70503-3923 337-706-7814 6W Established: Jun 01	Oxford House - Imperial 800 Cherryhill Street Lake Charles, LA 70607-4908 337-564-6729 6WC Established: Aug 09
Oxford House - Baton Rouge 10911 Molly Lea Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70815-5241 225-663-2783 7M Established: Jul 05	Oxford House - Comal 12024 Comal Ave Baton Rouge, LA 70816-8625 225-302-5786 7M Established: Feb 12	Oxford House - Le Grand 102 S William Drive Lafayette, LA 70506-7342 337-504-3467 6M Established: Sep 01	Oxford House - Prien Lake 4000 Hodges Street Lake Charles, LA 70605-8961 337-419-1492 6M Established: Oct 09
Oxford House - Old Hammond 1739 Sherwood Forest Baton Rouge, LA 70815-5461 225-615-7116 8M Established: May 06	Oxford House - Tams 11444 Robin Hood Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70815-6158 225-272-6944 6M Established: Aug 12	Oxford House - Maplewood 116 Maplewood Street Lafayette, LA 70503-5121 337-456-6576 6W Established: Jul 01	Oxford House - Lafitte 4119 Common St Lake Charles, LA 70607-4501 337-990-5318 7M Established: Jul 12
Oxford House - Jones Creek 5613 S. Allegheny Court Baton Rouge, LA 70817 225-753-4105 8W Established: Feb 07	Oxford House - Mint House 10052 Mint Dr Baton Rouge, LA 70809-4629 225-448-5788 7W Established: Aug 12	Oxford House - Dulles 1105 Marie Antoinette Lafayette, LA 70506-3932 337-408-3128 6W Established: Jul 02	Oxford House - West Hale 236 W Hale St Lake Charles, LA 70601-8421 337-436-5444 7W Established: Oct 12
Oxford House - Cole 3565 Cole Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70806-5702 225-372-2087 8M Established: Oct 09	Oxford House - Broadmoor 9335 W Damuth Dr. Baton Rouge, LA 70815-4325 225-456-0672 7M Established: Nov 13	Oxford House - Stockton 102 Stockton Drive Lafayette, LA 70506-6850 337-524-1357 6M Established: Nov 08	Oxford House - Creole 721 Iberville Street Lake Charles, LA 70607-5807 337-564-6424 7M Established: Dec 12
Oxford House - Wenham 13215 Wenham Avenue Baton Rouge, LA 70815-6958 225-615-7069 10WC Established: Jan 10	Oxford House - Neal 3088 Carmen Dr Baton Rouge, LA 70809-1852 225-932-0039 6M Established: Jan 14	Oxford House - Boxwood 208 Ashwood Dr. Lafayette, LA 70503-5104 337-889-5451 6WC Established: Jul 09	Oxford House - Beaureve 3711 Swanee St Lake Charles, LA 70607 337-429-5066 6W Established: Mar 13



Oxford House - Mandeville
3030 Highway 59
Mandeville, LA 70471-1939
985-231-7413
7M Established: Feb 02

Oxford House - Soignet
4820 Parker St
Metairie, LA 70001-4463
504-302-2930
9M Established: Jun 13

Oxford House - Gilbert II
371 Pennsylvania Ave
Shreveport, LA 71105-2907
318-828-1705
7WC Established: May 00

Oxford House - Fremaux
57334 S Harrison Road
Slidell, LA 70461-2306
504-430-8554
7W Established: Nov 10

Oxford House - St. Tammany
141 Cindy Lou Place
Mandeville, LA 70448-4602
985-778-0282
8M Established: Feb 08

Oxford House - Forsythe
1401 University Ave.
Monroe, LA 71203-3548
318-855-3582
7M Established: Oct 03

Oxford House - Ockley
318 Ockley
Shreveport, LA 71105-2943
318-848-7153
8M Established: Jul 00

Oxford House - Regalia
2031 Destin St.
Mandeville, LA 70448-3709
985-231-7187
7WC Established: Apr 08

Oxford House - Waterfront
1923 Filhiol Avenue
Monroe, LA 71203-3411
318-537-9724
9M Established: Nov 08

Oxford House - Southfield
236 Southfield Road
Shreveport, LA 71105-3609
318-865-9585
6M Established: Feb 00

Oxford House - Pontchartrain
331 W. Beach Parkway
Mandeville, LA 70448-4910
985-629-4224
8M Established: Feb 09

Oxford House - Filhiol
2020 Filhiol Avenue
Monroe, LA 71203-3414
318-343-2441
6M Established: Jun 09

Oxford House - Roma
421 Albert Street
Shreveport, LA 71106
318-868-4880
6W Established: Apr 01

Oxford House - Bye-Water
226 Cindy Lou Street
Mandeville, LA 70471
985-629-4310
7WC Established: Feb 09

Oxford House - Haven
4301 Spurgeon Dr
Monroe, LA 71203-4523
318-600-6121
6WC Established: Oct 12

Oxford House - Bruce 2
4314 Akard Avenue
Shreveport, LA 71105-3204
318-670-8375
8M Established: Jun 09

Oxford House - Clearview
1802 Clearview Parkway
Metairie, LA 70001-2410
504-302-9331
9M Established: Sep 02

Oxford House - Miro
2060 Garrett Rd
Monroe, LA 71202-4708
318-450-4441
6W Established: Sep 13

Oxford House - Pierremont
257 Pierremont Road
Shreveport, LA 71105-4146
318-861-3113
7W Established: Apr 11

Oxford House - Windsor
4601 Windsor
Metairie, LA 70001-2421
504-304-3490
9M Established: Dec 02

Oxford House - Uptown
2837 Napoleon Ave
New Orleans, LA 70115-6915
504-875-3433
10M Established: Jul 04

Oxford House - Caddo
379 Carrollton Ave
Shreveport, LA 71105-3205
318-866-9997
6M Established: Mar 13

Oxford House - Metairie
4634 Park Dr South
Metairie, LA 70001-3330
504-826-9158
9M Established: Dec 07

Oxford House - Canal
122 N. Jefferson Davis Pkwy
New Orleans, LA 70119-5208
504-267-7630
9M Established: Apr 07

Oxford House - Protege
3637 Youree Dr
Shreveport, LA 71105-2121
318-848-7908
7M Established: Jun 13

Oxford House - Fountainebleau
4628 Park Drive South
Metairie, LA 70001-3330
504-941-7198
10M Established: May 09

Oxford House - Crescent City
2828 Audubon St
New Orleans, LA 70125-2602
504-301-1376
9M Established: Aug 07

Oxford House - Journey 2
350 Leo Ave
Shreveport, LA 71105-2916
318-946-8200
8M Established: Sep 13

Oxford House - New Leaf
1201 Green Street
Metairie, LA 70001-3201
504-252-9105
8M Established: Sep 09

Oxford House - Vieux Carre
1436 N. Villerie St
New Orleans, LA 70116-1852
504-265-0781
11W Established: Aug 12

Oxford House - Rhiannon
129 Arthur Avenue
Shreveport, LA 71105
504-940-7751
7WC Established: Apr 14

Oxford House - Southshore
2708 Lexington Drive
Metairie, LA 70002-7025
504-218-8401
9M Established: Jun 10

Oxford House - De La Majorite
2821 Banks St
New Orleans, LA 70119-7307
504-309-1461
11W Established: Aug 13

Oxford House - Louisianne
4701 Pontchartrain Drive, #C
Slidell, LA 70458-8864
985-201-7438
8M Established: Mar 09

Total Number of
Louisiana
Oxford Houses: 78
Total Number of
Recovery Beds: 577
Women's Houses: 30
Mens's Houses: 48

During the year more
than 80% of residents
stay clean and sober.
The odds of Long-term
Recovery without
relapse are 4-5 times
greater than without
Oxford House living.



Oxford House™

1975-2014

39 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 Houses 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.

Oxford House World Services

1010 Wayne Avenue, Suite 300
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Telephone 301-587-2916
Facsimile 301-589-0302

E-Mail Info@oxfordhouse.org
Web Site: www.oxfordhouse.org