



Friends
of recovery
Northeast Ohio Next Step Living
Ministries

Winter 2019/2020

People Helping People

Hope in the Community

ARUKAH CLEAN OUT JUNE 8, 2019



WORLD CHANGERS DAY (MISSIONARIES FROM SOUTHERN U.S.)



PRO TREE SERVICE



FORNEO SERVING @ WILLOUGHBY BIBLE CHURCH EVENT "WBC FALL FUN FEST" OCTOBER 2019



DRIVEWAY
JUNE 28, 2019
DONATED BY
DEMILTA SAND
& GRAVEL



PROGRESSIVE INSURANCE HR SERVICE DAY AUGUST 8, 2019

KIRTLAND CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH WORK PARTY AUGUST 8, 2019



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*Our Mission is to provide
 Christ centered recovery homes
 offering hope, healing and
 restoration for individuals
 recovering from addictive
 substances.*



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Views from Northeast Ohio

Dear Friends,

I hope this newsletter finds each of you warm, rested and blessed. Since our last newsletter, much has been happening in and around Friends of Recovery NEO. With the purchase of two homes in early Spring, a flurry (for you snow lovers) of activity is taking place at the soon-to-be Arukah Home for Women. Just four doors down from Arukah is our men's home - Tikvah. We are operating at capacity, lives are being changed and God continues to move in this home. It is hard to believe the first resident moved in almost three years ago. Some of the ministry highlights can be found in the pages of this newsletter.

Recently, I was asked "What is Friends of Recovery NEO?" There was no prep time and the interviewer impatiently waited for my response. My brain jumped to history mode and I began to formulate a boring, chronological sequence of events type answer in my mind. After pausing prayerfully, I confidently stated "FORNEO is a loving community where people help people grow in their recovery. This 'recovery' is not predominately focused on addictive substances. We are a community of people walking together no matter the struggle(s)." I concluded by saying, "we seek God's leading and together our journey is focused on Life Recovery." As I pondered what I thought was a brilliant answer, the interviewer quickly blurted out "sounds great" and we were on to the next question.

On a more serious note, Friends of Recovery NEO is part of a community that is rising up and intentionally making positive changes in our community. This community has logged 1,976.5 volunteer hours (68 hrs./wk.) at our Arukah Recovery Home renovation project from June 1 to December 31, 2019. Together, we are offering Hope in the Community where people are helping people. What is taking place today has biblical roots. The book of Nehemiah tells the story of a rebuilding project/task. Nehemiah's task was a wall and ours happens to be homes. The primary purpose then and now remains the same; to provide safety and protection for those living within. Both are seemingly impossible tasks by human standards. What Nehemiah and God demonstrated many years ago and what we are experiencing today happen to be exactly the same. Our impossible tasks can be accomplished when God is in the center and those doing the work are obediently unified.

In closing, my hope is that you enjoy this newsletter and it provides some form of encouragement to you or someone you know. Maybe something in this newsletter has sparked your interest or maybe you would like to get involved in something we are doing? Please reach out; we would love to hear from you. Together we can make a difference.

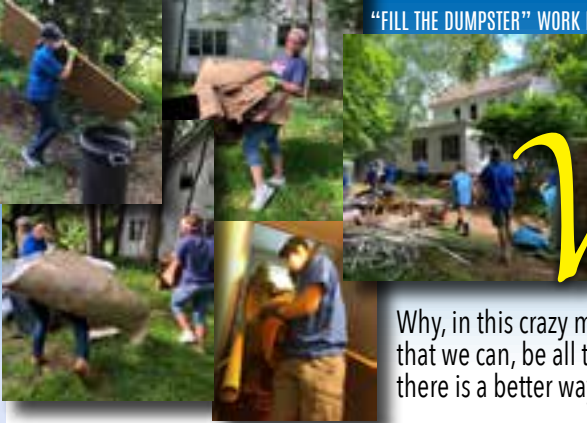
**"Commit everything
 you do to the Lord.
 Trust Him and He
 will help you."
 (Psalm 37:5)**

Have Hope and Share Hope,

Dennis Anthony

Friends of Recovery NEO Director

Volunteers Make a Difference



Why, in this crazy mixed up world, does anyone want to serve or help others? We live in a world that tells us to get all that we can, be all that we can be and make as much money as we can. We don't have to live like the world because there is a better way.

Volunteers in general and community volunteer work specifically, can be summed up as individuals and groups coming together willingly & without force to improve their local community. Friends of Recovery NEO has been and continues to be blessed with countless kind, generous and compassionate volunteers.

On June 1, 2019 we began the renovation project at Arukah Recovery Home. Community volunteers have since logged 67 hours per week for a grand total of 2,128 hours (June 1, 2019 to January 31, 2020). We would like to highlight a few of these individuals and groups.

DeMilta Sand and Gravel kicked off our project by providing a safe driveway. This locally owned and operated family business not only donated the material but also delivered it. Thank you DeMilta for blessing Arukah with (13) semi-truck loads of gravel. This project could not have been finished without Royal & Beth and their toys.



Next came the "Fill the Dumpster" work party. Over (60) volunteers showed up to empty the house of carpet, plaster/lathe, garbage and any miscellaneous debris. This party happened to be featured in a News Herald article.



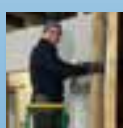
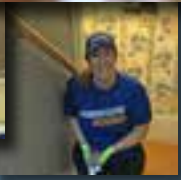
WORLD CHANGERS

World Changers missionary group came next. This group traveled from Indiana, Virginia & N. Carolina and spent the week working in and around Arukah. We provided the work while Willoughby Bible Church fed them and Bedford Baptist Church provided their lodging.



Next, Progressive Insurance completed their "Corporate Service Project." Almost 40 volunteers spent the day at Arukah pulling staples and nails.

Kirtland Christian Fellowship Church came next with their "Community Day" service project. Five churches ended up working together: Kirtland Christian Fellowship Church, Willoughby Hills Friends Church, Living Water Church, St. Gabriel Church and Garfield Memorial Church.



PROGRESSIVE INSURANCE

A special shout out to three of the volunteers pictured:

First is **Ed A.** who continues to pour himself into the Arukah project and Friends of Recovery NEO. He has been the "unofficial project manager" and a true blessing to us.



KIRTLAND CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH



Next, **Frank "the electrician."** He shared his expertise with the Tikvah project and now is blessing us at the Arukah project.

To the hundreds of community volunteers that have come together willingly and without force to improve our local community - THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Lastly, we would like to feature **Zach.** He is a carpentry apprentice that has volunteered many hours at Arukah. He initially heard about a work party through his church. He drove straight to Arukah following the church service. He arrived in church clothes and stated "I'm here to work. What can I do?" He was definitely not dressed for the scheduled demolition work. We refused to allow him to ruin his nice clothes but he was persistent. He asked "can I stay if I find something to wear in my truck?" He returned with a ginormous smile wearing shorts and football cleats. He worked the entire day indoors wearing high-top football cleats.



Together, we are making a difference. We are "People Helping People" and together we are bringing "Hope into the Community."

"I loved being a part of this beautiful day with each and every one of you. There were times today when it just felt surreal. I am beyond blessed to serve God in such a way and to give back to the community that I had taken so much from. I can't wait to see what else He has in store." - Kristen

"Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love." - Martin Luther King, Jr.



Renovation in Progress...



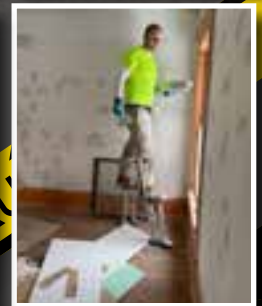
In our last newsletter, we announced our purchase of two future recovery homes in Willoughby. To say that much has happened on these two homes is definitely a huge understatement. Please keep in mind that both of these structures were vacant for a decade or more without heat, running water (other than roof leaks) or human inhabitants.

The Arukah renovation project began June 1, 2019 and as of January 31, 2020, community volunteers have logged 2,128.5 hours (64.5 hrs/wk). "Work Parties" make up many of these hours. These parties helped mitigate water and fire damage. Walls, ceilings and floors were replaced along with many layers of wallpaper removed.

Early on, a few essential aspects of this project were completed. First, a new driveway was provided by DeMilta Sand and Gravel. They donated (13) semi-truck loads of fill and gravel. Next, we tackled the roof. Actually, five roof surfaces were replaced and for the first time in many years, the rain remained outside the home. A new high-efficiency furnace with custom duct work to the second floor followed the roof. Next, a safe distance was established between the overgrown trees and the house. In all, fifteen large trees were taken down and saved for a future "Firewood for Friends" fundraiser planned for fall of this year.

Next, the entire home received new plumbing along with a tank-less water heater. The electrical system ended up being the most involved aspect of this project so far. The entire house was brought up to code. This involved re-wiring, new panels, removal of knob & tube and installation of overhead lighting in all of the rooms on the second floor.

Lastly, when this newsletter went to print, the drywall finishers had just begun their work. We have two painting parties scheduled for February 22 and 29. If you are looking to help out, this is a great opportunity to get involved. Please check out more Arukah progress in our summer newsletter.



Giving Back



A successful recovery journey can only be possible with healthy and balanced doses of active receiving and giving. One must be willing to receive things such as advice, instruction and help yet also be willing to help others by "giving it back." There is a saying in recovery that "You can't keep it (recovery) unless you give it back." The men of Tikvah Recovery Home have spent many hours giving it back this past year.

A few of these hours have been spent giving back at the Willoughby Bible Church annual activities such as Fall Fun Fest and Car Cruise In. At both of these events, the Tikvah Men (TM) and the Friends of Recovery NEO family enjoyed preparing and serving the food. The TM also enjoyed serving a meal, worship and a message of Hope, Healing and Restoring to the men of Teen Challenge in Perry, Ohio twice this past year.

The TM closed the year out with a Christmas dinner and celebration at Tikvah Recovery Home. The men shared "We wanted to give back to our families after taking so much from them." The men not only prepared their first turkey dinner feast but also learned

"We cannot do great things on this earth, only small things with great love." (Mother Teresa)

how to carve their first turkey bird. The evening was a blessed time of laughter, sharing of presents and healthy/memorable family time.





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of recovery

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A Serious Question

By: Norm

A question was asked of me in November of 2017. A question that at times in my life I thought I knew the answer to, a question that I've also at times been uncertain of the answer, a question that should've been easy to answer, a question that at times bore no weight to it, yet other times it carried the weight of the world, a question that once overwhelmed me to the point of anger and frustration, it's the question that I still ask myself every single day (now two years since it was asked of me at that particular moment) if nothing else but to remind myself of its power and purpose and the responsibility that is attached to its answer, because it's the question that ultimately brought me freedom.

I don't know why that specific moment in 2017 was the moment that set that question and my answer on a collision course that is producing the liberty I'm experiencing today. Maybe my ears were finally open, maybe my heart was finally softened, maybe I was finally willing, maybe I had finally had enough of myself, and maybe I had just the right amount of humility to allow that question to penetrate my soul and to take the time to give it the sincere thoughtful answer that it deserved. I believe all of these "maybes" have a part to play, but looking back now I can see that very simply - I was ready.

I arrogantly wanted to answer the man's question with a resounding "YES!" but he wouldn't let me. He urged me, no he demanded, that I take some time to think about my answer and the responsibility that came with the answer, whether it be "no" or whether it be "yes." So I did. I pondered it for days, unsure of even what it meant anymore, uncertain if I could even live a life that coincided with my decision should I answer "yes" to his question. Part of me, honestly, didn't want to say "yes" because I had been consumed with my own shame for so long, I didn't deserve to say "yes." But then I prayed, on my knees, and asked God to show me - something, anything! Cause I was out of answers...

The man who asked me this question was my counselor at a place called Peniel Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center. Peniel is the name of the place referenced in the Old Testament where Jacob wrestled with God for an answer (Genesis 32:30 - So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, meaning: For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.) And so I wrestled with God for my answer, for

the courage, the fortitude, the willingness, and faith to give the correct answer. The question that man asked me that day was this simple but extremely profound question. As I was speaking, more or less sharing all of my excuses with him, he stopped me mid-sentence and asked me, "Son, do you want to be a man of God, or not?"

The question enraged me and filled me with remorse all at once. "Man of God" – who was he to ask me such a thing, didn't he just listen to my stories about ministry involvement and church attendance? Who does he think he is? How dare he ask me that? But it wasn't the question itself or him that made me angry. It was the fact that someone HAD to ask me that question. If I hadn't done what I had done, if I hadn't drifted so far from the Truth, then no one would've have had to ask me that question. But here was a man who had just met me, basically a stranger, gazing into my heart and speaking directly to my deception.

Through the course of my addiction I had picked back up and re-bottled all of the issues that I thought I once laid down; my childhood despairs, various forms of abuse, the abandonment issues, losing my parents to cancer, being bullied as a boy, defective relationships, and my failures; allowed them to morph into and fuel self-pity, resentment, anger, fear, distrust, doubt, and debilitating shame, which in turn manifested itself as a dark, heart-choking, life numbing, destructive addiction to drugs and alcohol. I had been sober for several years in my late twenties when I had a shoulder injury that lead to 3 surgeries and a pain-killer addiction which in time turned into the use of other substances. The weight of it was crushing for me and for my family. I gave all that I had to my addiction, my blood, sweat, tears, time, money, career, marriage, and even my children, yet it still it wanted more.

Fortunately for me God finally recaptured my heart and I rededicated my life to Christ on December 13th of 2017. One of the first verses that helped to begin my healing process was 2 Corinthians 7:10 which states *"For Godly sorrow produces repentance, leading to salvation, not to be regretted, but the sorrow of the world produces death."* Repentance and salvation are the foundation to the life of obedience to God's Word that I am striving to live today. Not obedience out of obligation but obedience out of longing, a longing to walk closely with Christ, to serve Him with the best that I can give Him. Because He deserves my very best – and.....because I love Him.

Living at the Tikvah Home has only enhanced my opportunity to grow closer with The Lord and has enriched my life tremendously, on every level. There's love here, and encouragement, and hope, along with accountability and support. I am so grateful for the Friends of Recovery NEO ministry, for Godly counsel that I receive on a regular basis, and for the relationships I have with my brothers in the house as well as the men in our JourneyMen Group. I know that my season here is temporary but the memories and relationships I have here are for a lifetime. And I know that my experience in this home is without a doubt helping me to become a better man, and helping me to affirm my answer to that very serious question that was asked of me not so long ago. ***"Do you want to be a man of God, or not?"***
"Yes sir...I do."





Moving on... Every once in a while, some people get lucky enough to have an experience that forever alters the course of their life. That is a really accurate way to describe my experience as a family member of the Tikvah Home for Men! I moved into Tikvah in July of 2018; fairly stable in my recovery, yet at the same time kind of afloat without much clear direction. During my stay at Tikvah I was stretched in directions I never thought possible. I learned a lot: about myself, friendship, responsibility, accountability, brotherhood, faith, family, fellowship, and a LOT about God.

Being a resident allowed me to become more secure in and confident about my recovery. Having a safe place where I was shown unconditional love and support—despite my struggles—and in spite of myself was something that I will always value and cherish. The comradery and brotherhood that grew between me and my brothers will surely last a lifetime.

One word I never thought I would use to describe myself is “homeowner.” Therefore, it was with a bit of apprehension, excitement, fear, and nervous optimism that I decided to apply for a mortgage and begin looking for a place to call my very own. With Dennis, Sue, and my brothers cheering me on I worked through the process of getting approved for a loan, looking at houses, and finally making a decision to plant roots of my own in a place that I can call home!

I’m writing this letter from that new home; and while I’m still scared, nervous, excited, and sometimes lonely, I look around often and wonder how a guy like me could be so blessed. We serve a wonderful God who is still in the business of working miracles, and I’m living proof!

From the bottom of my heart I’d like to thank EVERYONE involved with Friends of Recovery for all of the love and support I’ve been shown. I can say with absolute certainty that I would not be anywhere near where I am today without the loving guidance of my FORNEO family!

I’m Praying God’s blessings for everyone reading this!

Your brother in Christ, Steve Kliot

What's New...

Check out our renovated new website: www.friendsofrecoveyneo.com

FUNDRAISERS:

Gala Dinner February 28, 2020 • Pancake Breakfast April 4, 2020



Ministry Needs

- Marc's/Aldi Grocery Gift Cards
- Support Group Meals

Ladies: www.mealtrain.com/2095ve

Men: www.mealtrain.com/k9r6m0

Friends of Recovery NEO
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Thank you for helping us help others!

**For more information
and on-line giving go to:**
www.friendsofrecoveyneo.com


What is Friends of Recovery NEO?

Our Mission is to provide Christ centered recovery homes offering hope, healing and restoration for individuals recovering from addictive substances. These homes provide a safe, affordable, drug and alcohol-free residential environment for both women and men that have chosen recovery. As the women and men grow in their recovery, they will learn respect, accountability/responsibility and healthy relationship building. Most importantly, they will learn they have a loving Father waiting with open arms that can/will set them free.

While staying with us, we will teach the life skills necessary to blossom into a functioning/productive member of society. Everyone will learn such things as what addiction is and how it affects you and your family. We will also offer lifesaving tools to help throughout one's recovery journey. You will meet like-minded people and develop relationships based on love and trust.

We at Friends of Recovery Northeast Ohio know what it is like to lose hope and direction in life. We are a group of people who have been there. We have made the poor choices ourselves or have watched our loved ones choose the wrong road. Either way, we have all felt alone in this struggle. Does any of this sound familiar? If so, we are here to offer hope and share that YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

What do we expect from the residents? First and most importantly, we expect everyone to remain sober. Second, living in one of our recovery homes has no set number of days. Third, we expect everyone to help others struggling with addiction within the recovery house as well as in the community. Lastly, we expect everyone to give back to the community by living a functional and productive life. Friends of Recovery NEO is a loving community where people help people grow in their recovery.

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