

Campaign For the Recovery Complex: Hope for us all

The community we love and share is being actively devastated by the effects of drug and alcohol dependence. The heartbreaking number of deaths, the broken families and the economic impact on our area is staggering. No one among us escapes the consequences. The Recovery Complex on the campus of the Serenity House in Clark County will serve as a beacon of hope, providing a centralized, dedicated location for proven and effective resources for the affected individuals and their families to achieve real and lasting recovery.

There is a solution

In the year 2000 the American Psychiatric Association began recommending referral to 12 step groups, specifically Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous, to facilitate treatment of patients with substance abuse disorders. A multitude of studies have concluded that 12 step groups “improve the likelihood of achieving and maintaining remission and reduce the need for professional care.” Al-Anon and Al-Ateen enable families to cope, heal and end the cycle of destruction caused by chemical dependency. The evidence is overwhelming that a strong recovery network enables people to recover and families to thrive.

Alcohol abuse results in 1,646 deaths and 50,042 years of potential life lost each year in Indiana and costs the state an estimated \$4.2 billion in lost workplace production, healthcare expenses and crime. According to the CDC, in 2021 alone there were 2,755 drug overdose deaths in Indiana. An involuntary test of the value of regular meetings was imposed by the Covid closures. The New York Times recently reported that the rate of relapse of recovering alcoholics and people who use drugs during the pandemic when in person meetings and contacts with sponsors was unavailable was alarmingly high.

The 2013 bridge expansion claimed the property of the Jeffersonville Token Club. That facility had served as the lone dedicated building for recovery meetings in our area for decades and its 34 weekly recovery groups were displaced. A massive void in recovery resources was created. The established groups were forced to re-locate to less than ideal locations and many of the groups simply dissolved. A once strong, connected recovery community was dissipated and weakened.

The Serenity House, a highly effective recovery house for men since 1974, recognized the gaping hole in resources and agreed to accept a number of the meetings into the House. But the facility is not designed for this purpose and cannot approach meeting the need.

What we can create together

The Recovery Complex is a 10,000 square foot facility specifically designed to meet the recovery needs of our community. The structure currently stands with the foundation, shell, and roof in place with utilities run to the site. Recently windows and doors have been installed, rough-in plumbing run and the concrete floor has been poured. The crucial elements will be:

- 3 large rooms for 12 step meetings for Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Al-Anon, Al-Ateen
- large gymnasium ideal for recreation, athletic events, bigger meetings, recovery conferences and community events
- commercial kitchen to serve visitors
- several smaller rooms for sponsor/sponsee meetings
- ample storage space and restroom facilities
- knowledgeable, caring people to refer to community partners when appropriate

Sobriety is achieved and maintained when those seeking it are surrounded by people on the same path in a loving, safe environment. The Recovery Complex will focus and maximize recovery resources in the heart of our neighborhood. It will provide a dynamic solution, enabling those seeking recovery to heal, grow and thrive together.

The results will be felt throughout the community:

- Vastly improved physical and mental health of the participants
- Restoration of individuals to society as contributing members
- Improved quality of life for family members and loved ones
- Dramatic reduction in expenses incurred including healthcare, lost productivity, crime and the judicial system

Cost to open the Recovery Complex

The campaign goal is Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$800,000) funded by private donors, foundations and in partnership with local, state, and federal governments. We receive no tax dollars. Serenity, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) entity and all donations are tax deductible. We are over halfway there. To date we have raised \$450,000 and our campaign seeks a further \$350,000 to complete this crucial project. Never has the need been more urgent.

People can recover. Families can recover. Communities can recover. The campaign for the Recovery Complex is your opportunity to be a part of this restoration of life, hope and joy to our community. The direct social and economic benefits to the area will be invaluable and pass from generation to generation.