Starting over. Finding joy.

How the light of recovery at Welcome House broke through a lifetime of chaos, addiction and pain.

For more than two decades, the story of Chris Dover's life unfolded in one tragic chapter after another. Drugs and alcohol tainted everything in his world: his family, his friendships, his work, and his ability to sustain even basic needs such as shelter and food.

"For as long as I can remember, my life has been in shambles," he said. After living in a shelter for five months and on the streets for four months, he found the resolve to get clean and sober.

Chris' transformation began at Welcome House, where recovery is steeped in accountability. He credits Welcome House for saving his life and, for the first time, helping him find joy and purpose in life.

"Before, I could never help myself, but Welcome House taught me that in helping others, I can have change in my own life," says Chris.

With steely determination, he fulfilled the requirements of a court-ordered recovery program, graduated from Welcome House, and has maintained his job. He has goals, one of which is saving funds for a car.

"I had to change my people, places and playgrounds. Everything I knew, I had to give up," Chris says. "Today I have goals and plans. I have learned to cope and overcome."

To learn more about the Core Recovery Program at Welcome House, visit WelcomeHouseKC.org.
Leading the Way

In step with Jamie Boyle, President & CEO

Dear Friends-


These are the by-products of our work and relationships to one another. Our recovery, after all, is not a side job or just something we do. It's our survival and personal commitment to a life free of drugs, alcohol and the downfall that inevitably ensues our addictions. It's our accountability and commitment to each other, to those we love - and above all - to ourselves.

It's not an easy road, this journey of recovery, but our resolve is lifted up, empowered and encouraged by one another.

As we gathered stories to share in this issue of The Journey, the infinite value of our supportive relationships became a common thread.

In our support for each other we find humility and the clear recognition of what and who we really are - an opportunity to become what we "could be."

In each other, we get rid of isolation. We find a sense of belonging in our shared experiences, our traditions, and our carrying the message of sobriety and recovery to others. Likewise, we cannot do this work alone at Welcome House. Thanks to the dedication and support of our volunteers, donors, alumni and greater community, we're a powerful force for good - a family like no other.

Wth gratitude,

Jamie Boyle, President/CEO,

giving@WelcomeHouse

Whether you give a little or give a lot, it all adds up to expert services and hope-filled care for residents of Welcome House.

- Share a one-time or monthly gift.
- Give in-kind items from the Wish List on our website.
- Donate at WelcomeHouseKC.org or mail your check to:

Welcome House • 1414 E. 27th Street • Kansas City, MO 64108

We're a family like no other.

Our residents are always in need of new or gently worn denim. Consider a donation drive at your office, school or church, or host a "jeans day," with co-workers making a cash donation to wear jeans to the office. Jeans may be dropped off any time at Welcome House.
It was a picture-perfect day of golf, sunshine and friends at the Welcome House 1st Annual Swing Fore Recovery Golf Classic hosted September 10, 2018, at Milburn Country Club. Presented by Shawnee Mission Health, the event raised more than $92,000.

Ryan Shriver of Haas & Wilkerson Insurance served as event chair of the sold-out tournament which welcomed 157 players and more than 40 volunteers.

A sold-out tourney made for lots of action on the range.

Hometown Heroes
KC sports celebs hit the links for Welcome House

A live auction featuring hometown sports and broadcast celebrity players raised more than $6,500.

The lineup:
Jaime Bluma, Frank Boal, Mike Boddicker, Tom Burgmeier, Danny Clinkscale, Bobby Dernier, Kendall Gammon, Tim Grunhard, David Howard, Brian McRae, Jamie Quirk and John Wathan.
Because "goodbyes" are never easy, this is just, "until we meet again."

Two board members, Frank Martin and John Hungerford are concluding their service on the Welcome House Board of Directors.

"Frank and John have been rock-solid advocates for our mission. They have been confidantes and trusted advisers," says Welcome House President/CEO Jamie Boyle. "We’re so grateful for their dedication and example."

Frank's affiliation with Welcome House goes back 30 years. “I served every week for ten years as a ‘counselor’ beginning in 1986,” says Frank. He admires all that Welcome House has accomplished. “Our resident success rate has steadily improved and the men are giving back to society.”

John has been a champion for all things Welcome House, serving in several roles, always leading with great compassion and a heart for service. “I am grateful for the exceptional programs at Welcome House that teach men how to turn their lives around,” he says.

New Appointments

Newly appointed board members are John Wendorff, proprietor of The Personal Marketing Company in Lenexa, KS, and Katie Castro, Director of Membership for Nonprofit Connect in Kansas City, MO.
Alumni fellowship is a connection to ongoing support in our recovery family.

Staying connected to a supportive network is key to a successful recovery. That’s why Welcome House provides opportunities for graduates to stay connected, not only for their own benefit, but for that of others.

Our Alumni Fellowship program provides opportunities for continued involvement, including Alumni Night every Wednesday where former residents gather at Welcome House for dinner and the evening recovery meeting.

Alumni are also encouraged to volunteer as lay counselors or join in Welcome House events such as the Alumni BBQ or Welcome House Night at The K.

To learn more, visit WelcomeHouseKC.org, call 816.472.0760, or contact MitchellChalk@WelcomeHouseKC.org.

Family Traditions: The recent Welcome House Alumni BBQ and Meeting is an annual summer tradition where graduates and current residents gather for a speaker meeting, a cookout and the “famous” all-you-can-eat ice cream truck experience. The most important aspect of this tradition is the camaraderie and mutual support shared by alumni and residents alike.

THE BONDS OF BROTHERHOOD

It’s only the beginning. Graduating from the residential Core Recovery program at Welcome House is not an end, but the start of a fresh new way of living.

Staying connected to a supportive network is key to a successful recovery. That’s why Welcome House provides opportunities for graduates to stay connected, not only for their own benefit, but for that of others.

What will be your legacy?

Hope for the Journey

A planned gift to Welcome House allows individuals to leave a hope-filled legacy by supporting recovery services for those suffering from alcohol and drug addiction.

When you designate a planned gift in your estate, you will be invited to join Hope for the Journey, a community of thoughtful supporters who are leaving a legacy of hope, care, and generosity for Welcome House.

Giving options include wills and living trusts, retirement plan assets, tax-free IRA contributions, securities, life insurance and property.

To learn more, please contact President/CEO Jamie Boyle, 816.472.0760 or email jamie@welcomehousekc.org. A planned gift commitment form is available at WelcomeHouseKC.org.
Micah Haen, CADC, CPS, MPS
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR AT WELCOME HOUSE

"Never have just one reason to get sober."

Micah Haen finally put the brakes on a cycle of relapse when, two years ago, he was inspired to seek a new career path. Then the Resident Relations Director at Welcome House, Micah started coursework toward certification as a Peer Support Specialist and Certified Alcohol Drug Counselor (CADC), pursuits that helped him better understand his disease and the journey of recovery.

“I had a very ‘Me, Me, Me’ mentality,” he said. “Once I started serving others and really working the 12th Step, I found a fulfillment in my life and in my program that I have never known.”

The certification process expanded Micah’s knowledge of counseling methods and techniques, as well as legal issues related to recovery facilities. Through the Welcome House Core Recovery Program, Micah now serves as Operations Director, counseling residents one-on-one, providing assessments, screenings, and treatment and referral plans. “It’s really powerful knowing I can help others more effectively while helping myself,” he said.

Micah says he cannot translate the Welcome House Recovery Program or any form of long-term recovery to others without practicing his own self-care.

"Through this, I’ve found how much I deeply cherish what I have – the gifts of the program."

When face-to-face with new residents at Welcome House, he says, “I see where I once was and how quickly this disease can take me back.”

His advice to others: “Never have just one reason to get sober. That single reason can easily turn into a resentment and fail you,” says Micah. “Have a dozen reasons to get sober. This way, your sobriety doesn't hinge on one thing; you still have 11 more reasons to stay on your journey.”

Stories of inspiration, challenge and everyday miracles are welcome. To share a story or nominate a Hero in Recovery, email MitchellChalk@WelcomeHouseKC.org.