

SUMMER • 2020

# the journey

A CONNECTION TO FRIENDS, SUPPORTERS  
AND RESIDENTS OF WELCOME HOUSE



## Challenged, but not powerless

New world order requires adaptive change at Welcome House through innovation, vigilance, encouragement, and support.

It's a whole new world out there, where the only constant is change.

For Welcome House, the global COVID-19 crisis has reinforced our focus on adaptive change as we plan, respond, and adapt to challenges to best meet the needs of our residents and the community.

"For individuals in recovery, the pandemic can exacerbate feelings of fear, uncertainty and anxiety," says President & CEO Jamie Boyle. "It is imperative that we adhere to the environmental requirements for health and safety, as well as the mental health and financial supports our residents need."

Like the rest of the world, we have developed new protocols and adapted programming such as limiting the number of residents per recovery meeting while increasing the number of meetings available each day.

At the onset of Kansas City's stay-at-home order, Welcome House suspended new resident admissions. Gradually, the admission opportunities increased and, beginning August 1st, applications are processed four times per month.

As some residents have lost their jobs due to the current situation, Welcome

*(Continued - see Challenged on page 4)*



Welcome House

## Miracle Moment

"Welcome House has done much more for me than I have for Welcome House."

- FRANK MARTIN,  
2020 MIRACLE AWARD  
HONOREE



Rich McArdle (left), Board Chair, presented the 2020 Miracle Award to longtime Welcome House advocate and supporter Frank Martin (right) at the 7th Annual Welcome House Breakfast.

Read more about Frank Martin's commitment to Welcome House on page 4.



**Signs of change at Welcome House:** Beyond the requirements for facial masks and more frequent cleaning, Welcome House has amended admissions and residency practices, occupancy in recovery meetings, and supportive services. (Above left) Chef Chad Magoon prepares an evening meal for residents. (Above right) Recovery Support Specialist Tommy McGee (left) meets with residents.

# Leading the Way

In step with Jamie Boyle, President & CEO

## Dear Friends-

It's been said that one of the greatest things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we could not as individuals.



This is especially true at Welcome House where our very design is inspired by welcoming the alcoholic or addict and creating community. We are people working together - connected in our shared experiences and accountability - as we seek better lives in sobriety.

It comes as no surprise, then, that the pandemic is especially challenging to alcoholics or addicts, particularly those in the early stages of recovery. Isolation, distancing, and everything that COVID-19 has essentially required us to do is *exactly the opposite* of what Welcome House is designed to do.

Among the many lives lost during the pandemic are those whose addictions and mental health could not withstand the fear, isolation, and anxiety prompted by the crisis. Tragically, in about two and a half weeks during the stay-at-home orders, we lost six individuals in the local recovery community to overdose or suicide.

As we mourn these losses, we're all the more determined to keep our faces to the sun. Where there is adversity and inconvenience, we will seek patience, ingenuity, and discipline. Where there is hopelessness and despair, we will put on the armor of compassion and resolve.

We wish you continued wellness and thank you for your continued support and generosity. Please reach out if there is anything Welcome House can do for you or your family.

With gratitude,

Jamie Boyle, President & CEO

**giving@WelcomeHouse**

Please consider of these ways to support our hope-filled mission:

- 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**

## Wish List

Please call ahead and we will come to your car to retrieve your donations. Much-needed items include:

- men's shoes, especially work-type casual styles, athletic shoes, and boots
- hygiene items: toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap
- gently worn or new denim jeans
- underwear, t-shirts, socks, belts.



## Our Mission

**Welcome House** is committed to providing a **high-quality, moral,** and open **residential** program to **recovering** alcoholics and drug-addicted men facing the difficult **transition** from treatment, incarceration, and homelessness to **reintegration** back into society as **productive citizens.**

## get in touch

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

816.472.0760



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welcomehousekansascity



welcomehousekc.org



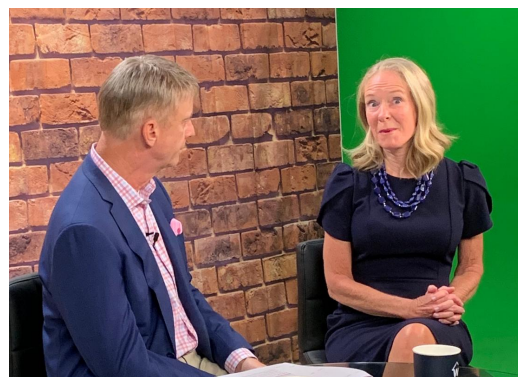
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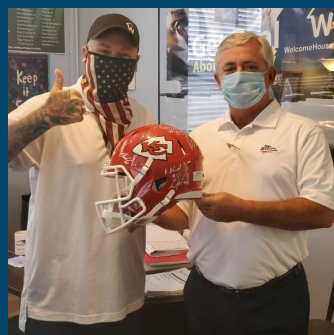


**This year's virtual event raised more than \$136,000! Thanks to all who contributed to this success!**

*Clockwise from top left: President & CEO **Jamie Boyle** with **John Wendorff**, board member and Presenting Prize Sponsor; 2020 Breakfast Committee; a view from the virtual set at **StagePortKC**; Emcee **John Holt** of Fox 4 News with **Susan Whitmore**, board member and CEO of First Call; Event Co-Chairs and board members **Dr. Heather Hale-Rosburg** and **Katie Castro**; Welcome House Culinary Director and musician **Chad Magoon**.*



*Vroom!*  
**HERE'S TO THIS YEAR'S  
RAFFLE PRIZE  
WINNERS!**



**What's better than bacon for breakfast? Prizes!**

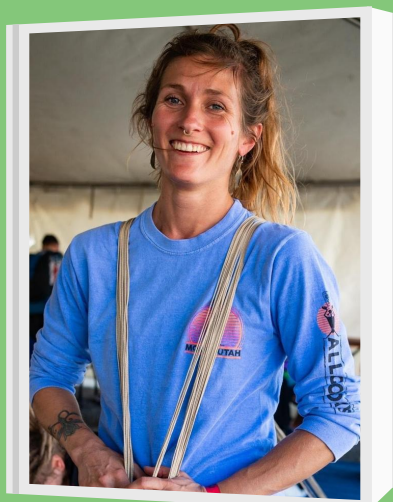
The famous raffle contest at the Welcome House Annual Breakfast is all about great prizes! This year was no exception, thanks to Presenting Prize Sponsor The Personal Marketing Company.

Eight winners scored Patrick Mahomes and Tiger Woods memorabilia, a Colorado golf trip, and more! *Above from left: **Kenan Metzger** (left) with his 2020 Polaris Sportsman ATV, **Jamie Boyle** and **John Wendorff**; **Jamie Boyle** handing over a Super Bowl Chiefs signed helmet to **Randy Huber** (right); **John Doidge** (center) accepting his 2020 Triumph Street Twin with Jamie Boyle and John Wendorff.*

# WELCOME!

On the job learning: practicum students to join Welcome House this semester.

Lindsey White



It's an exciting time at Welcome House as some talented students begin serving their social work practicums with us. Lindsey White is one of the students who will be applying her academic training to the real world as she observes trained professionals and practice skills.

#### About Lindsey:

Originally from Iowa City, Iowa, Lindsey is studying social work at Park University. With a love for adventure, she has worked as a sky diving instructor for five years.

About her practicum at Welcome House, Lindsey says, "I'm really excited to learn about the recovery process and to get experience with case management and counseling."

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## Challenged, but not powerless

House has ensured that their participation or pursuit of recovery has not been compromised.

"Our team is guiding residents as they seek employment through the Rehabilitative Jobs program and also helping eligible residents identify and apply for unemployment and other benefits," says Jamie.

"Welcome House may be challenged, but we're certainly not powerless," says Jamie. "We're going to continue learning, adapting, and growing. We're modeling the kind of adaptive change that all of us in recovery can benefit from."



**New ways:** Welcome House has implemented many new protocols in response to COVID-19, including changes to its dining, residency, and program operations.

## WelcomeHouseKC.org

## Miracle Award

Frank Martin | 2020 Honoree

Frank Martin's affiliation with Welcome House goes back to 1986 when he began serving as a volunteer counselor for the men living at the house. What began as weekly visits to offer support and encouragement, developed into a 34-year devotion to the organization.

Over the years, Frank has served in many capacities on the board of directors and shared generously in his time, talents, and resources.

"Frank is the kind of individual any organization would be honored to have on their team," says Board Chair



**Miracle Man:** Welcome House President & CEO Jamie Boyle (left) with 2020 Miracle Award Honoree Frank Martin.

Rich McArdle. "He's an exemplary leader and visionary. A tell-it-like-it-is advocate. A trusted advisor and confidante."

President and CEO Jamie Boyle says, "Frank's leadership has not only contributed to the success of Welcome House, but inspires so many with his integrity and encouragement. He is the kind of person who brings out the best in others."

On behalf of everyone at Welcome House, we congratulate Frank Martin for this well-deserved honor.

# living the journey



Community, Resources, and Recovery at Welcome House



**Laying the Foundation:** Casey Urso (above) leads the 12 Traditions of Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous in a weekend Welcome House University class.

## 12 TRADITIONS OF ALCOHOLICS & NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

unity ▪ trust ▪ identity ▪  
autonomy ▪ purpose ▪ solidarity  
▪ responsibility ▪ fellowship ▪  
structure ▪ neutrality  
▪ anonymity ▪ spirituality

### Welcome House University keeps lessons of the 12 Traditions alive in recovery

Though the men who come together on Saturday mornings for the 12 Traditions class have taken different paths to get here, they all share in the desire for a better life in recovery.

Whether their journey is just beginning - or beginning again - it is not uncommon for individuals in recovery to focus more on the 12 Steps, and less on the 12 Traditions. While the goal is to attain and maintain sobriety, without embracing the 12 Traditions, it's easy to lose direction.

It's why the Welcome House University class on the 12 Traditions is integral to the recovery program. The Traditions provide the foundation by which individuals can navigate the 12 Steps of Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous. Both are meant to provide the framework by which to *live life*, not just stop drinking or using.

"In the class, we talk a lot about learning to live with differences we may have with other people," says Casey Urso, Recovery Peer Support Specialist at Welcome House. "We talk about the ways we can accept decisions that have been made that we might not like, and how to be autonomous in our decision making."

Casey says the Twelve Traditions were especially important in his own journey. "The Traditions teach us to come together as a group for the good of the whole instead of focusing on the differences among us."

"When I was a resident at WelcomeHouse, learning the traditions helped me to value acceptance of my fellow man," he says. "This opened my eyes and gave me a broader and more accepting perspective of the world around me."

*To learn more about recovery at Welcome House, please call 816-472-0760 or visit [WelcomeHouseKC.org](http://WelcomeHouseKC.org).*



**Welcome House**

1414 E. 27th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64108-2924

*Be there!*



## September 14, 2020 3rd Annual Swing Fore Recovery

Space is limited. Visit  
[WelcomeHouseKC.org](http://WelcomeHouseKC.org) to register.

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64108

## HEALTHY LIFESTYLES IN RECOVERY

### Welcome House earns grant award for Healthy Communities initiatives.

The Health Forward Foundation via the Healthy Communities grant process has awarded Welcome House a grant of \$88,719 to launch the Recovery Nutrition Project.

"This initiative will completely transform our food services program," says Welcome House President and CEO Jamie Boyle.

Residents will not only have access to the nutrition so important to achieving and maintaining short-term sobriety, but they will also benefit from additional knowledge, training, and practical support to draw upon in long-term recovery.

"We are tremendously grateful to the Health Forward Foundation for the confidence in the vital work we are doing at Welcome House. It is essential that we not only to support men in recovery, but in *a healthy recovery*," says Jamie.

The holistic approach supports all aspects of a resident's life and recovery such as access to nutritious meals, opportunities for exercise, and the services that promote positive and healthy living.



***"When we all have the ability to  
live healthy and resilient lives,  
our communities thrive."***

Qiana Thomason  
Health Forward Foundation President/CEO