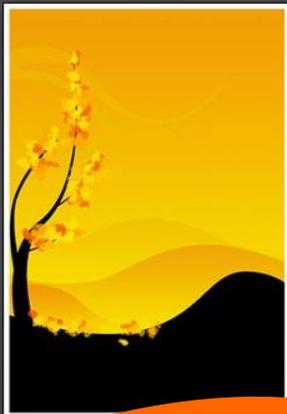


The Oxford Insider

Oklahoma Oxford Houses Quarterly Newsletter
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Seasons of Change

Propagation

Webster defines propagation as: "the spreading of something (as a belief) abroad or into new regions."

We are turning a very important corner in Oklahoma. We have been traveling down the road of stability for the last two years with minimal expansion. We are stable, we are strong. Now we must exit the path of stability and merge onto the broad highway of expansion. February marks the beginning of our new path. This month we will open three new houses, setting a record for the number of houses opened in one month. Tulsa will see a new men's house. Muskogee and Ada will both have their first ever men's house. This is the spirit of Oxford House. This is the foundation from which we were allowed an opportunity to be a part of this movement. Without those before us who opened houses in Oklahoma, where would we all be today? Tradition One is the cornerstone of why Oxford House is Oxford House. We are here, not only to stay clean and sober, but to help the next person seeking recovery by ensuring that an Oxford House bed is available to them if they so choose to take it. I encourage every chapter, every house, every member to step outside of their comfort zone and get involved in the process of opening a house. To be part of creating something so positive is magical. There is nothing in the world so special than to give of yourself freely and selflessly to meet the needs of others and Oxford House hands you that gift on a silver platter.

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OUTREACH STAFF

Jackson Longan

Regional Outreach Manager

405-519-1910

jackson.longan@oxfordhouse.org

Mike Martindale

Outreach Services Representative

918-402-7485

mike.martindale@oxfordhouse.org

Laura Johnson

Outreach Services Representative

laura.johnson@oxfordhouse.org

A Message From Lori Holtzclaw

Hello everyone! Wow, I don't even know where to begin. I LOVE OKLAHOMA!!!!!! First of all, let me start off by saying that Oxford House Oklahoma would not be as wonderful as it is if it weren't for its RESIDENTS. You guys make recovery so much fun! It has been one of the best experiences, in my own personal recovery, to be a part of such a special group of people. I have learned something from everyone I have been around since I have been here.

Oxford House saved my life and, if it is God's will, I will spend the rest of my life trying to give that opportunity to every alcoholic and addict who needs it. I never thought I would ever get sober, much less, be able to help anyone in any kind of way. I never knew that recovery could be so much fun and so rewarding.

If I can give any kind of advice, it is, remember that the newcomer is the most important person. It is so scary coming into Oxford House, so welcome them with open arms, show them around, and try to make it as easy as possible to get acclimated to their new family. Get involved in Oxford House. Everyone has something to offer. Even if you think you don't, YOU DO! We all possess different qualities and we all bring something to the table that is special and unique. Love each other. Although we may not always agree, remember that we are all suffering from a disease, but we are all here for the same reason - to stay clean and sober, and from my own personal experience, that requires a lot of Love. Remember, a family that plays together stays together. Try to have an event, outside of business meetings, at least once a month or every other month. I believe that recovery should be fun. When we get together it builds unity. But it also extends our family and the network of support we need to stay sober. Living in, and working for Oxford House has allowed me to create a support system from one side of the United States to the other, which is quite amazing to me.

I am really going to miss everyone a lot. I love all of you guys so much. Thank You for everything you all have done to make Oxford House better for the next person coming in. I will see you in September at the World Convention!!!

—Lori Holtzclaw



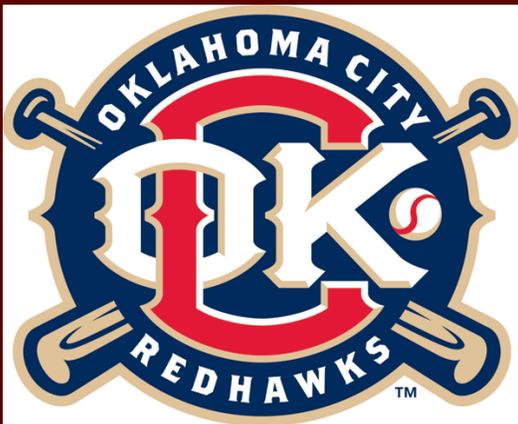
STAFF CHANGES

As Oxford House moves forward, we say goodbye to two outreach reps.

Lori Holtzclaw moved to Oklahoma from Louisiana nearly two years ago to become the Outreach for the Northeast region of Oklahoma. When she first arrived she faced many struggles and challenges. She took many challenges head-on and worked her way through them. Lori has since grown into a exemplary example of what an Outreach should be. Lori is a big part of why Tulsa is enjoying a time of unity and growth. On March 1, she will be moving back to Louisiana to accept an offer from OHI to be an outreach in her home state. We will miss her greatly, but should be excited for her that she is able to take this opportunity to do what she loves in her home state.

Angela Rogers has been working for OHI as a part-time outreach since last April. She has put in full-time work for part-time pay during this time and even spent several months before her first paycheck doing outreach work. On March 1, Angela will transition from Outreach to Alumni as the grant money that paid for her travel and expenses will expire. I know Angela will continue to stay involved and assist houses and chapters but because of the costs it will be on a limited role.

Tulsa will be left in good hands as we add a new member to the Outreach staff. Laura Johnson will officially start on February 15th. Oxford Houses of Oklahoma is blessed to have someone with Laura's passion and experience step up to dedicate her service to continuing the journey down the path to successful recovery the Oxford House way.



Take me out to the ballgame...

Oklahoma City will host the 14th Annual Oxford House World Convention. It will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown OKC where we will also utilize the Cox Convention Center for general sessions and breakout workshops. The dates have been set for September 13 –16.

As a state, we are charged with organizing and funding the off-site Friday Night event and the Hospitality Suite at the hotel. The Planning Committee has been meeting every month to discuss the funding and organizing of these events. Two months ago the committee voted unanimously to have the Friday Night Reception & Awards Ceremony at the OKC Bricktown Ballpark, home of the Oklahoma City Redhawks baseball team. The ballpark is conveniently located just four blocks from the hotel and sits in the heart of the Bricktown district of OKC.

Houses and Chapters have stepped up to donate monthly to the World Convention and we thank all who have and continue to contribute. However, these donations will not be enough to cover the costs. We must also organize fundraisers and seek donations to meet our financial obligations.



One of the benefits of using the ballpark for our event is that we can sell tickets to games to compensate the rental and food costs. We will be hosting two fundraiser events during the baseball season.

On Saturday, May 12, 2012 we will host our first baseball game fundraiser. Tickets to that game will be \$15 and will include group seating near third base, a free baseball cap and a free program. \$10 dollars of the proceeds goes toward our rental costs and the additional \$5 goes to our fundraising account to send residents to the convention. Our second event will be on July 3, 2012 and will include the annual 4th of July fireworks show after the game. Flyers for these events have been emailed to every house. Help us sell tickets!

OTHER FUNDRAISER EVENTS

Spring Golf Tournament

We are in the beginning stages of planning a golf tournament in the OKC metro area to raise money for the World Convention. We will need volunteers to help plan, organize and facilitate such a large project.

Residents and alumni from Wichita, Kansas have several years of experience in hosting a golf tournament and will be working very closely with us by sharing their experience, strength, and hope. Stay tuned to more announcements.

Blue & Gold Sausage

We will be ordering Blue & Gold Sausage to sell as a fundraiser starting this month. We will need residents and houses to help solicit family and friends to order meat. The more meat we sell the more

Oxford House T-Shirts

The State Association will be ordering t-shirts very soon. The very popular Harley-Davidson style shirts will be going on sale in all areas of Oklahoma. Prices and styles will be announced soon.

We Need Your Help

How to get involved in fundraising for the World Convention

The first thing we ask of houses is to donate \$30 per month to World Convention by making checks out to "Oxford House Oklahoma" and bring them to the Chapter Meetings. The easiest way to afford this added house expense is to raise individual weekly expenses by \$1. By doing this, an eight-person house can bring in an additional \$32 per month.

Attend the Chapter and HSC meetings to find out information on upcoming fundraisers and events. Join the Convention Planning Committee and jump in the middle of service work. Joy and happiness is found in the journey of service.



Coffee Pot News



Reentry efforts continue to grow in Oklahoma. We are working hard to obtain resources, such as move-in money, job referrals, education opportunities, and temporary social assistance, for citizens returning to society from incarceration.

Please remain open-minded with all applicants and their situation. Allow applicants to interview on the phone and be ever mindful of your own interview and mindset the day you moved into the house.

It's that time again

Download the form for spring cleaning on the state website

As spring quickly approaches, it is time to do an inventory of the quality of the house. Here are some questions you should be discussing in your house meeting:

- How does your yard look?
- How does your carpet look?
- How much junk is in your garage?
- Do all your beds have frames?
- Does any furniture need replaced?
- Is the inside of your refrigerators clean and void of expired food products?
- Is your office area organized and tidy?
- How do your officer notebooks look? Do you have enough blank forms?



"You're fired, Jack. The lab results just came back, and you tested positive for Coke."

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PO Box 31503
Edmond, OK 73003

405.519.1910 ph
877.805.3063 fax

www.oxfordhouseok.org