# Oxford House Profile Series 2016



Governor John Bel Edwards, on April 9, 2016, with Lori Holtzclaw, OHI Louisiana State Coordinator, at the Baton Rouge Marriott where he attended the Louisiana/Mississippi Regional Oxford House Convention.

# Oxford Houses in Louisiana

and

# The People Who Live in Them

This report is an evaluation of the network of Oxford Houses in the State of Louisiana – the state sponsored program that has enabled more than 5,000 recovering individuals to help themselves stay clean and sober without relapse. Oxford House, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit umbrella organization dedicated to helping recovering individuals achieve comfortable, long-term sobriety without relapse.

© July 29 2016

# About Oxford House, Inc.

Oxford House, Inc. is the Delaware nonprofit, 501(c)(3) corporation that serves as the umbrella organization of the worldwide network of more than 2,000 individual Oxford Houses. Its central office is at 1010 Wayne Avenue, Suite 300, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. The Louisiana network of Oxford Houses currently has 105 houses with 775 beds.

Oxford House<sup>M</sup> is a concept and system of operations based on the experience of recovering alcoholics and drug addicts who learned that behavior change is essential to recovery from alcoholism and drug addiction. They also learned that Oxford House provided the living environment that could help them become comfortable enough with abstinent behavior to stay clean and sober without relapse.

The Oxford House Manual<sup>©</sup> is the basic blueprint that provides the organization and structure that permit groups of recovering individuals to successfully live together in a supportive environment. All Oxford Houses are rented ordinary single-family houses in good neighborhoods. There are Oxford Houses for men and Oxford Houses for women but there are no coed houses. The average number of residents per house nationally is about eight with a range per house of six to sixteen. The average number of residents per Oxford House in Louisiana is 7.4.

Oxford House works because it: (1) has no time limit for how long a resident can live in an Oxford House, (2) follows a democratic system of operation, (3) utilizes self-support to pay all the household expenses, and (4) adheres to the absolute requirement that any resident who returns to using alcohol or drugs must be immediately expelled. Oxford House provides the missing elements needed by most alcoholics and drug addicts to develop behavior to assure total abstinence. It provides the time, peer support and structured living environment necessary for long-term behavior change to take hold.

Individuals living in an Oxford House learn or relearn values, responsible behavior and, slowly but surely, develop long-term behavior to assure comfortable sobriety – forever. Some individuals live in Oxford Houses a few months, others for many years. By using participatory democracy and self-support, alcoholics, drug addicts and those with co-occurring mental illness develop long-term recovery.

After 41 years of steady growth and successful recovery outcomes, Oxford House<sup>m</sup> is the most cost-effective way to assure long-term recovery from alcoholism, drug addiction and co-occurring mental illness. The network of 105 Oxford Houses in Louisiana confirms its effectiveness and this evaluation should motivate everyone to establish more Oxford Houses in the state.

Oxford House is listed as a best practice on the National Registry of Evidence-based Practices and Procedures. [NREPP].

Silver Spring, Maryland July 25, 2016

## **Board Members**

Jerry Conlon, Chairman Former Executive CNW Railway Park Ridge, IL 60068

William C. Paley\* *William C. Paley Foundation* Washington, DC 20036

Admiral Paul Mulloy *Retired United States Navy* Falmouth, MA 02540

Judy O'Hara, Esq. Attorney District of Columbia Washington, DC 20036

Col. Kenneth Hoffman, M.D. *Retired US Army* Rockville, MD 20850

J. Paul Molloy\* Chief Executive Officer Oxford House, Inc. Silver Spring, MD 20910

James McClain\* Retired United States Postal Service Temple Hills, MD 20748

Thomas O'Hara Former Executive Prudential Securities McLean VA 22102

Janice E. Jordan Retired, Commonwealth of Virginia BHDS Glen Allen, VA 23060

Robert L. DuPont, M.D. President Institute for Behavior and Health, Inc. Rockville, MD 20852

Illyana Whiteley\* World Council Chairperson Tacoma, WA 98444

\* Alumni or Resident

# 2016 Oxford House Profile Louisiana Oxford House Spring Survey Results

	the survey co	mpleted one.		
Total Number of Oxford Houses:	105	Total Number of Recovery Beds	775	
Number of Women's Houses:	38	Number of Female Residents:	273	
Number of Men's Houses:	68	Number of Male Residents:	502	
Equal Expense Per Person Per Week [Range \$80 to \$150]	\$110	Rent Per Group Per Month [average]: [range \$750-\$3200)	\$1,550	
Average Age:	36.7 Yrs.	Current length of sobriety	11.9 mos	
Percent Military Veterans	9%	Average Years of Education	12.0 years	
Residents Working 3/3/2016 <sup>1</sup>	87.3%	Average Monthly Earnings:	\$1,868	
Percent Addicted To Both Alcohol & Drugs:	36%	Percent Addicted Only to Alcohol:	64%	
Race –		Marital Status –		
White	89.6%	Never Married	53.2%	
Black	7.1%	Separated	9.1% 31.9%	
Latino	2.1%	Divorced		
Pacific Islander	0.2%	Married Widowed	5.6% 1.5%	
Prior Homelessness:	60.8%	Average Time Homeless:	7 Mos	
Prior Jail:	90.2%	Average Jail Time:	16 Mos	
Average AA or NA Meetings Attended Per Week:	4.3 Times	Median Jail Time	4 Mos	
Percent Going To weekly Counseling in addition to AA or NA:	25.6%	Residents Expelled Because of Relapse:	18%	
Average Length of Stay In An Oxford House:	11 Months	Average Number of Applicants For Each Vacant Bed:	4.(	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Surveys were competed from February 1, 2016 through the end of March. The March 3, 2016 date is more or less the mid-point but does not reflect an actual count on that particular day.

## An Effective Partnership Louisiana and Oxford House<sup>™</sup>

In the spring of 1998, the late Alton E. "Jake" Hadley, MSW, then Assistant Secretary, Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals contacted Oxford House, Inc. [OHI] about developing Oxford Houses in the state as part of a continuum of halfway house support. Specifically, Jake's hope was to double the state's halfway house capacity by shortening the duration of stay at the traditional halfway houses from six months to three months by establishing enough Oxford Houses to permit recovering individuals to move from a halfway house into an Oxford House. During the next year, Jake became ill but Michael Duffy who took over operation of the state agency fulfilled his hope. By the end of 2005, there were 40 Oxford Houses in Louisiana and the Louisiana halfway house network had reduced the average stay from six months to 87 days - a little better than Jake's original goal.<sup>2</sup>



Oxford House - Acadiana 104 Parduton Street Lafayette, LA 70503 8 Men • Established April 1, 2001

Today, there are 105 Oxford Houses in the state and, in many ways, the self-run, selfsupported statewide network of recovery homes has replaced the network of the institutionally run halfway houses of an earlier era. The contract between Oxford House, Inc. – the nonprofit, national development and maintenance organization for all Oxford Houses – is currently \$179,000 a year. That works out to a taxpayer cost of about \$231 a year per recovery bed. Moreover, the program itself produces long-term recovery without relapse – a goal seldom reached in 'normal' treatment of addiction.



Oxford House - Uptown 2837 Napoleon Ave New Orleans, LA 70115-6915 10 Men • Established July 1, 2004

There are three weaknesses in the development work of Oxford Houses in Louisiana: [1] unlike many other states, Louisiana does not have a start-up loan program under 42 USC 300x-25 the recovery home provision of the 1988 Anti-Drug Abuse Act, as amended; [2] Blacks and other minorities seem to be underserved by the program, and [3] additional outreach workers are needed to accelerate and strengthen the development of a statewide network of Oxford Houses that better balances the supply of beds with the demand for beds. All three of these deficiencies can be easily fixed and will be discussed in the conclusion of this evaluation. In spite of the three deficiencies, the recovering men and women in Oxford Houses have done a remarkable job in creating a strong network of 105 Oxford Houses in the state.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See the 2005/2014 Evaluation of Louisiana Oxford Houses for a detailed discussion of the development of the first 40 Oxford Houses in the state at Oxford House website: www.oxfordhouse.org under "Publications/Evaluations."

Each Oxford House is a rented, ordinary single-family home because Oxford House, Inc. [OHI] - the umbrella organization - does not own property or accumulate wealth and because nice rental housing is available in good neighborhoods almost everywhere in the state and throughout the country. OHI has been able to help groups of recovering individuals rent good houses in good neighborhoods because the 1988 Amendments to the Federal Fair Housing Act prohibited discrimination against "handicap" individuals. The US Supreme Court in City of Edmonds, WA vs. Oxford House, Inc. et. al, 514 U.S. 725 (1995) found that individuals in recovery from alcoholism and drug addiction were within the meaning of "handicap" under the law and therefore localities had to make a reasonable accommodation in zoning laws to avoid discrimination claims under the FHA. For the most part, that definitive decision served as a deterrent to traditional NIMBY [not-in-my-back-yard] cases against locating Oxford Houses in neighborhoods restricted to families. However, some cities and towns continue to attempt to restrict where groups of recovering individuals can rent a suitable house to establish an Oxford Recovery Home.



Oxford House - Drusilla 12142 Gebhart Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70816 8 W/C • Established November 3, 2010

On November 3, 2010, eight women established Oxford House – Drusilla, an Oxford House for women with children, at 12141 Gebhart Drive in Baton Rouge after receiving a charter from OHI to do so. On February 2, 2011 the City of Baton Rouge notified the landlord that the property was in violation of the UDC because more than two unrelated persons lived there. On February 4, 2011, counsel for OHI responded asking for a reasonable accommodation under the federal Fair Housing Act and asking the city to treat the house as if it were a single family because the residents of the House are the "functional equivalent" of a family and waive the two-person rule as it applies to the house. Thereafter followed a number of refusals by the city to change its position; the citing of a second house in the city and litigation lasting more than two years until the Federal District Court on March 19, 2013 granted OHI a summary judgment on the key question of accommodation.<sup>3</sup>

Litigation by local government should not thwart efforts by the state to alleviate the cost, hardship and harm that arise from alcoholism, drug addiction and co-occurring mental illness. The positive long-term recovery that results from having a large group of self-run, selfsupported Oxford Houses will produce an informed public that encourages local accommodation in the development and maintenance of a strong network of effective recovery homes.

In fact, the 105 Oxford Houses now in Louisiana are producing remarkable results. During 2015, more than 3,900 individuals lived in the state's network of Oxford Houses. While 716 individuals were expelled because of relapse, 3,266 individuals did not relapse. About a quarter of that number were living in a Louisiana Oxford House at the end of the year and nearly three-quarters had returned clean and sober to living in the community at large.

There are two reasons to believe that almost all of those who moved out clean and sober stayed that way: [1] individual success stories and [2]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> While that decision settled the matter about the location of the two houses in litigation and by extension the other 25 Oxford Houses in Baton Rouge even in May 2014 the city had not settled on the matter of attorney fees and court costs. It eventually did settle but now a matter of possible litigation involves the question of whether the state fire Marshall shall treat Oxford Houses the same as he treats ordinary families. OHI and local counsel are working toward a resolution of differences.

the long-term DePaul University studies paid for by NIAAA and NIDA. The statistics and demographic data about the individuals who live in the Louisiana Network of Oxford Houses provide good information but we should not forget that every person in Oxford House is a person for whom Oxford House living has made a big difference.

#### Source of Oxford House Residents

The data tell a lot about the make-up or profile of the residents of Oxford House. Twenty-six years have passed since Jake Hadley contacted Oxford House, Inc. about helping to develop Oxford Houses in Louisiana. Over that time counselors, judges, parole officers and folks in the recovery community have learned that even "hopeless" cases could become comfortable enough in sobriety to avoid relapse by living in an Oxford House. Today, most residents in Louisiana Oxford Houses were encouraged to apply because of contact with professionals or individuals they met in 12-Step programs. They also come to houses because while in formal treatment someone representing Oxford House made a presentation about the benefits of living in an Oxford House. Table 1 is a representative sample of where Louisiana Oxford House residents went through treatment immediately before moving into an Oxford House.

Of course, many did not come directly from inpatient treatment. The survey results show that over 20% came directly from being homeless on the streets. This compares to the 60.8% of residents who had experienced homelessness [averaging 6 months in duration] at some period during their addiction. Another 16.3% came directly from jail, a mental hospital or a halfway house. Few would doubt that, but for Oxford House, these individuals would have returned to marginal existence that likely would have led to relapse. By getting into an Oxford House, the odds against relapse were greatly increased. Table 1 identifies the formal treatment facility Louisiana Oxford House residents had attended just prior to acceptance in an Oxford House.

#### Table 1

	4.0
Acadiana Recovery Center	18
Alliance Detox	10
ARRNO	8
Baton Rouge Behavioral	3
Bethel	2
Brentwood	4
Bridge House	29
Briscoe	4
CADA	27
CARP	12
Camp Recovery	1
Cenikor	9
Clair House	1
CORE	1
Crossroads	1
Drug Court	1
Edgefield	7
FTC	2
Fairview	11
Family House	3
Fountainbleau	14
Frances House	1
Gateway	5
Grace House	21
Harbor House	2
Hope Center	10
Lafayette	2
Lazarus Project	1
Le Memorial	1
New Day	2
New Beginnings	2
Oaks	1
Odyssey House	11
O'Brien House	5
Outreach Center	2
Palmetto Addiction	3
Pathways	21
Phase II	3
Physicians Behavioral	3
Pine Grove	2
Pines	3
Prison/Jail	4
Progressive	4
	4 5
Promise Hospital	
Rays of Sunshine Rayville Recovery	1
Kayville Kecovery	30

<sup>[</sup>Table continues next column]

<sup>[</sup>Table Continuation from prior column]

Red River	21
Responsibility House	4
Riven Oaks	4
Salvation Army	4
St. Christopher	2
St. Gabriel	1
Serenity Center	11
Sheriffs Rehab	2
Tau	1
Teen Challenge	2
Townsend	6
Twelve Oaks	1
Vermillion	3
Victory	10
Washington Str Hope Ctr	3
Woodlake	22



Oxford House - Cole 3565 Cole Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70806 8 Men • Established October 1, 2009

Oxford Houses provide the continuum of care that is key to long-term recovery without relapse. In brief, all recovery from addiction or co-occurring mental illness requires behavior change. Behavior change takes time, peer support and a safe place to live while learning new clean and sober behavior. Unfortunately, everyone becomes comfortable with clean and sober behavior at a different pace. This means that an arbitrary length of time for providing peer support and a living environment conducive to becoming comfortable enough in recovery to avoid relapse seldom works. Because all Oxford Houses are rented, ordinary singlefamily houses, the supply of new houses for expanding to meet demand is available. However, living together in house is only part of the answer for individuals in recovery. The other part of the answer is that the living environment itself must be conducive to the behavior change. This is where the time-tested Oxford House system of disciplined, democratic procedures and practices is so important.

Over the last 41-years, Oxford Houses have followed the same system of democratic decision-making and shared financial support to make Oxford House living a best practice for assuring long-term recovery without relapse. [See Figure 1 on the next page for a diagram of how self-reliance works to motivate and instill recovery behavior.] Every individual in an Oxford House fits into a small, but effective, system of shared responsibility and decisionmaking.

The Oxford House Manual<sup>©</sup> prepared by the first members of an Oxford House<sup>™</sup> in 1975

continues to be the blueprint. Five individuals are elected to serve as house officers with a term limit of six months. The term

House Officers				
•	President			
•	Secretary			
•	Treasurer			
•	Comptroller			
•	Chore Coordinator			

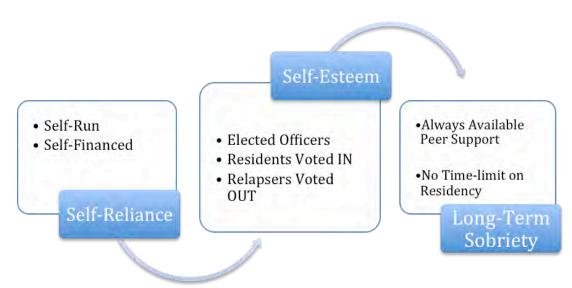
limit discourages bossism and gives everyone a chance to serve. Each officer has specific duties and the entire group of residents has a weekly house business meeting. The weekly meeting follows parliamentary procedures and a strict format. It also is the place house bills are paid, equal household expense shares are collected and new residents are voted in or residents who have relapse are voted out.

Each house follows a charter from OHI that requires the group to:

- 1. Be democratically self-run,
- 2. Be financially self-supporting, and
- 3. Expel any resident who relapses.

## Figure 1

# Oxford House<sup>TM</sup> Unique • Evidenced-based • Time-tested



#### FACTS ABOUT ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ADDICTION

- About 17 million Americans are primarily active alcoholics with another 8 million addicted to illicit drugs. (SAMHSA)
- 20.3 million persons aged 18 or older needed treatment for an illicit drug or alcohol abuse problem in 2013 (8.5 percent of persons aged 18 or older). (SAMHSA)
- Of these, only 1.25 million 6.2 percent of those who needed treatment – received it.
- Government reports show that alcohol and drug abuse is responsible for the admission of almost 1.5 million people to emergency rooms nationwide and drug addiction results in nearly half a trillion dollars' economic loss annually or \$1,426 per American.
- For those receiving treatment, 60% had been in prior treatment an average of more than three times. [TEDS]

Oxford Houses Provide a Low-Cost, Highly Effective Method of Reducing Recidivism

#### **The Process of Recovery**

Not everyone who drinks alcohol becomes an alcoholic. Not everyone who uses mood-altering drugs becomes a drug addict. But some do. Society has struggled with effective ways to help those who become addicted to change behavior because their addiction can cause harm to them, their families and society at large. There is no magic wand but there is a process that works.

- Intervention
- Detoxification [Ending physical dependence]
- Treatment [Motivation and education]
- Long-term Behavior Change [Supportive Living Environment]

The weak link in the process is society's failure to support living environments that foster long-term behavior change. Most individuals relapse after the first three steps of the process – intervention, detoxification and treatment. Significant evidence suggests that Oxford Houses provide the time, peer support and structured democratic processes to make recovery without relapse the norm – not the exception.

The evidence shows that the concept and standardized system of operation used by Oxford Houses for 41 years works for alcoholics, drug addicts and those with co-occurring mental illness.

#### **Resident Profile**

The resident profile in the Louisiana Oxford Houses is similar to the national resident profile. The average age is 36.7 years [range 17-72; median 34]. The average age nationally is about the same – 36.8 and, when the Louisiana Oxford House residents were surveyed in 2005, the average age was 34.7 years. In the 2014 Louisiana Profile the average age was 44.2 years. The in 2016 average age among Louisiana OH residents has become lower because many new Oxford Houses have been added and have attracted younger residents.

The Louisiana Houses themselves have financed the start-up loans for new houses. All other states developing networks of Oxford Houses have a state funded revolving start-up loan fund. The lack of one in Louisiana tends to limit the rate of expansion because the residents of existing houses must raise the funds themselves. Perhaps the next contract between OHI and the state can remedy this problem. OHI administers a number of such funds.

The relapse rate in Louisiana – as elsewhere in the network of Oxford Houses – tends to be highest during the first three months of residency. About 18% of the Louisiana Oxford House residents will be asked to leave because of relapse and almost all of those will relapse within the first month or two of residency. Staying clean and sober is habit forming and those who stay that way during the first three months are likely to be clean and sober at the end of a year or later.

#### Education

The average years of educational attainment in the current survey is 12.6 years – slightly higher than the national average of 12.2 years but less than the 14 years in the 2014 Louisiana survey or the 12.9 years in the 2005 Louisiana survey. The range of educational attainment continues to be 4 years to 21 years.

The one thing about alcoholism, drug addiction and co-occurring mental illness is that they are egalitarian diseases and tend to cut across society irrespective of education, class or income. In some states OHI is working with the state agencies to better serve college students and to better reach high school drop outs. This may be an area the agency and OHI should explore for the next contract. Location of new Oxford Houses can influence residency and often provide safe, sober housing for those in college or vocational training schools.

#### Race

The U. S. Census shows that about 32% of Louisiana's population is Black or African American alone and 63% is White alone. Residents in a statewide network of Oxford Houses generally reflect the racial breakdown reported by the U.S. Census. The following Table shows the racial breakdown among the Louisiana Oxford House residents participating in the survey in 2004, 2014 and 2016.

Table 2 2004 OH 2014 OH 2016 OH Race **US** Census LA Survey Survey Survey LA LA LA White 63.7% 76.7% 88.5% 91.1% Black 32.4% 16.7% 9.5% 6.8% Other 3.9% 4.3% 2.0% 2.1%

As compared to the racial composition of the state reported by the 2010 Census, 2016 would seem less representative than 2004 - 6.8% Black compared to 16.7%. Neither year reflected the actual racial composition within the state.

The number of Black residents in Louisiana houses in 2016 is greater than the number was in 2004 because there are nearly twice as many Oxford Houses. More significantly, Blacks and Whites live in individual Oxford Houses having racial diversity. However, OHI should reach out to a greater number of Blacks in recovery so that the racial diversity within the Oxford Houses in Louisiana reflects the racial diversity of the overall population. To achieve that goal additional outreach workers are needed.

The 2012 TEDS data shows that as far as primary treatment is concerned the percentage of Blacks and Whites more closely reflects the overall population diversity: 65.8% Whites and 32.0% Black. OHI believes that recruitment of more Blacks for Oxford Houses will enable the development of a racial profile within the network of Louisiana Oxford Houses that more closely reflects the overall racial diversity within the state.

#### Marital Status

The marital status of Louisiana Oxford House residents is about the same as for residents throughout the nation and the same as it was in the 2004 study of Louisiana residents. While not statistically significant, the "never married" was 57% in 2014, and 53.2% in 2016 compared to 44% in 2004.

Table 3				
Marital Status	National	LA 2004	LA 2014	LA 2016
Never Married	44%	44%	57%	53.2%
Divorced	33%	31%	30%	31.9%
Separated	18%	10%	06%	9.1%
Married	05%	11%	04%	5.6%
Widow[er]	<1%	04%	02%	1.2%

Early addiction seems to contribute to the "never married" category but no detailed longitudinal studies are available to support that conclusion. Likewise, while common sense suggests addiction contributed to the "separated" and "divorced" category there is an absence of scientific documentation. Most 'story telling' by residents and alumni, however, suggest that addiction causes breakups of marriage or living together relationships.

# Prior Marginal Living

The living situation of residents prior to moving into an Oxford House is one measure of the importance of Oxford House living. If the prior living situation had been a bleak or marginal existence, it would most likely result in a quick return to addiction. Of course, even if the prior living situation had been stable on its face – for example, living in an owned home – there is no guarantee of its availability following primary treatment nor is there any assurance that it would be supportive of recovery. Nevertheless it is useful to consider prior living situation in evaluating the importance of Oxford House.

Nearly 50% percent of the Louisiana Oxford House residents had the following living situations prior to detoxification or primary treatment before moving into an Oxford House – homelessness, jail, halfway house, mental hospital or rented room. Going back to any of those living situations following short term sobriety would seem to add to the risk of relapse. Table 4 shows the prior living situation of Louisiana Oxford House residents.

Table 4

Prior Living Situation	Number	Percentage
Homeless	86	21.8%
Jail	40	10.2%
Halfway House	30	07.6%
Mental Hospital	2	00.5%
Rented Room	27	6.9%
Rented Apartment	70	17.8%
Rented House	90	22.8%
Owned House	49	12.4%

Few would doubt that going back to "homelessness" would be unsupportive of becoming comfortable enough in sobriety to avoid relapse. As a matter of fact, a good case could be made that being homeless would produce the opposite result – use of alcohol and other drugs in order to alleviate the discomfort of being homeless. The sample size for this particular question [441] represents about 66% of the 664 individuals actually living in all of the Louisiana Oxford House during the months of February and March 2016.

That number would be a little too small to draw meaningful conclusions except for the fact that [1] it is consistent with larger surveys taken in other states and those taken between 2004 and 2014 among Louisiana Oxford House residents and [2] among the specific houses surveyed where more than 80% of the residents answered the questionnaire.

# Criminal Background of Residents

Most residents in Oxford House nationally and in Louisiana have been arrested, convicted and have served jail time. The duration of jail time ranges from a day or two to many years. What does not vary is the fact that alcoholism, drug addiction or co-occurring mental illness probably contributed to the crime leading to arrest, conviction and jail time.

The Louisiana Oxford House survey shows that 90.2% of the residents have served jail or prison time. This compares to 76% prior incarceration of Oxford House residents nationally. The average length of time incarcerated for Louisiana Oxford House residents is 16 months versus 11 months for formerly incarcerated residents nationally but the median is just 4 months. The range of incarceration is from one day to ten years with Louisiana residents falling more to toward short term incarceration that the national sample.

Cycling in and out of jail or prison is the norm for alcoholics and drug addicts who have been incarcerated. The only way to break the cycle is the achievement of sobriety comfortable enough to avoid relapse because relapse really does invite behavior that leads to criminal behavior. Most had been arrest 4 or more times with a direct connection to alcohol misuse or illicit drug use. Drug court clients numbered 27 [[6.5%]. Only 22 [5.3%] of 411 were on parole or probation at the time of the survey. No one living in a Louisiana Oxford House was arrested during 2015 or 2016.

Living in an Oxford House would appear to be a good place for ex-offenders in recovery to stay clean and sober and out of trouble. In some states OHI is hired to provide an outreach worker to spend full-time reaching out to assist prisoners in recovery to re-enter society.

## Prior Relapse Pattern – Present Behavior

Oxford House prides itself on promoting "recovery without relapse." Unfortunately, for too many, the belief that alcoholism and drug addiction are chronic diseases in which relapse is part of the disease tends to invite relapse. For the Oxford House resident, relapse means expulsion by a vote of his or her peers. Experience has shown that this zero tolerance policy has a deterrent effect on relapse. It has also shown that sobriety without relapse is habitforming. Almost all relapse-caused expulsions from Louisiana Oxford House occur during the first three months of residence. Almost none occur after two years of sobriety.

Staying clean and sober is a new experience for the typical Oxford House resident. Survey results show that residents had made an average of 5.8 sobriety tries before moving into an Oxford House including an average 4.7 times through residential treatment. Obviously a number of factors contribute to the newfound sobriety without relapse. The most significant factor is the uniform democratic system of operation followed by each house. The inmates do "run the asylum" and in doing so each member of the house accepts responsibility for discrete jobs n the house. This produces an individual sense of satisfaction associated with staying clean and sober.

In 2004 under a NIDA grant, John Majer, Ph.D., then at DePaul University, studied Oxford House residents compared to 12-step members having similar backgrounds. His article Optimism, Abstinence Self-Efficacy, and Self-Mastery, A Comparative Analysis of Cognitive Resources in the March 2004 [V. 11, No. 1] issue of *Assessment* found that living in an Oxford House make positive self-efficacy and mastery of sobriety happen much faster than by only formal treatment and attendance at AA/NA meetings. The article is downloadable from the website: <u>www.oxfordhouse.org</u> under "Publications/Evaluations/DePaul." The survey shows that residents attend a lot of AA/NA meetings – an average of 4.6 each week. This compares with an average of only 2 meetings per week for the typical AA member. Clearly the living environment of an Oxford House seems to encourage socialization through frequent attendance at 12-Step meetings.

Another indicia of seriousness in approach to long-term recovery is the percentage of residents who attend a weekly counseling session in addition to AA/NA meeting attendance. In Louisiana, 25.6% of the residents attend weekly counseling. This compares to 45% nationally.

## Satisfaction of Residents

Several of the questions on the survey are designed to measure the satisfaction of Oxford House residents.



Oxford House - Haven 4301 Spurgeon Drive Monroe, LA 71203-4523 6 Women • Established October 1, 2012

When asked for a self-assessment of the importance of Oxford House living for their personal recovery, Louisiana residents responded positively. 88.5% responded "very important," the strongest possible endorsement. Less than 1% found Oxford House living "not really important" in terms of their own recovery and less than 10% chose "somewhat" [3%] or "moderately" [6.3%].

In a related quality assessment question respondents were asked if they would recommend Oxford House living to a friend. All but three persons [98.4%] said they would recommend Oxford House living. The others were uncertain, but each had lived in an Oxford House for less than 10 days.

# Self-Reported Health

The residents in the Louisiana network of Oxford Houses thought of themselves as pretty healthy. When asked to evaluate their personal health, 96.4% reported either "very good" [38%] or "pretty good" [58%]. Only 1 person [< 1%] classified his health as "quite poor."

## Conclusion

Jake Hadley would have been very proud of the growth and strength of the Louisiana Network of Oxford Houses. He also would be urging more growth and continued good performance.

The expanded growth in the number of Oxford Houses in the state depends in large part upon continued support by the state to fund Oxford House outreach workers. Development would also be enhanced with a one-time grant of \$100,000 to permit OHI to establish a start-up revolving loan fund for expansion. The status quo requires chapters and the state association to save start-up money, which slows the pace of expansion.

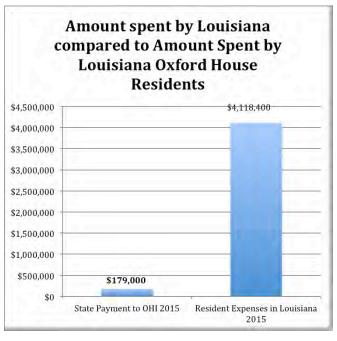
Since 2012, the Louisiana chapters [local groups of Oxford Houses] have loaned 55 new groups of recovering individuals \$220,000 [55 houses @ \$4,000 each] to get started. This is an expense usually underwritten by the state agency. For example, Washington State provided OHI with \$100,000 to establish such a loan fund in 1990. That original Washington State \$100,000 revolving loan fund has turned over more than ten times funding the start-up of more than 300 Oxford Houses between 1990 and 2016 – 265 of these houses still exist and have 2,211 beds. OHI has managed the Washington State revolving loan fund since its beginning in 1990. Individual houses receiving \$4,000 start-up loan pay them back into the revolving loan fund at the rate of \$170 a month. Originally each house that received a start-up loan was provided a coupon book to help them remember to make monthly payments. Today, houses are able to use electronic transfer of funds from their house checking account, which assures 100% payback. Louisiana would be well served to establish such a fund to be administered by OHI.

The residents in Louisiana Oxford Houses pay an equal share of household expenses that averages \$110 a week [range \$95-\$155]. In 2015, that amounted to \$4,118,400 primarily going to landlords and utilities. [See graph in Figure 2 at the right] If the state were housing these individuals in jail or prison or a traditional staffed halfway house, the residents would probably pay nothing and the state cost would be from 20,000 - 30,000 for each individual. Only the Oxford House program results in such an economic benefit for the state. Nationally, in 2015, OHI operated on a total budget of about \$6 million while residents in the houses paid landlords, utilities and other household expenses of over \$191 million -about \$15 for every \$1 spent by OHI.

Of course, the primary benefit is to the residents who are given a realistic opportunity to develop long-term recovery strong enough to avoid relapse. They have shown their gratitude by funding new houses starting in Louisiana even though they know that other states provide that sort of support.

The picture on the cover of this report was taken following a chance encounter. In early April the Oxford House residents in Louisiana and some from Mississippi held a joint state convention at the Marriott Hotel in Baton Rouge. On April 9<sup>th</sup> the newly elected Louisiana Governor was visiting the hotel and asked what group was meeting in the Ballroom. He was told about Oxford House and invited to stop in and speak. He did and became acquainted with the Oxford House program in Louisiana in a first-hand, first-class way. On September 29 – October 2 residents of Oxford Houses across the country will be gathering at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas, Texas for a World Convention. More than 1,000 Oxford House residents and alumni will gather for three days to learn more about the diseases of alcoholism, drug addiction and co-occurring mental illness. National experts and Oxford House leaders will conduct more than 25 breakout panels for residents and alumni to share expertise and experiences. Register for the Dallas Convention at www.oxfordhouse.org

#### Figure 2



Finally, additional funding would permit OHI to devote another outreach worker to the state to better meet the needs in the African-American community. OHI needs to train some Louisiana African-American Oxford House residents to become outreach workers to help reach the many Louisiana African Americans striving to gain long-term recovery from alcoholism, drug addiction and co-occurring mental illness.

A great start has been made in Louisiana but OHI and the state have miles to go. A list of current Oxford Houses in Louisiana follows.

# **Oxford Houses of Louisiana Directory**

#### **Oxford House - Red River**

1605 Magnolia Drive Alexandria, LA 71301 318-321-1497 6 / M *Oxford House since Jun '03* 

Oxford House - Belle 5303 Random Dr Alexandria, LA 71302-2738 318-528-8778 8 / W Oxford House since May '13

#### Oxford House - South Alexandria

3704 McCann Drive Alexandria, LA 71302-2531 318-528-8803 8 / M *Oxford House since Dec '13* 

#### **Oxford House - Santeria**

3421 Halsey Drive Alexandria, LA 71301 318-528-8849 7 / W *Oxford House since Jun '14* 

#### **Oxford House - Tanner**

1804 Magnolia Dr. Alexandria, LA 71301 318-229-9816 6 / M *Oxford House since Jan '15* 

#### **Oxford House - Bon Famille**

1910 White St. Alexandria, LA 71301 8 / M *Oxford House since Sep '15* 

#### Oxford House - Beni

4115 Earl Drive Alexandria, LA 71301 7 / M *Oxford House since May '16* 

#### **Oxford House - Essen**

1124 Sharp Road Baton Rouge, LA 70815-4747 225-928-5117 7 / M *Oxford House since Mar '04* 

#### Oxford House - St. Thomas

10926 Ellsworth Ave Baton Rouge, LA 70816-2135 225-636-5359 8 / M *Oxford House since Jun '04* 

#### **Oxford House - Coursey**

11801 Parkmount Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70816-4630 225-508-4974 7 / M *Oxford House since Jun '05* 

#### Oxford House - Baton Rouge 10911 Molly Lea Drive

Baton Rouge, LA 70815-5241 225-663-2783 7 / M *Oxford House since Jul '05* 

#### Oxford House - Old Hammond

973 Woodhaven Ave Baton Rouge, LA 70815 225-615-7116 6 / M *Oxford House since May '06* 

#### **Oxford House - Jones Creek**

5613 S. Allegheny Court Baton Rouge, LA 70817 225-753-4105 8 / W *Oxford House since Feb '07* 

#### Oxford House - Cole

3565 Cole Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70806-5702 225-361-0436 9 / M *Oxford House since Oct '09* 

#### Oxford House - Wenham 13215 Wenham Avenue Baton Rouge, LA 70815-6958 225-615-7069

9 / WC Oxford House since Jan '10

#### Oxford House - LaSalle

1203 Normandy Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70806-7640 225-361-0091 7 / W *Oxford House since Sep '10* 

#### Oxford House - Drusilla

12142 Gebhart Dr Baton Rouge, LA 70816-1017 225-218-6024 8 / WC *Oxford House since Nov '10* 

#### Oxford House - Village Creek

15281 Jones Creek Village Avenue Baton Rouge, LA 70817-1556 225-300-8675 9 / W *Oxford House since Dec '10* 

#### **Oxford House - Shawn**

1858 Shawn Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70806-8449 225-454-6680 7 / W *Oxford House since Mar '11* 

#### Oxford House - Erlanger

1924 Erlanger Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70816-8635 225-239-7781 7 / M *Oxford House since Jul '11* 

#### Oxford House - Dena Lynn

2807 Dena Lynn Ave Baton Rouge, LA 70816-2616 225-364-2962 7 / M *Oxford House since Dec '11* 

#### **Oxford House - Comal** 12024 Comal Ave Baton Rouge, LA 70816-8625 225-302-5786 7 / M *Oxford House since Feb '12*

#### Oxford House - Tams

11444 Robin Hood Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70815-6158 225-456-5279 6 / M *Oxford House since Aug '12* 

#### Oxford House - Mint House 10052 Mint Dr Baton Rouge, LA 70809-4629

Baton Rouge, LA 70809-4628 225-448-5788 7 / W Oxford House since Aug '12

# Oxford House - Broadmoor 9335 W Damuth Dr.

Baton Rouge, LA 70815-4325 225-456-0672 7 / M *Oxford House since Nov '13* 

#### **Oxford House - Neal**

9543 Greenbriar Dr. Baton Rouge, LA 70815 225-588-9090 6 / M *Oxford House since Jan '14* 

# Oxford House - Bon Temps

3023 Cedarcrest Ave Baton Rouge, LA 70816 225-636-5328 8 / M *Oxford House since Apr '14* 

#### Oxford House - Saint George

12322 Shireburk Ave Baton Rouge, LA 70810 225-372-2530 7 / M *Oxford House since Jun* '14

#### **Oxford House - Avalon II**

14626 Avalon Ave Baton Rouge, LA 70816 225-250-5779 8 / WC *Oxford House since Jul '14* 

#### **Oxford House - Bienvenue**

170 Steele Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70806 225-218-4123 6 / M *Oxford House since Nov '14* 

#### **Oxford House - LaRouge**

10623 Rhus Fringe Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70816 225-663-2221 6 / W *Oxford House since May '15* 

#### **Oxford House - Gretna**

3217 Mallard Lane Gretna, LA 70056-7796 504-304-0468 7 / M *Oxford House since Jul '04* 

#### **Oxford House - Tangi**

126 Florence Dr. Hammond, LA 70401 504-430-8554 7 / M *Oxford House since Apr '15* 

#### **Oxford House - Little Italy**

17034 E Little Italy Rd Hammond, LA 70403 985-956-7198 7 / W *Oxford House since Oct '15* 

#### **Oxford House - Kenner**

4157 Ole Miss Drive Kenner, LA 70065-1707 504-430-5124 7 / WC *Oxford House since Jan '03* 

#### **Oxford House - Acadiana**

104 Parduton St. Lafayette, LA 70503-2524 337-456-5398 8 / M *Oxford House since Apr '01* 

#### **Oxford House - Harrell**

1111 Dulles Dr Lafayette, LA 70506-3869 337-412-6932 7 / M *Oxford House since Jul '01* 

#### **Oxford House - Lafayette**

319 Karen Drive Lafayette, LA 70503-3923 337-706-7814 6 / W *Oxford House since Jun '01* 

#### Oxford House - Le Grand

102 S William Drive Lafayette, LA 70506-7342 337-704-2895 6 / M *Oxford House since Sep '01* 

#### Oxford House - Maplewood

116 Maplewood Street Lafayette, LA 70503-5121 337-456-6576 6 / W *Oxford House since Jul '01* 

#### **Oxford House - Dulles**

1105 Marie Antoinette Lafayette, LA 70506-3932 337-408-3128 6 / W *Oxford House since Jul '02* 

#### **Oxford House - Stockton**

102 Stockton Drive Lafayette, LA 70506-6850 337-524-1357 6 / M *Oxford House since Nov '08* 

#### **Oxford House - Boxwood**

208 Ashwood Dr. Lafayette, LA 70503-5104 337-889-5451 6 / WC *Oxford House since Jul '09* 

#### **Oxford House - Whittington**

170 Whittington Dr Lafayette, LA 70503-2742 337-456-3554 6 / M *Oxford House since Apr '12* 

#### **Oxford House - Pinhook**

116 Bayou Street Lafayette, LA 70503-2202 337-412-6914 7 / M *Oxford House since Jun '12* 

#### **Oxford House - Flannigan**

110 Shadycrest Ave Lafayette, LA 70501-7748 337-534-4204 8 / WC *Oxford House since Jan '13* 

#### Oxford House - Ragin Cajun

316 Harrell Dr. Lafayette, LA 70503 337-456-3205 6 / M *Oxford House since Apr '14* 

#### Oxford House - C'est Bon

104 Coulee Shore Dr Lafayette, LA 70503 337-704-2394 7 / W Oxford House since Jun '14

#### **Oxford House - Lions Den**

206 Alyene Drive Lafayette, LA 70506 337-534-8042 7 / M *Oxford House since Aug '14* 

#### Oxford House - Buveur De Lait

208 Eastland Drive Lafayette, LA 70503 225-229-3721 6 / M *Oxford House since Jan '15* 

#### **Oxford House - Southern Oak**

420 Broadmoor Blvd Lafayette, LA 70503 337-534-4343 8 / WC *Oxford House since Feb '15* 

#### **Oxford House - Atchafalaya**

417 Dover Dr Lafayette, LA 70503 337-412-6467 7 / M *Oxford House since Dec '15* 

#### Oxford House - Cayenne

205 Arnould Blvd Lafayette, LA 70506 337-704-2831 7 / WC *Oxford House since Mar '16* 

# Oxford House - Jambalaya

114 Whittington Dr. Lafayette, LA 70503 6 / M *Oxford House since Jun '16* 

#### **Oxford House - Imperial**

800 Cherryhill Street Lake Charles, LA 70607-4908 337-564-6729 6 / WC *Oxford House since Aug '09* 

#### **Oxford House - Prien Lake**

4000 Hodges Street Lake Charles, LA 70605-8961 337-419-1492 6 / M Oxford House since Oct '09

#### **Oxford House - Lafitte**

4119 Common St Lake Charles, LA 70607-4501 337-990-5318 7 / M *Oxford House since Jul '12* 

#### **Oxford House - West Hale**

236 W Hale St Lake Charles, LA 70601-8421 337-436-5444 7 / W *Oxford House since Oct '12* 

#### **Oxford House - Creole**

721 Iberville Street Lake Charles, LA 70607-5807 337-564-6424 7 / M *Oxford House since Dec '12* 

#### **Oxford House - Beaureve**

3711 Swanee St Lake Charles, LA 70607 337-429-5066 6 / W *Oxford House since Mar '13* 

#### **Oxford House - Fleur Di Lis**

1302 Arkansas St. Lake Charles, LA 70607 337-564-4977 7 / M *Oxford House since Jun '14* 

#### Oxford House - McNeese

809 Cherryhill Street Lake Charles, LA 70607 225-229-3721 6 / W *Oxford House since Dec '14* 

# Oxford House - Lake Charles 2

2025 20th St. Lake Charles, LA 70601 337-602-2524 7 / M *Oxford House since Feb '16* 

#### **Oxford House - Mandeville**

3030 Highway 59 Mandeville, LA 70471-1939 985-231-7488 7 / M *Oxford House since Feb '02* 

#### Oxford House - St. Tammany

141 Cindy Lou Place Mandeville, LA 70448-4602 985-778-0282 8 / M Oxford House since Feb '08

#### **Oxford House - Regalia**

2031 Destin St. Mandeville, LA 70448-3709 985-231-7187 7 / M *Oxford House since Apr '08* 

#### **Oxford House - Pontchartrain**

331 W. Beach Parkway Mandeville, LA 70448-4910 985-629-4224 8 / M *Oxford House since Feb '09* 

#### **Oxford House - Bye-Water**

226 Cindy Lou Street Mandeville, LA 70471 985-629-4310 7 / WC *Oxford House since Feb '09* 

#### **Oxford House - Convocation**

5137 Eighty Arpent Rd. Marrero, LA 70072 504-430-8554 6 / W *Oxford House since Feb '16* 

#### **Oxford House - Clearview**

1802 Clearview Parkway Metairie, LA 70001-2410 504-302-9331 9 / M *Oxford House since Sep '02* 

#### **Oxford House - Windsor**

4601 Windsor Metairie, LA 70001-2421 504-304-3490 9 / M *Oxford House since Dec '02* 

#### **Oxford House - Metairie**

4634 Park Dr South Metairie, LA 70001-3330 504-826-9158 9 / M *Oxford House since Dec '07* 

#### Oxford House - Fountainbleau

4628 Park Drive South Metairie, LA 70001-3330 504-941-7198 10 / M *Oxford House since May '09* 

#### **Oxford House - New Leaf**

1201 Green Street Metairie, LA 70001-3201 504-252-9105 8 / M *Oxford House since Sep '09* 

#### **Oxford House - Southshore**

2708 Lexington Drive Metairie, LA 70002-7025 504-218-8401 9 / M *Oxford House since Jun '10* 

#### **Oxford House - Soignet**

4820 Parker St Metairie, LA 70001-4463 504-302-2930 9 / M *Oxford House since Jun '13* 

#### **Oxford House - Lagniappe**

4408 Sturgis St. Metairie, LA 70001 504-304-7818 7 / W *Oxford House since May '15* 

#### **Oxford House - Forsythe**

1401 University Ave. Monroe, LA 71203-3548 318-855-3582 7 / M *Oxford House since Oct '03* 

#### **Oxford House - Waterfront**

1923 Filhiol Avenue Monroe, LA 71203-3411 318-537-9724 9 / M *Oxford House since Nov '08* 

Oxford House - Filhiol 2020 Filhiol Avenue Monroe, LA 71203-3414 318-855-8523 6 / M Oxford House since Jun '09

#### **Oxford House - Haven**

1205 University Ave Monroe, LA 71203-4523 318-605-2191 6 / WC *Oxford House since Oct '12* 

#### **Oxford House - Miro**

2060 Garrett Rd Monroe, LA 71202-4708 318-450-4441 6 / W *Oxford House since Sep '13* 

## Oxford House - Uptown

2837 Napoleon Ave New Orleans, LA 70115-6915 504-302-2597 9 / M *Oxford House since Jul '04* 

#### **Oxford House - Canal**

122 N. Jefferson Davis Pkwy New Orleans, LA 70119-5208 504-267-7630 9 / M *Oxford House since Apr '07* 

#### Oxford House - Crescent City

2828 Audubon St New Orleans, LA 70125-2602 504-301-1376 8 / M *Oxford House since Aug '07* 

#### **Oxford House - Vieux Carre**

1436 N. Villerie St New Orleans, LA 70116-1852 504-265-0781 11 / W *Oxford House since Aug '12* 

#### Oxford House - De La Majorite

2821 Banks St New Orleans, LA 70119-7307 504-309-1461 10 / W *Oxford House since Aug '13* 

#### **Oxford House - Palmer Park**

8316 Sycamore PI New Orleans, LA 70118 504-304-0060 9 / M *Oxford House since Sep '14* 

#### Oxford House - Mirabeau

1954 Mirabeau Ave New Orleans, LA 70122 504-267-5832 6 / WC *Oxford House since Dec '14* 

#### Oxford House - Gilbert II

371 Pennsylvania Ave Shreveport, LA 71105-2907 318-828-1705 7 / WC *Oxford House since May '00* 

#### **Oxford House - Ockley**

318 Ockley Shreveport, LA 71105-2943 318-848-7153 8 / M *Oxford House since Jul '00* 

#### **Oxford House - Southfield**

236 Southfield Road Shreveport, LA 71105-3609 318-865-9585 6 / M *Oxford House since Feb '00* 

#### **Oxford House - Roma**

421 Albert Street Shreveport, LA 71106 318-216-3472 6 / M *Oxford House since Apr '01* 

#### Oxford House - Bruce 2

4314 Akard Avenue Shreveport, LA 71105-3204 318-670-8375 8 / M *Oxford House since Jun '09* 

#### **Oxford House - Caddo**

379 Carrollton Ave Shreveport, LA 71105-3205 318-866-9997 6 / M *Oxford House since Mar '13* 

#### Oxford House - Protege

1015 College St Shreveport, LA 71104 318-848-7908 7 / M *Oxford House since Jun '13* 

#### **Oxford House - Journey 2**

350 Leo Ave Shreveport, LA 71105-2916 318-946-8200 8 / M *Oxford House since Sep '13* 

#### **Oxford House - Rhiannon**

129 Arthur Avenue Shreveport, LA 71105 318-861-0254 7 / WC *Oxford House since Apr '14* 

#### **Oxford House - Pierremont 2**

4403 Tibbs Street Shreveport, LA 71106 318-220-8176 8 / M *Oxford House since May '15* 

#### **Oxford House - Red Rose**

314 Albany Ave
Shreveport, LA 71105
(318) 606-5780
7 / W
Oxford House since Sep '15

#### Oxford House - Tristen L

3637 Youree Drive Shreveport, LA 71105 318-626-7306 7 / M Oxford House since Oct '15

#### **Oxford House - Louisianne**

4701 Pontchartrain Drive, #C Slidell, LA 70458-8864 985-201-7438 11 / M *Oxford House since Mar '09* 

#### **Oxford House - Fremaux**

57334 S Harrison Road Slidell, LA 70461-2306 985-241-2567 7 / W *Oxford House since Nov '10* 

#### **Oxford House - Slidell**

750 Teal Drive Slidell, LA 70458 985-445-1600 8 / M *Oxford House since Nov '15* 

# **Oxford House**<sup>™</sup>

Helping alcoholics, drug addicts and those with co-occurring mental illness

# **Saving Money – Saving Lives** The Low-Cost Solution For Long-Term Recovery

# WHAT ARE OXFORD HOUSES?

Oxford Houses are self-run, self-supported recovery houses. In March 2016 there are over 2,000 Oxford Houses throughout the United States with over 15,500 recovery beds. Each Oxford House is home to recovering alcoholics, drug addicts and those with co-occurring mental illness. Each house is a rented ordinary single-family house. The residents of each house are the same sex and receive a no-cost charter from Oxford House, Inc. [OHI] – the 501[c][3] national umbrella organization for all Oxford Houses. The charter has three conditions: (1) the group must be democratically self-run following the Oxford House Manual<sup>©</sup>; (2) the group must be financially self-supporting; and (3) the group must immediately expel any member who returns to using alcohol or illicit drugs.

# **HOW DOES IT WORK?**

Each Oxford House is autonomous. Residents govern themselves, electing House officers (with term limits), holding regular House meetings and following disciplined parliamentary procedures. Residents work and pay their own rent and household expenses. There are no time limits on residency so residents can stay long enough to build 'comfortable' sobriety. Furthermore, the system encourages the development of leadership skills and self-efficacy. The result is that more than 80 percent of Oxford House residents remain clean and sober for the long term despite the fact that many of them come from backgrounds that have included lengthy alcohol and drug use, periods of homelessness, and incarceration. Slowly, but surely, residents learn or relearn values and responsible behavior.

# HOW DO WE KNOW IT WORKS?

Evidence-based research has demonstrated that the Oxford House program works. Oxford House, Inc. and the residents of Oxford Houses value transparency and welcome research into the program. Supported by grants by NIAAA and NIDA for the study of recovery, DePaul University in Chicago has found remarkable recovery success from Oxford House living. Their findings prompted SAMSHA to list Oxford House<sup>™</sup> on the National Registry of Evidenced-based Programs and Practices.

# HOW DO NEW OXFORD HOUSES GET STARTED?

In AA, it's said that all that's needed to start a new AA meeting is two recovering people with a resentment and a coffee pot. Starting an Oxford House is a little more complicated, but, all it takes is a few recovering people, the support of those who understand the system, and minimal financing. Most new Oxford Houses are started with the help of Oxford House outreach workers (all of whom are recovering individuals who have lived in an Oxford House) and a start-up loan to the new House that the residents pay back over a couple of years. Once started, Oxford Houses are autonomous and run themselves with very little monitoring. Most Oxford Houses belong to Oxford House chapters. Oxford House residents' participation at state workshops and at the annual Oxford House World Convention helps to assure quality control. These get-togethers also foster community-building and education.

# WHAT IS NEEDED TO GET MORE OXFORD HOUSES?

The major barrier to the creation of more Oxford Houses is the lack of start-up funding. As noted on the chart on the back page, the most Oxford Houses exist in states where the state (or a locality) contracts with Oxford House to provide funding for outreach workers and establish a start-up loan fund. Foundations, treatment providers and drug courts also provide funding. Because of the structure of the program, the cost per bed is much, much lower than for traditional programs. Furthermore, recovery results are strong. In today's budget-strapped environment, Oxford Houses provide the low-cost way to improve recovery outcomes.



# **OXFORD HOUSES BY STATE**

The chart below shows Oxford Houses and Oxford House beds by state as of 3/9/16. It also notes whether or not Oxford House receives any financial support to help start and maintain Oxford Houses in a state.

- The most Oxford Houses exist in states where the state supports a start-up loan fund and outreach support. Washington, North Carolina, Texas and Oregon are home to the most Oxford Houses and each of these states provides start-up loan funds and support for OHI-trained outreach workers who start new Oxford Houses and assist existing Oxford Houses. Agreements with states and localities in FY 2015 totaled about \$5.2 million. Oxford House also received voluntary contributions of over \$450,000 in FY 2015 from individual Oxford Houses.
- Both start-up loans and outreach support are critical for expansion. National expansion was fostered by 1988
   Anti-Drug Abuse Act enacted by the 100<sup>th</sup> Congress at the end of the Reagan Administration. That Act required
   states to establish \$100,000 start-up loan funds to make \$4,000 start-up loans to groups of six or more
   recovering individuals to rent a house using the Oxford House model. The loan fund requirement has since
   become discretionary but some states still provide the funds. Oxford House residents themselves pay back the
   loans (usually \$4-6,000) over two years. Minimal support for outreach and loans makes all the difference.

State	#Houses	#Beds	Contract
Alabama	1	8	None
Alaska	4	42	None
Arizona	0	0	None
Arkansas	3	23	None
California	5	39	None
Colorado	33	230	Daniels
Connecticut	8	73	Price
Delaware	67	494	State
Florida	3	29	None
Georgia	1	8	None
Hawaii	37	321	State
Idaho	0	0	None
Illinois	51	361	State
Indiana	0	0	None
Iowa	6	49	None
Kansas	80	681	State
Kentucky	6	44	State
Louisiana	105	775	State
Maine	12	98	None
Maryland	51	397	None
Massachusetts	9	85	None
Michigan	5	49	Private
Minnesota	0	0	None
Mississippi	20	131	State
Missouri	42	334	State
[Continued in next column]			

State	#Houses	#Beds	Contract
Montana	0	0	None
Nebraska	33	233	State
Nevada	1	10	None
New Hampshire	1	6	None
New Jersey	130	1041	State
New Mexico	18	128	State
New York	17	157	Private
North Carolina	210	1613	State
North Dakota	0	0	None
Ohio	1	8	None
Oklahoma	84	735	State
Oregon	172	1362	State
Pennsylvania	47	358	Counties
Rhode Island	0	0	None
South Carolina	34	235	State
South Dakota	0	0	None
Tennessee	41	298	State
Texas	170	1274	State
Utah	2	19	None
Vermont	4	32	None
Virginia	123	1007	State
Washington	268	2239	State
W. Virginia	16	117	State
Wisconsin	23	173	None
Wyoming	2	14	None
DC	29	249	State

# Visit the Oxford House website: www.oxfordhouse.org

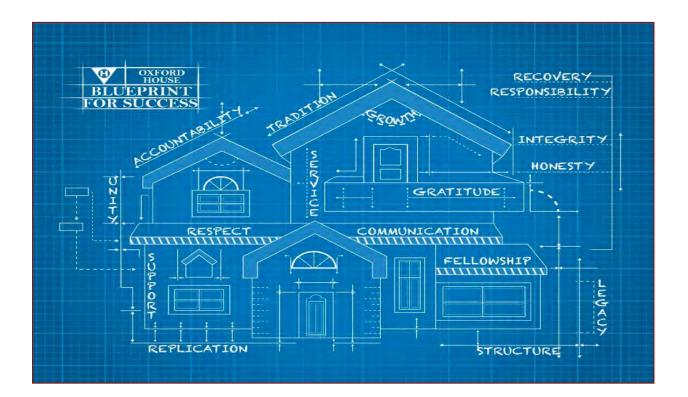
# Behavior change takes:

Time,

Peer Support, and

Safe supportive living environments.

Oxford House<sup>TM</sup> provides all that and more –



... at a very low-cost.

# Oxford House<sup>™</sup> 1975-2016

41 Years of Organized Self-Help To Enable Alcoholics and Drug Addicts to Recover Without Relapse

- Providing Sole Authority for Oxford House Charters
- Providing Technical Assistance to Establish New Oxford Houses
- Providing Technical Assistance to Keep Existing Oxford Houses on Track
- Providing Organization of Chapters to Help Oxford Houses to Help Themselves
- Providing the Time, Living Environment and Support to Enable Alcoholics and Drug Addicts to Achieve Recovery Without Relapse
- Providing the Legal, Philosophical, and Scientific Framework for a Cost-effective, Worldwide Network of Supportive Recovery Housing.

Write or Call

Oxford House, Inc.

1010 Wayne Avenue, Suite 300 Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Telephone 301-587-2916 Facsimile 301-589-0302 E-Mail <u>Info@oxfordhouse.org</u>

Web Site: www.oxfordhouse.org