



# BEACON 2017

4700 Hatch Parkway North  
ParkwayParkParkParkParwayParParkwayParkNorth Baxley, GA 31513

## 5th Annual Day of Grace

24/7 House celebrated another blessed "Day of Grace" on Feb. 25th. It was such a blessing seeing families there enjoying the day together. It was great seeing the alumni's coming back and being a part of the day. The testimonies of those who have graduated from the program were awesome. It just blesses your heart to hear how God and The 24/7 House have changed their lives and has in fact given them their lives back, how families have been re-united and put back together. When you see the changes in the lives of those who have been so low because of addiction it makes everything you do for The 24/7 House worthwhile. Everyone enjoyed shopping the silent auction and participating in the live auction. A special thank you to all who collected items for the auction and helped with the auction. "Day of Grace" was a day filled with fellowship, fun, food and blessings. A big thank you to those who



prepared the delicious meal, those who donated items for the live and silent auction, those who decorated and did behind the scene work and those who purchased tickets. "Day of Grace" 2017 was truly a blessing.

-Peggy Miles



Hope  
Faith  
Love

*We are extremely excited about what GOD is doing and will continue to do with the ministry at 24/7 House, Inc. We want to take this time to personally thank each one of you for being obedient in supporting this ministry. It is with your support that we can be obedient to God's will and to continue carrying out His work.*



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Peggy Miles
- Bob Highsmith
- Diane Hallman
- Sheryl Nipper
- Joey Hiers
- Dr. Errol Graham
- Pam Wiggins

### STAFF

- Mike Smith, Executive Director
- Pete Wright, CEO/Founder
- Samantha Hall, Administrative Asst.
- Marie Wildes, Family Counselor
- Glenda Wright, Program Director

# 24/7 HOUSE STAFF



Mike Smith –Executive Director

Samantha Hall– Administrative  
Asst.



Pete Wright– CEO/Founder

Glenda Wright– Program Director



Marie Wildes– Family Counselor

## Executive Director's Message

Addiction is a primary physical disease. It has been accepted as a disease by the American Medical Association, the American Medical Society on Alcoholism, the National Council on Alcoholism, the American Psychiatric Association, and the American Academy of Family Practice. It is also considered a disease by the American Psychological Association, American Public Health Association, American Hospital Association, and the World Health Organization.

As a certified addictions counselor and national certified counselor I am a member of (GACA) Georgia Addictions Counselors Association and (NAADAC) National Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors. These two bodies govern and award certifications to individuals who kills, knowledge, and competency in chemical dependency/abuse counseling.

GACA, at the state level, contribute to legislative matters, increase access to care, and support Treatment and Recovery.

GACA and NAADAC require continuing education hours yearly; to maintain certifications through a GACA provider.

With education and training counselors become competent in treatment planning, clinical evaluation, psychopharmacology, relapse prevention, denial management, counseling, ethical responsibilities, documentation, and client-family education. Counselors must understand addiction, treatment, application, and readiness.

At the 24/7 House, we incorporate many disciplines to prepare out residents to re-enter society with the ability to live without drugs or alcohol.

Recovery is much more than stopping drug and alcohol use/abuse and dependency. It's a lifestyle. Recovery is about learning to live without drugs/alcohol.

The following is one part of Recovery 24/7 House develops in our residents.

Primarily, in this program, cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) is applied as a model for recovery. The term CBT is a general classification of several behavioral therapies.

CBT emphasizes-there are undesirable situations whether one is disturbed by them or not. If one is upset about a situation, he/she has two problems-the problem, and the situation upset about. Addicts, in recovery, want the fewest amount of problems possible. So, when one learns how to lower stress and accept problems-he/she feels better and places oneself in a better position to make use of intelligence, education, energy, and resources to resolve situations/problems.

CBT is based on the idea that thoughts cause feelings and behaviors, not external things, such as people, situations, and events. Addicts, working toward recovery, can change the way they think-feel-act better even if the situation does not change. Residents can change because they learn how to think differently and they act on the learning. CBT teaches rational self-counseling skills. CBT asks the resident, "What do you want for your life?" (goals) and, with help, achieve those goals. 24/7 House teaches and encourages each resident. **FOCUS ON THE SOLUTION NOT THE PROBLEM.**

In active addiction, most behavioral and emotional negative reactions have been learned. At 24/7 House the resident must unlearn these unwanted reactions. With education/CBT residents learn new ways to react.

Residents learn-**CHANGE THE WAY I THINK TO CHANGE THE WAY I FEEL.** (perception)

There's a lot in the box of recovery and the grandest benefit of a long-term facility is time. Recovery doesn't happen overnight. Change is difficult, learning new ways to live, becoming responsible, and re-connecting with God takes time.

**I BELIEVE WHERE THERE IS LIFE THERE IS HOPE.**

I'm a counselor for 24/7 House.

My name is Mike



**HOPE**  
HOLD ON, PAIN ENDS.

*Incarceration has been proven not to work. 24/7 House has been proven to work. Would you give to save a friend or family member? Every family is effected by alcohol or drug abuse.*

*Help us restore the addict and alcoholic to his or her family.*

*Will you accept this challenge of a monthly contribution to the 24/7 House to provide the means to continue the work God has begun?*





**24/7 House, Inc.**  
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Dear Community and Friends of the 24/7 House:

Shocking news published in November 2015... ***“Drug overdose deaths are the leading cause of injury death in the United States, ahead of motor vehicle deaths and firearms deaths.”*** Data indicates that 46,471 people died from drug overdoses, and more than half of those were caused by prescription painkillers and heroin. That compares with 35,369 who died in motor vehicle crashes and 33,636 who died from firearms (report filed by federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Sadly, this report confirms what we’ve known for some time: drug abuse is ending too many lives while destroying families and communities... **We Need Your Help!**

An excerpt from an admission application for a young woman who has no money and who may die without help... ***“I am writing on behalf of a woman currently incarcerated and unable to function for long periods of time in an outpatient program. She has a history of trauma and recently suffered a miscarriage that triggered relapse. Her children are being cared for by a family member. She needs a program that will assist her in working through her past and that will allow her to learn how to live a fulfilled and sober life.”*** We must stop this epidemic and focus our support on solutions that work... **We Need Your Help!**

The 24/7 House is a faith based residential recovery facility for men and women who suffer from the disease of drug and alcohol addiction. We have been privileged to serve this ministry since 2009. Our foundation is built strongly upon spiritual, clinical, and therapeutic principles that allow and provide for successful recovery. It is a comprehensive program that requires a minimum one-year commitment. Our staff has worked diligently to achieve the stringent standards set forth by the Georgia Association of Recovery Residences (G.A.R.R.) and the Transitional Housing for Offender Reentry (T.H.O.R.).

There is an estimated 23 million people that meet the criteria for active addiction. Of them, only 10 percent make it into some form of treatment program; 20 percent of those will be dead in 5 years. In a world that covets **Faster... Cheaper... Better** without **Self-Sacrifice**, many facilities have shortened program durations and adapted standards to comply with societal pressure and/or financial constraints. The net result is devastating to successful recovery. The 24/7 House has a 58 percent success rate for graduating residents, this in an industry where the average is closer to 27 percent. Success comes at significant cost. Operating expenses are approximately \$1000 per resident per month. Applicants often have little more than the clothes they carry, severed family relationships, and a hope and prayer for a chance at life. We receive **NO** government or external subsidies and must rely heavily on individual and corporate donations as well as sponsored fund raisers. Residents contribute to their recovery as they are allowed employment with approved employers, but this occurs only after they have established a foundation of sobriety and strong program dynamics. However, this is simply **NOT** enough to fund a program infrastructure and all operational aspects of a successful residential recovery campus.

Community support for 24/7 House has always been phenomenal. Many of our churches, businesses and individuals support our efforts to combat this deadly disease. Donations are down and expenses are on the rise. We are constantly looking at alternatives and seek additional ways to fund this vital ministry, but the fact remains... **We Need Your Help!**

24/7 House, Inc. is non-profit 501(c)(3). Your one time or recurring donations are tax deductible. God can use you to bring about dramatic change in the lives of those afflicted with this disease, perhaps someone close to you is affected. Please consider your donation. Thank you so much for your compassionate heart for God’s ministry and offering the everlasting hope of Jesus Christ.

**Pastor Shaun Smith**

**Pete Wright**  
**CEO/Founder**

# LIVE FREE - LETTERS FROM ALUMNI

***Before coming to 24/7 House I was lost and beaten down by my addiction to the point where I was going to either go back to prison or die. I was not living right and didn't know how to even start. I felt so ashamed of the person I had become. I felt hopeless, like it would be better off to just end my life. 24/7 House has given me hope for a new life. It has given me the confidence and self-esteem to look others in the eye be proud of who I am. 24/7 House has given me a chance I never thought I had. Most of all 24/7 House has helped me build a relationship with God who loves me just where I'm at. The 24/7 House has helped change my life.***  
Chris



When I made it to the 24/7 House I was broken. I wanted to die! I felt hopeless and I had absolutely no will in me left to live. I made it to the 24/7 House at age 29. I started using at age 13. Between that time I had been to numerous detox facilities, rehabs, hospitals, and jail. During that time my addiction landed me on life support from an overdose. I lost custody of my 4 children due to my addiction. When I made it to the 24/7 house I had nothing. I was bankrupt physically, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally. Two things were clear to me.

1. I wasn't going to die.
2. I did not know how to live without using.

My drugs and drinking had become a part of me like my arm. How was I going to live? Because I used to live and lived to use. I wanted something different but I didn't know how to do anything different.

At the 24/7 house over the course of 13 months I had people meet me where I was at and love me unconditionally. They taught me a program that is my life today. They showed me the truth. The truth about myself and my behavior, the truth about my disease, and most important the truth about Christ! They gave me the greatest gift that has ever been given to me, a foundation to build my life on.

They showed me how to live and grow. I would not trade one moment at the 24/7 for anything in this world. They gave me a beginning! I graduated from the 24/7 house in December of 2015 and I am still sober today. Because of my stay at the 24/7 house I have a life today! I have 2 of my 4 children living with me today. I am a productive member of society. I am married and I feel more successful today than I have ever felt in my life. On October 23 of this year I will celebrate 3 years of sobriety. I fully believe with everything in my heart that it would not be possible if it wasn't for the 24/7 house. They loved me when I could not love myself and they taught me how to do something different. Today I am grateful that I get to go to the 24/7 house and give back what was given to me. I praise God for the 24/7 house because it saved and changed my life. -Nicki



*24/7 House would like to say a big THANK YOU to all of our volunteers and people in the community that contribute of themselves all year long. This program would not be what it is today without the awesome people that support it.*

All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light from a single candle.

-- Francis of Assisi



## NEEDS' LIST

**GROCERIES:** Fresh or Frozen Vegetables, Sugar, Coffee, Creamer, Canned Goods, Tea Bags, Meat, Rice, Noodles, Salt, Pepper, Seasonings, Snacks, Lunch Meat, Bread, Condiments, Potatoes

**KITCHEN SUPPLIES:** Dish Cloths, Dish Detergent, Freezer Bags, Freezers, Refrigerators, Coffee Filters, Industrial Sized Pots and Pans, Cups, Bowls, Silverware, Trash Bags

**HOUSE SUPPLIES:** Twin Bed Sheets, Twin Comforters, Blankets, Twin Quilts, Pillows, Pillow Cases, Towels, Washcloths, Outdoor rocking chairs, Hangers, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Laundry Detergent, Shampoo, Conditioner, Soap, Body Wash, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Hair Brushes, Combs, Feminine Products, Hand Soap

**CLEANING SUPPLIES:** Bleach, Lysol, Windex, Pine Sol, Shower Cleaner, Comet, Toilet Brushes, Mops, Mop Buckets, Brooms, Vacuum Cleaners, Pledge, etc.

**OFFICE SUPPLIES:** One Subject Notebooks, Paper, Pens, Pencils, Recovery Bibles, Serenity Bibles, Staying Sober Books, NA Basic Texts, AA Big Books, Copy Paper, Ink/Toner Cartridges, Computers, Printer

**TRANSPORTATION:** Gas Cards, Car, Van, Oil for Vehicles, Oil Filters



## LIVE FREE-LETTERS FROM ALUMNI

I came to the 24/7 House in April of 2013. I was 46 years old and had spent the last 30 years of my life in addiction. As a child I was raised in an abusive and alcoholic home. I knew at an early age that I was different and never felt like I belonged. I always felt empty inside and didn't know what was wrong with me. At 16 I was introduced to mood altering drugs and was immediately hooked. This was exactly what I thought I had been looking for. It changed my personality and I was able to be who I wanted to be. I decided to be in control of my own life so I left home and started my own journey of life, certain that I could do better on my own. In the beginning I could control my use and they became my best friend. I was mad at God and blamed Him for all of my troubles in life. I couldn't understand if He loved me why would He let me go through the things I had to go through. I had a grandfather that was a Baptist Preacher and one that was a Pentecostal Preacher so I was always confused about what was right and what was wrong. I started a family and over the years had five children. After a while my family would complain about my using so I would put down one drug and use another. This allowed me to say 'You can't call me an alcoholic anymore because I'm not drinking.' In reality everything was continuing to get much worse. I was fortunate and never suffered any legal consequences, but my wife was fed up with the drug use and finally took the children and moved to another state. I became totally out of control and started losing everything I had accumulated. I moved to Georgia to be close to my children and even though I was around them my drug use did not allow me to be there mentally or emotionally. I was just physically in their presence. I finally reached the lowest of lows. I was in a deep and dark place, somewhere I had never been and somewhere I never knew existed. I COULD NOT FUNCTION WITHOUT SOME TYPE OF DRUG. I couldn't get out of bed, go to work or even sleep without drugs. I started praying to God to let me go and I did not want to live anymore at this point. I was barely existing anyway. I overdosed myself thinking I would never wake up, however I did wake up and it was a wake up call. I told myself "this is it" after this weekend. But I didn't make it through the weekend. I was arrested for a DUI and drug charges. Everything came crashing in on me. I knew I needed help but I had no idea what to do. I fell to my knees and asked God to show me the way and He did. I could not function anymore but the path to the 24/7 House was put before me and I committed to go. I knew I could not do this alone and I had known that for years. I entered the program and it was not easy. I had to find out about myself and my character defects. I didn't know who I was anymore and it took some work. Hearing things from others because I didn't think I had any problems. I thought everyone should think and do the same as me and wouldn't it be a better world if I could pull this off? I stayed at the 24/7 House as a resident and then as a house parent for two years. I graduated and left the 24/7 House and again, this was not easy. But God has restored everything to me. From a good job, my family and all my needs are met today staying connected to my network, my church and the place that got me sober. Today is like I never knew it could be. I am happy to be alive again, happy to have God directing my life, happy to have purpose and direction and I am blessed continually. - Harvey P. -Event Coordinator 24/7 House





*Annual Beach Trip*



*2017 Day  
of  
Grace*



*Volunteer Appreciation  
Dinner*



*Annual Christmas Dinner at  
the Highsmith's House*



## *Message from the Founder*

God has blessed us with another amazing year in ministry. His blessings continue to flow through His people. From our many wonderful volunteers or our loving staff members- help and hope are always found at the 24/7 House. For this we are forever grateful.

We are so fortunate to have a competent, caring staff. Mike Smith is a Nationally Certified Addiction Counselor, CACI as well as our Executive Director and we are so blessed to have him with us. His compassion and commitment are unsurpassed. Marie Wildes is our Family Program Advisor, a NCACI, NCACI as well as a personal friend and mentor for decades. Samantha Hall is our Administrative Assistant as well as working full time with our women's program. She is training to become a Certified Counselor. My wife Glenda Wright works three days a week helping lead Bible studies, teaching Life Skills as well as helping with Administrative work. Jessica Dixon works two days each week and leads an exercise group with our ladies as well as doing administrative tasks.

We have so many wonderful volunteers from the community who continue to give of their time and resources to help the residents in our program. Sheryl, Bob, Diana, Candace, Margie, Elaine, Wanda, Jessica, Brad and Ray are all members of our local community who come and give their time and share in the form of Bible, exercise, sewing and health classes. I can never express the depth of my gratitude for the generosity of our wonderful volunteers. Many more volunteers help with our fund raising events, The Day of Grace and our BBQ Bash. From helping set up, cooking, serving meals, decorating and clean up- we are blessed beyond measure at the outpouring of love from our community.

Our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Day of Grace was in February and was a great success. Dave Kartunen returned as our emcee. Alumni of the 24/7 House shared in powerful testimonies of the healing power of God in their lives. Our Appling County Sheriff- Mark Melton was able to speak about the devastation he has seen in his many years of law enforcement due to the epidemic of drug addiction. Bob Highsmith shared as a member of the Board of the 24/7 House, as well as our longest serving volunteer of Bible studies. We enjoyed a precious gift of worship dance performed by members of Shane's Crib in Jesup thanks to another 24/7 House alumni, Robin Smith who gives back in service to help addicts. Diana Highsmith led in singing scripture songs with our current and former women's residents and Javan Anderson came and shared with us again his wonderful gift of worship in songs. Michael Mayers has created stunning centerpieces and floral decorations for all of our Day of Grace events. Our incredible meal was planned and organized by alumni Harvey Prater who is always willing to serve in so many capacities. Shaun Smith has been so generous with his time and knowledge as both Chaplain and Executive director. God has led him in another assignment but we are very grateful for all he has given to our program. Beth Smith coordinated our cakes for the Day of Grace as well as working tirelessly to make this day special. Ronnie White led our live auction again this year and as always, made it entertaining.

Alumni Shane Murphy has prepared and grilled steaks every year for the Georgia/Florida football game. The residents look forward to the fellowship and food, though I typically am well outnumbered by Dawg Fans, it's always a great day.

Our annual Beach Trip has been a huge success. Harvey again, steps up and grills hamburgers while the residents enjoy the sun, swimming, volleyball and corn hole.

Our BBQ Bash is approaching again May 5<sup>th</sup> and we look forward to the food and fellowship for a great cause.

We have numerous alumni of the 24/7 House who give back in the much needed form for sponsorship-mentoring our current residents. Again doing as our program helps teach to give freely to others what has been freely given to them.

As Easter approaches we look forward to all the many miracles God allows us to witness each and every day and will continue to serve and help as many as God sends our way. Please continue to remember us in your prayers as well those still suffering in addiction. Many of whom will never seek treatment and never live to see the wonderful potential of the life that God planned for them because of the disease of addiction.

Nothing is more rewarding than seeing the miracle of recovery in the men and women that God sends to us.

Love and Blessings to all- Pete Wright



## Family Corner

As a family member of one who has battled addiction, I know too well the pain and devastation addiction brings. We worry ourselves sick, fighting to “fix everything,” hoping it will keep them from using again. We feel isolated and ashamed to talk to others about our loved ones drug or alcohol use. And when we find the courage to talk, most of the answers only add to our guilt and shame. We believe our addicts when they tell you they’re “not using”...even when they have repeatedly lied about their use in the past. We watch as pieces of them die slowly every day, until we miss them even when we’re in the same room. We throw away their drugs, pour out alcohol, scream, threaten, manipulate, become detectives, walk on egg shells and use with them. And nothing changed.

I was told addiction was a disease but thought this was just another excuse to justify bad behavior.

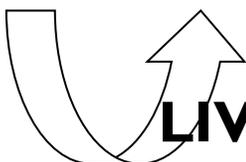
Until I watched helplessly as life drained away into depths that no human being would ever, ever, choose... I slowly begin to understand.

**Addiction is a disease. It is primary, progressive, chronic and fatal if left untreated.**

This acceptance helped me to replace anger with compassion. And to work on using my compassion in *constructive* ways rather than helping addicts continue in their *destructive* patterns. I cannot stop another person from using... but I do not have to help them continue.

Today I love working with people in recovery. I get to see joy replace utter hopelessness and dark despair. It is without question, one of the greatest blessings of my life to watch the miracle of healing through spiritual growth, education and emotional healing.

In Matthew 19:26, Jesus said, “With man this is impossible but with God all things are possible.” I know I cannot change, control or cure anyone with the disease of addiction. But with the help of a loving, gracious God, I can change myself. I can change my attitude when I am wrong and I can set healthy boundaries to keep myself free from resentments. I can give back to others, even if it is simply a kind word. I can accept all the many, many things I am unable to change in my world and focus on the only thing I can change-myself. Blessings- Glenda Wright



## LIVE FREE-LETTERS FROM ALUMNI

My life in addiction was like a nightmare that I never woke up from. Every day I woke up for one thing, to get high and drink. That was the only reason I kept a job for as long as I did. It paid for most of my drugs and booze. I can't remember a time when I did not ponder on how to catch a buzz, no matter how low I had to go to get it. I would cheat, steal and swindle when I needed to. My conscious would hurt me so bad some days I would break down, and turn around and do it again. Then one day I hit rock bottom I lost my job due to using and stealing. Then my mom caught me stealing and finally got sick and tired of it and turned me into my probation office. I always prayed when things got bad, the whole way to my probation office I prayed like a fool. I think God finally knew I was sincere. Since I have been here I have learned a lot. My relationship with God is strong again. My self-confidence is back. I have finally found gratitude in my life. I finally woke up from that nightmare I called life. Now I think, what is the day

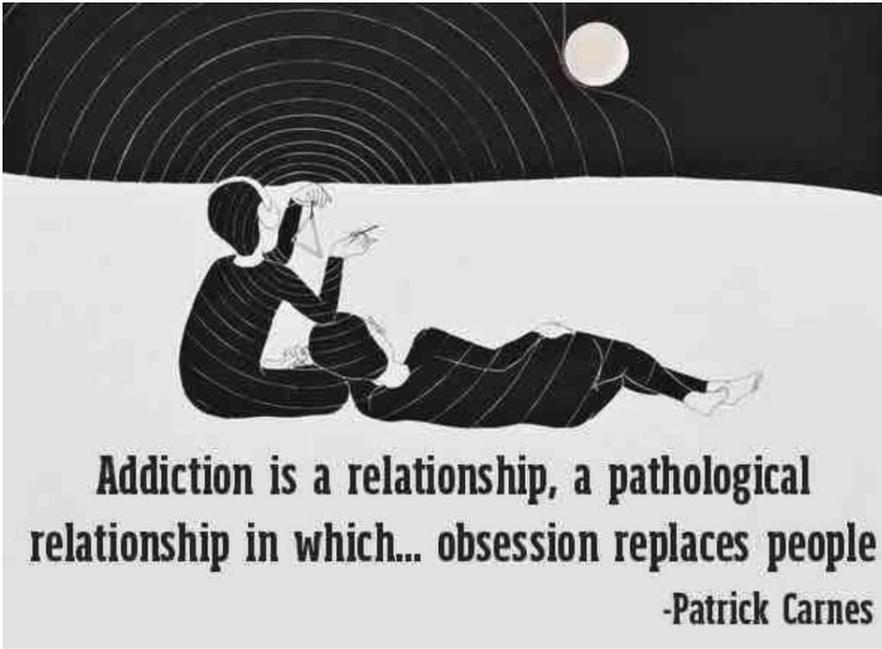
going to be like, not who I will call for some dope. I am finally happy. I smile, laugh, and pray just to pray. I can finally enjoy life.  
-Robert



I had lost all hope in life. Every day was a struggle just to live. I lived to use and used to live. I had hurt everyone in my life that loved. Most of all I was hurting myself. I felt very scared and alone. When I got to 24/7 House I couldn't hold my head up. Now I can hold my head up and look you in the eye and tell you I

have hope and faith that I am a child of God. 24/7 House has taught me that I have a disease and how to live with it sober. My fear is gone and I am never alone. And I don't ever have to live like that again. The change that has taken place in me is night and day already. Can't explain on this paper my gratitude for 24/7 House and all they do and are doing for me. Saved my life.  
- Robin Renae





**G ♦ A ♦ R ♦ R**  
♦ **GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF RECOVERY RESIDENCES** ♦  
*Committed to Setting the Standards for Quality Recovery Residence Services in Georgia*

Please check out our website at  
[www.twentyfour7houseinc.com](http://www.twentyfour7houseinc.com)

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