



Boulware Mission

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Special Client Spotlight Edition

YOUR SUPPORT TRANSFORMED JAMES FROM AN ADDICT INTO A CHAMPION AGAINST DRUGS

Looking back on his life, James feels that his drug and alcohol use and his deeper emotional problems were a result of how he reacted to his parents' separation when he was sixteen. He was overcome as a young man with feelings of anxiety, restlessness, fear, and insecurity. He dropped out of school and lived an irresponsible lifestyle.

In his early twenties, he was married and life seemed normal for a while...until his wife left him after only 3 years and took their 1-year-old son with her. He turned to alcohol to run from his feelings. It gave him the effect he was looking for—it numbed his feelings, took away his fear, and gave him false hope.

James stayed drunk and high for 10 years. He managed to

marry again and have 3 more children, but by this time he was a full-blown alcoholic and addict.



*James on the day he arrived
at Boulware Mission*

James' wife ended up leaving him, and he found himself divorced for the second time at age thirty-two.

James tried rehab, hoping that it would bring his wife back to him; but when it didn't, he turned right back to alcohol

and drugs. His drinking became so out of control that he knew the time was coming when he wouldn't be able to hold down a job—or care if he did—and that the inevitable end result would be homelessness. He didn't stop though; it was his intention to drink himself to death.

Eventually, James ended up in jail due to driving under the influence and the public defender he was assigned suggested drug court to him. He remained in jail and attended his first AA meeting in years. It was then that he decided to ask for help...help to remain alcohol and drug free. He had heard of Boulware Mission and asked that he be sent there for support.

He arrived at Boulware Mission on a Saturday in March of 2006. At this point in his life,

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

YOU MADE CINDY'S DREAM A REALITY	2
BOULWARE MISSION OPEN HOUSE	2
JAMES' STORY CONTINUED	3
HOMELESSNESS CAN AFFECT ANYONE	3
NOTE FROM CEO DONNA MASON	4
THANK YOU TO OUR GOLF SPONSORS	4



IMPACT 100 RENOVATION UPDATE

In October of 2011, Boulware Mission was awarded a grant from Impact 100 Owensboro for the continued renovation of our facility on Wing Avenue. We are happy to report that the first phase of that renovation is nearing completion!

With Impact 100 funds, 2 large rooms upstairs, to be used as living quarters, and 1 bathroom have been renovated. The new space more than doubles the living space previously available to our residents and the bathroom adds a crucial 2 showers and 3 latrines to the building. We are now ready to move residents' beds upstairs and begin working on the

second phase of the project—turning the chapel area (currently used as living space) into a chapel/multi-purpose space. This project will also allow us use of two more rooms (downstairs) that are currently used for closet space. Plans are to move the GED room and possibly set up a computer lab for client use.



YOU MADE CINDY'S DREAM A REALITY

We first introduced Cindy to our readers in March of 2011. At that time, she had just had her beautician license reinstated (after losing it due to a felony charge) and was preparing to leave Boulware Mission after having resided there for 9 months.

Although not always easy, the time Cindy spent at Boulware helped her with all aspects of her life...her recovery, her spirituality, her family, her work...and taught her new skills to improve her life. Since leaving, she has had her fair share of tests, but she continues to look to God and the lessons she's learned to be successful in everything she does!

Upon leaving Boulware, Cindy was able to find a place to live and obtained a job at Cost Cutters. Her relationships with her three daughters were improving and things seemed to be going very well for her.

Toward the end of 2011, though, Cindy injured her neck. The pain got so bad that she was eventually forced to stop working. She underwent surgery on her neck at the beginning of the year and was afraid she was on the verge of losing everything she had worked for.

She especially struggled when, after her surgery, she had to take prescribed pain medication. She was terrified that she might relapse.

Cindy had the love and encouragement of her friends, family, clients, and former case managers at Boulware on her side, though. One day, while she was still trying to recuperate, some of her clients came to visit her; they had an idea in mind to give her something new to work towards...

Cindy's clients wanted her to open her own beauty shop! That had always been a dream of hers; but with her past, she never thought it could become a reality.



Cindy at her shop—Cuttin' Up

Her friends helped her to see the possibilities lying ahead; they devised a plan and set it in motion.

It took only 3 months to make it happen. Cindy slowly purchased equipment from a local beautician who was going out of business and leased a place. She did most of the remodeling on her own and on May 1, 2012, Cuttin' Up was open to the public!

Cindy chose the name Cuttin' Up be-

cause she felt like it fit her personality and the feel she wanted her clients to have while in her shop—like they were cuttin' up with a friend.

She recently celebrated her 40th birthday and for the first time in her life, feels completely content. She may not be rich, but she has everything she needs.

The best thing of all, she said, is that she finally realizes that she's okay if she has a bad day...she no longer feels like she has to resort to drugs, men, lying, cheating, or any of the other coping mechanisms she used to resort to...she knows that tomorrow will be a new day and a new beginning. If she could inspire anything in others, that's what it would be.

Today, Cindy is working through her 12-steps again, because she felt as though she

could use it after the troubles she experienced while on medical leave. She has a wonderful relationship with her three daughters...she just moved one daughter and granddaughter to school, where she will attend the nursing program at Northern Alabama University; and her oldest daughter and her husband are living with Cindy, they are expecting their first child. Her youngest daughter lives with her dad and attends school; Cindy calls her the probation officer, because she keeps her on the straight path!

Cindy plans to someday write a book about all of her experiences; but, in the meantime, she will continue to work to make her business a success.

On the wall of her shop is a sign that reads: "You matter to me...I promise." She looks at it everyday and gives thanks that she mattered to somebody. She mattered to the staff at Boulware; she mattered to her family, friends, and clients; and she mattered to all of the supporters who keep Boulware going. She plans to add a donation jar in the shop, so that she can do her part in spreading awareness and hopefully, raising money to help Boulware's future clients...the future Cindy's.

OPEN HOUSE

Boulware Mission will be hosting another open house in December to allow our friends and supporters to come by, tour the facility, and visit with our staff and residents.

We will also plan to set aside a special time to invite all of our volunteers to come and be recognized. We truly could not do what we do without each and every one of you!

Keep an eye on our website and Facebook feed for the dates and times!

JAMES' STORY CONT'D



James Today

he had no diploma, no money, and no where else to go. He knew this was his last hope.

As he pulled up, James remembers seeing some residents sitting out front laughing and joking and wondering if he would

ever feel like laughing and joking again. He walked inside and took his first steps on his journey to recovery.

He remembers thinking that the staff, residents, and volunteers were so nice that he wondered what they wanted from him. It was after his first week that he realized that they didn't want anything from him...they wanted something for him.

With the faith and encouragement he received at Boulware, he began working on his GED and after only 3 months, he passed the test! This high school dropout had his GED! He had a wonderful feeling of accomplishment as he participated in Boulware's *Self-Sufficiency* program and began to acquire many of the life skills he was lacking.

He enrolled as a full-time student at the community college and earned his Associates of Arts degree before continuing on to Western Kentucky University.

James spent two years at Boulware before he left, ready and equipped to live as a self-sufficient, productive member of society. He stuck with school and graduated with a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS) in December of 2011.

Due to his experiences, James was interested in substance abuse prevention and pursued a career in recovery services. He

His drinking became so out of control that he knew the time was coming when he wouldn't be able to hold down a job—or care if he did—and that the inevitable end result would be homelessness.

had experienced and witnessed the destruction that comes with addiction and wanted the opportunity to give back.

He became involved as an advocate and an example to individuals residing in homeless shelters, halfway houses, and recovery programs. Recently, he was blessed as he was able to find a job working for the state as a Case Specialist for a court-ordered recovery program.

James credits the changes in his life to the time he spent at Boulware and wants to thank the staff, volunteers, and supporters, who gave him a second chance at life and “saved a wretch like me (him).”



HOMELESSNESS CAN AFFECT ANYONE

Rick and Courtney's stories are evidence that homelessness can affect anyone. Rick grew up in Henderson, KY where he was an all-star athlete in high school and college (he was recently notified that he will be inducted into the KY Athletic Hall of Fame for his basketball career) and earned a degree from Kentucky Wesleyan College. Rick married his college sweetheart and had 3 children; he also had a good job. He was living the American Dream until, after 17 years of marriage, things began to fall apart and Rick found himself in the middle of a divorce. Around the same time, he lost his job of 22 years. He was suddenly jobless and homeless for the first time in his life.

Courtney lived in North Carolina until he moved to Owensboro to be with his girlfriend and daughter. He had a high school diploma and a certificate in welding. He got a job in protection control at TTMA, an auto parts manufacturing company; however, as the economy started to go down, so did the demand for auto parts and TTMA was forced to cut hours. Soon, Courtney was not making enough money to cover his bills. As his financial problems got worse, he found himself drinking more and more. He continued to work, but his financial situation didn't improve; he was drowning in debt and eventually evicted from his apartment.



Rick and Courtney

In August of 2011, Rick came to Boulware Mission seeking homeless services. His goal was to find a job and save up enough money to become self-sufficient once again. This April he got a job at Unilever. He has been working and saving his money since. Currently, Rick's plan is to leave Boulware within the next 3 months. He has been able to save almost enough money to secure a place to live, transportation, etc., and is supporting his children through child support.

When Courtney arrived at Boulware in October of 2011, he and his case manager worked to identify all of the reasons behind his homelessness and set goals to address them. Since then, Courtney has attended Boulware groups and classes and gained many of the skills he needed. He continues to work and has paid off several of his debts. He is paying child support and has an improved relationship with his child and her mother. This fall, Courtney is enrolled in KCTCS where he plans to study criminal justice.

Rick and Courtney are good examples of what one can achieve through hard work and perseverance. Because of what they have learned and because of the support they have found through this program, there is no doubt that both will be self-sufficient, productive members of society once more.

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NOTE FROM THE CEO



Donna Mason, CEO

We hope that you enjoy this Client Spotlight Edition of our newsletter. We chose to put the focus on a few of our clients, so that you can see how your support is impacting lives on a daily basis.

Boulware Mission would not be able to carry out our mission to *alleviate homelessness, one life at a time, through education, treatment and services*, without you!

People like James, Cindy, Courtney and Rick walk through our doors every day—searching for help and a new way of life—it is because of you that we are able to provide that!

We invite you to visit the Mission, our website, or our Facebook page and learn more about the services we provide and how you can be involved.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank those individuals and businesses who helped make our 2nd Annual Charity Golf Scramble a success! We would not have been able to have such a great event without the support of our community!

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