

THE APOLLOS

AUGUST '23 EMPLOYEE/VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER



"THE WALKING BIBLE"

Robby (left, current program resident) is like a walking Bible. He makes it his personal mission every day to get into the Word of God and remember every scripture he can. He is always excited to share what he has remembered and learned throughout the day.

He is also a talented painter. He takes his work seriously and always focuses on doing an excellent job when he paints. Robby's focus and determination to learn, work and grow inspires others around him to get into the word and to be the best they can be!

"My favorite Bible verse is Acts 7:49 - *Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me, saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?*

I love this verse because it reminds me how big God is, and it also reminds me how to live my life. This is my 'life verse' when I am going through my everyday walk. It reminds me that no matter what situation, good or bad, that God is always bigger than anything going on in my life." -Robby

This Edition:

The Walking Bible
PAGE 01

520 Mulberry St.
PAGE 02

Volunteers at CRCI
PAGE 03

"To My Son..."
PAGE 04-05

Graduate Spotlight
PAGE 06

What's the
Difference?
PAGE 07

-MELODY HUDSON

**WOMEN'S PROGRAM
RESIDENT MANAGER**

 Graduate 9.5.2022

It's incredible the transformation that we get to witness working in this amazing, Godly environment, it's such an honor to work alongside each of you every day. Thank you for continuing to inspire me, and working together in this fight against addiction!



WITH CONTINUED PERSONAL GROWTH, WE DEVELOP A CHANGE IN OUR MINDSET, ALLOWING US THE CAPACITY FOR GRATITUDE. THIS GRATITUDE COMPELS US TO GIVE MORE THAN WE TAKE.

It's been an all hands on deck situation over at the new Shallotte Campus. We've been so pleased with the progress. Teams have been in place and have completed new painting and cosmetic improvements. New lighting has been installed throughout the building and a heavy duty construction clean is now taking place. Bathroom upfits are next on the to do list so that we can finish out this project.

The Christian Recovery staff and volunteers are quickly seeing the finish line approach where this new building will house our entire men's program. We hope that soon this new building will have its first residential guests!

We would like to give a special shout out to the staff who have worked with us in playing our own game of musical offices while we use this extra space even in the middle of this extensive project. Thanks to everyone for working with us while we move towards our new resting place. We can't wait to get there!

PROGRESS AT THE NEW CAMPUS



TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS - MIKE GUZMAN - TEAM MEMBER OF THE MONTH JUNE 2023



MIKE GUZMAN
BUSINESS
MANAGER

Congrats, Mike!

"Mike has done a great job putting the right people in the right places and seems to manage them well with very little friction. I enjoy working with Mike, he has a great attitude."

"I think he is killing the game. Personal growth display: I was really impressed by his opening in what he shared at our last Leadership session."

"Great person and fits in well. always doing everything he can to accommodate those around him."

"Mike is an amazing boss and leader. I truly enjoy working for him. We are a team, and he has really come on board and grown our social enterprises beyond what anyone else has accomplished. I am so appreciative of him and everything he is teaching me, and the others around me."

COMMUNITY

IT IS THROUGH HEALTHY CONNECTION WITH OTHERS THAT WE THRIVE. WITH A NEW SENSE OF COMMUNITY, WE DECREASE OUR DEPENDENCE ON OUTSIDE SOURCES THAT HAVE PROVEN TO BE DETRIMENTAL IN THE PAST.

Volunteers at CRCI



YOU ARE THE WIND BEHIND OUR SAILS!



JANEL HIDY

NEIL WATKINS

SELAH RAMEY

"I believe in the mission of saving lives. I couldn't think of a better reason to be here."

"Supporting a good cause that helps men and women have a second chance at life."

"I love helping out - it makes me feel good to know that I'm helping to make a difference."

"Our volunteers make our dream work at CRCI Thrift Store. We don't just have outstanding volunteers that serve, they are also compassionate and loyal to our mission at Christian Recovery Centers. Thank you to each of you that serve and support us because we couldn't do it without you."

-Kristin Gettleman,
Thrift Store Manager

G O D H O N O R I N G

WE DO ALL THINGS AS IF THEY ARE UNTO HIM WHO MADE US. BEING CALLED TO SERVE THE HIGHEST OF PURPOSES, WE TREAT OTHERS AS THE CHILDREN OF THE ONE WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE.

" To My Son . . . "

"I thought that I would tell my story about how I found CRCI and some people behind the program. For starters, I'm a Christian mother of a wonderful and amazing son who is (currently) in the program at CRCI. Just so you know and understand, I've traveled those same roads and battled that ole' demon and it hasn't been easy. But I have now been clean off of drugs for 20 years because of God and the faith I carry each and every day with me.

Every day is a challenge but with God in my life I have nothing to fear. As for my son, he has been battling addiction for many years even to the point of living on the streets. I know that many times he thought I didn't love or care about him; oh, but I did.

What he didn't ever understand was I gave him to GOD so that (He) would keep him safe and as far as a mother knowing your child is out there somewhere and not knowing where; that has to be the hardest battle to fight - but a fight I was not going to give up on.

You see, I was praying very hard for my son and God knew it and he also knew what type of place that I wanted for my son. So when my son ended up getting arrested again, we'd come to find that he'd be facing 2 + years in prison for drug charges. I knew jail was not the place my son needed to be again. I prayed even harder because I knew if there was a will there was a way and God would provide it for me. My son has overdosed many times now- Narcan has had to be used more than 4 times.



The problem is my son has never gotten any kind of recovery for his addiction in the past. I didn't have the money and he didn't have insurance, so what do you do? I truly at this point feared that I was going to lose my son to drugs and there was nothing I could do but keep praying.

I knew that when someone sat at my kitchen table and told me about CRCI that I needed to call them and that's just what I did. I called and spoke with

"I knew then that God was making His move, and I was to follow and carry it out for Him."

"To My Son . . ."

- continued -

Eric and when he told me there was a bed open my heart dropped. I'm thinking to myself, 'are you kidding me? this is a nonprofit and it's a Monday!' - and in just 4 days, my son had a bed. Colton then made sure that the interview was complete, and the acceptance letter was sent to his lawyer. I knew then that God was making His move and I was to follow and carry it out for Him.

So, I called my son's attorney, and she called his probation officer, and the DA's and Judges all agreed that CRCI would be the place. This all took place in just a week. I couldn't believe it. I thank God and His blessings. I said to God - 'for my son to be able to make changes in his life, he has to have a spiritual relationship with you, God.' That's why I knew CRCI would be the right place for my son, especially the programs they provide and the church services they attend. Everyone there has been such a blessing and I want to say Thank You so much. It means the world to me.

I want to especially give a shout out to "Bo" for all you did for my son at the dentist office. Thank you, "Bo".

For anyone that may know someone that has an addiction please take a moment and call CRCI. They are a nonprofit organization with programs that can benefit the person you care about seeing get help.

But most importantly I want to thank God for what he has done for my son, me, and CRCI and the work he is doing in the programs."

This would not be possible if God wasn't in our lives..... This letter would not have been written if it wasn't for God and given my son another chance at life cause he knows Michaels story.

Thank you and CRCI for everything y'all are doing."

Michael,

I want you to know that I love you, and you have made me so proud of you. Please continue keeping your faith in God and I'm praying for you everyday!

Love you, -Mom.

- If you or someone you know needs help,
call today. -



(910) - 287 - ⁴³⁵⁷HOPE.



Please. Don't wait.

SELF-AWARENESS

HAVING AWARENESS OF OUR POTENTIAL IS A CONCEPT WE STRIVE FOR IN LIVING A HIGH IMPACT LIFE. OUR INTERACTION WITH OTHERS LEADS TO A PUBLIC PERCEPTION AND WE CONSTANTLY WORK TO RECOGNIZE AND IMPROVE UPON IT.

JES WHITE



Graduate 7.24.2023



My entire life has been about balance and challenge. I grew up a child of divorced parents. On one hand I had a very happy, stable homelife and an amazing childhood but on the other end, I was caught in the chaotic whirlwind of a third-generation alcoholic parent. The trauma and chaos was always balanced with kindness, love and laughter but I constantly found myself caught in the middle, living a double life. I had a distorted idea of what success and happiness truly looked like, and I would always challenge myself to do my best, especially at my

own expense. Growing up, I always wanted to break the generational curse. I avoided drinking until it became a weekend social thing to do in high school and college. After college, I not only became a workaholic, but drugs and alcohol quickly became my best friend. I hid behind my lies thinking I could get away with being a functional member of society while making money because that's all that mattered, right? Wrong. Filled with bitterness, anger and resentments, I had never felt more lost and alone.

It wasn't until I moved to North Carolina that I realized this was my opportunity to leave my past behind and really get my life back on track. CRCI is my most valued "God wink" and the Rose House absolutely saved my life. I know now that I can make my own plans, but the Lord determines my steps (Proverbs 16:9). I truly put balance and challenge to the ultimate test during my recovery. I let go and let God and wholeheartedly surrendered and trusted for the first time in my life. I'm stronger because I had to be. I'm smarter because of my mistakes. I'm happy because of the sadness I've known and I'm wiser because I've learned. I am a new creation in Christ and have let go of a past reality that no longer serves me. Since completing the 6-month program, I am now working for the same company that saved my life. I get to work alongside the same leaders and mentors that guided me through my recovery and hopefully this enables me to do that same for others. I am truly blessed beyond belief.

CALEB HALL



Graduate 5.1.2023

After living for 10 years as a drug dealer, a solid year traveling, on my way to sobriety, nearly a year in sobriety as well as ministry and when all seemed so great my grandmother passed away. That was the "thing" that sent me back. It was a slow spiral down.

After I relapsed, I thought to myself, "I'll just sell a little grass. A little grass never hurt anyone." However, the Holy Spirit wasn't going to let that happen. I was under such conviction I just couldn't do it. So, for the first time in my life, I became an addict, a full-blown addict, and I lived another year of my life in such a way that I had profited on so many others in the past.

It was hard to sit in group once I came to CRCI. Listening to the stories that so many of my brothers had torn me to pieces on the inside. After all, for so long I was the guy who supplied their pain for years prior.

One day Pastor Tony through the Holy Spirit called me out, "Caleb you spent so much of your time preaching forgiveness! When are you going to start believing it for yourself? When are you going to realize Jesus died for you too?"

From that moment my life began to change. It's crazy how after all my travels God had to get me to a place in the middle of nowhere between two corn fields for me to finally get it. Thank God for Pastor Tony and his obedience to the Holy Spirit, thank God for CRCI. This place has forever changed my life.



COMPASSION

MEETING OTHERS WHERE THEY ARE AND SHARING WITH THEM THE
LOVE OF JESUS - HIS MERCY AND GRACE - THROUGH OUR OBEDIENCE
AND LOVE FOR OUR NEIGHBOR.

Why 2 Years of Care?

**FOR A LONG TIME CHRISTIAN RECOVERY HAS SOUGHT
TO FIND A WAY TO HOLISTICALLY IMPROVE THE
OUTCOME FOR THE PEOPLE WE SERVE AND CARE SO
MUCH ABOUT.**

Phase 4 Re-Entry Program

A heavily intensive and structured recovery program is a great first step to individuals in recovery, but oftentimes, still leaves much to be wanted when it comes to a successful re-entry. The 18 month Phase 4 Program created the opportunity for our residents to move to the next level of their recovery experience while still staying immersed in the CRCI culture and the many other supports that created their foundation. The Phase 4 Program will award the time and opportunity for residents to advance financially, relationally, and employable efforts all while allowing them the support and resources to continue to grow spiritually.

A recent new component being added to the Phase 4 Program is the efforts in financial literacy. Bringing on board a new community

partner, (United Bank) we have created an opportunity for residents in our program to streamline the process of them opening their own banking account with the additional opportunity to set up their own secured credit card. Residents will be able to use their graduation gift to activate both of these before even graduating the program. Once again reducing their barrier for when they start their new life.

With our Social Enterprises thriving and offering start up employment opportunities, CRCI graduates will be able to seamlessly make the transition from residential rehab into a more independent living situation. We look forward to providing this and more as we continue to establish this awesome addition to our program!



**THE
DIFFERENCE
IS IN THE
OUTCOME.**