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CRCI bringing recovery and reentry program to Shallotte

By Savanna Tenenoff Brunswick Beacon Staff Writer

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Christian Recovery Centers, Inc., (CRCI) has taken over the old Shallotte Assisted Living building and will be using it as a substance use and addiction recovery and reentry facility for men.

Savanna Tenenoff/Brunswick Beacon

Christian Recovery Centers, Inc. (CRCI) is almost finished upfitting and moving into its new 20,000-square-foot multiunit assisted housing facility at 520 Mulberry Street, Shallotte.



The facility, located at the old Shallotte Assisted Living building, will serve as a treatment center for individuals in recovery from substance abuse through a long-term, faith-based 12-step recovery program offering professional therapy services.

CRCI CEO Joshua Torbich said the two-year program will provide housing for participants during the entire two years. He noted that the program involves recovery, education, opportunity and community.

"So, we won't do our ribbon cutting until March 23, [2024] but we are planning to move people in this month," he said.

Torbich is about to celebrate 10-years of being in recovery himself. He shared that he went through CRCI's program in 2013 at its Ash facility, adding that it was the only CRCI facility at that time.



"It turned out to be exactly what I needed to change my life," he said. "I found God and started to do something meaningful with my life."

He explained that CRCI will be relocating all its programs for men to the facility.

Unlike CRCI's new Rose House women's facility, Torbich said, the new facility was already permitted and zoned for the use CRCI planned to use it for.

"This process has been like a breath of fresh air considering the timeline that was attached to the Rose House," he said.



He said the upfits included scrapping the popcorn-styled ceilings, replacing flooring in rooms, sheetrock repairs, creating more bathroom facilities and painting.

“We only had to do major cosmetic upfits and then we’re doing the bathroom renovations now,” he said. “So, that’s kind of the last part that we have to finish.”



Torbich said that residents in the Ash facility will move to Shallotte. He noted that the Ash building transition from a men’s facility to a women’s facility.

He explained how the 106 beds at the new Shallotte facility are divided into two different programs, however, men can go through both programs and stay for an entire two years. He said 72 beds will be for the six-month recovery program and 34 beds will be for the 18-month reentry program.

He said the 72 beds are for residents who will just be starting their journey of recovery and the program will take about six months, however, it is performance based so the timeframe will vary depending on the individual.

CRCI’s ultimate goal is to create hope and reduce barriers for folks in recovery by providing the resources, opportunities and skills they need to live a successful, independent life, the CEO said.

“A problem for them is like ordering a social security card, or getting their blood pressure medicine, figuring out where their next meal is going to come from or figuring out how to maintain employment or create a resume,” Torbich said.



He explained that individuals experiencing drug or alcohol addiction have difficulty with things that those not in addiction may find easy.

“It’s not because they’re not competent people, it’s because of where they’re coming from” he said.

He said a lot of individuals deep into addiction have a daily routine and do activities, however, there is not a grand plan in their life. Those entering the program will be given the chance to start that grand plan, he added.

“Graduating the rehab program is a great first step to reclaiming your life, but it’s not like getting a degree from MIT,” he said.

For those doing the entire two years, they will go through a motivational track when they first enter and then break off into four different phases. Individuals in the approximately six-month program will only complete three of the four phases — the fourth phase being reentry.

A big thing for those entering recovery is detox, Torbich said. He noted that although the facility’s motivational track does not include medical detox for participants entering, they will use partnering facilities to provide that.

He explained that many people need about two weeks to fully detox and become mentally and physically ready to live life without substances. Residents will be given more space and time during those two weeks.



“They don’t do nothing, but they really don’t do much,” he said.

He said those in the motivational track, that two-week detox phase, will be allowed to go back to their rooms for naps and allow their body to adjust.

“Once you get into phase one, you can’t return to your bedrooms during the day,” he said. “So, we encourage them to treat themselves like, ‘My recovery program is my job.’ ”

Phases one, two and three are a part of the six-month program that gets participants involved in the educational reform programs, social literacy programs and workforce redevelopment program.

The CEO said the workforce redevelopment program focuses on teaching job readiness and human resource development.

“It’s not so much about what do you want to be,” he said. “It’s more like, figure out what you want to be but, in the meantime, let us teach you about being a good employee and what it looks like to work on a team and to balance your checkbook and to do all of those other things.”



Torbich said CRCI is also teaming up with Brunswick Community College to help program participants to get certifications in different programs and trades.

The reentry program will let individuals take back their life with the support and security of CRCI. Torbich explained that the last phase allows the participants to be independent and have their phones while they have a full-time job and go to school.

“You’ve now gone into a place where you’re in full-blown transition back into a productive member of society,” he said. “We’re still here to support you, like, we’re still covering all of these distracting things that go along with normal, everyday life.”

He said they will still help with transportation and food, however, individuals in the reentry program will have structure over their schedule while still attending church, therapy, work and other mandatory activities.

Torbich said he wants folks who go through the program to land jobs and, possibly, even be able to put a down payment on a home and live a “normal” life.

The program will be at no cost to residents and their families, he added.

CRCI do not grant program admission at any of their facilities and sites to any individuals on the sexual offender registry or individuals with an outstanding warrant.



Torbich said that residents must willingly enter the program and that residents can leave at any point if they are no longer willing to stay.

The CEO said that he and his staff respect and support the individuals as much as possible so when they are ready to become residents again, they know they are welcomed.

When residents attend outside obligations, like school and volunteer work, he said that individuals will be transported by staff. Residents will be required to sign in and out when participating in outside programs or volunteering, as well.

The facility will be under 24-hour staff supervision. Supervision is required for residents transported to programs outside of the facility, too.

For more information on CRCI or the different facilities, visit its website at <https://crcirecovery.org/>

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