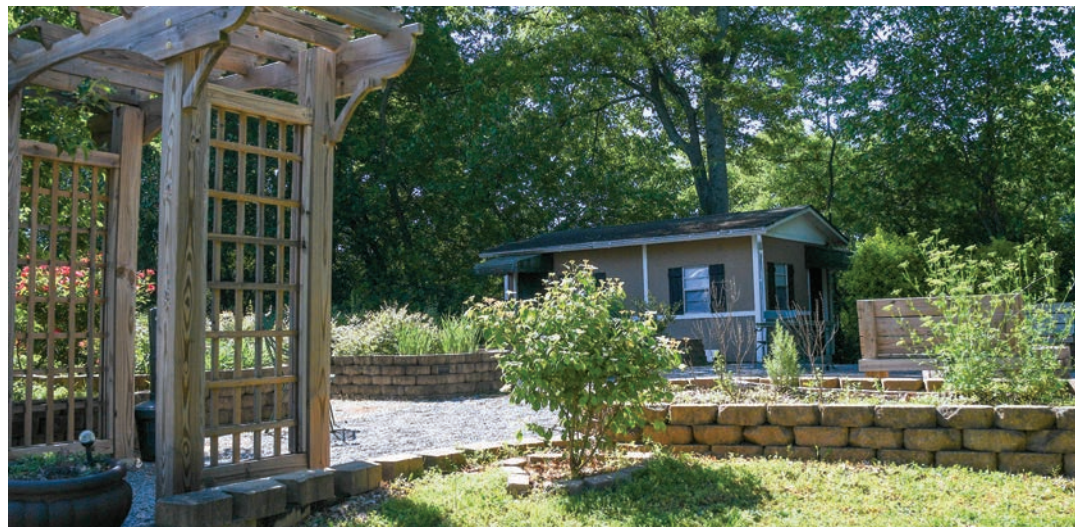


# The Difference is



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

*The solution to  
homelessness & addiction*







## ALUMNI STORIES OF HOPE

# Eli

The Extension gave me a chance, solutions, and the skills to deal with life. For the most part, I remember a good upbringing. My Dad was a functional alcoholic who held down three jobs. I think that's where I got my work ethic. There was arguing but not to the level I would have called abuse.

I started smoking weed in middle school. My grades didn't hold me back, but it was my athletic skill that got me into college where I played football. After a year and a half, I was kicked off the team and my drug use escalated.

I partied hard in my 20s and thought I was having the time of my life. One night, I accompanied a "friend" to a drug deal in Buckhead that went bad. There was a gun and a man died. I was charged with murder for being present for the commission of a felony. I was sentenced to manslaughter and spent five years in prison. During that time, my cousin went through The Extension. When I was released, I really saw the change in him. He changed his life and gave me the inspiration to change mine.

*"I plan to stay around and give back..."*

After prison, I did ok for two or three years. I was fortunate to get a job at Builders FirstSource, working in receiving and logistics for building materials. But then I fell into the old routine and had the same old friends. Much like my dad, I was functional but just barely. One day at work, you might say it was a spiritual change, but my mind was made up. I showed up at The Extension and immediately I felt the good spirit in this place. I had worked with Builders FirstSource for many years. They had my back and supported my need for The Extension. They even hire other men from The Extension. I have grown here, received a raise, and participate in an incentive program. They trust me, and I have opportunities to move up.

**The difference at The Extension is that I was able to find my higher power and people that truly care.** We weren't just cattle being herded through; even in a crowd of 50 men, each counselor made me feel that I was the only person there. The counselors aren't just trained, many have lived the experience of recovery and that makes a difference.

This type of change can't be done in three or six months. I plan to stay around and give back just like this opportunity was given to me. I will be living in Cobb County, and it will be easy to see my "brothers" from The Extension at work. I am blessed to have a loving relationship with my 11-year-old daughter. My goals are to continually become a better person, father, son, and provider. For the first time, I am really becoming a man. It's taken me until age 50, but it's never too late. The Extension works if you are ready to change and get uncomfortable. You've got to put in the work and get past yourself. It's up to the individual. If you're ready, this is the right place!"





## Mission:

To facilitate a transformation that empowers chemically dependent homeless men and women to become sober, accountable members of society and to serve as a recovery resource for the community.

## Vision:

To become the replicable model of success in our community and beyond for the prevention, intervention, and treatment of chemical dependency for those without the ability to pay.

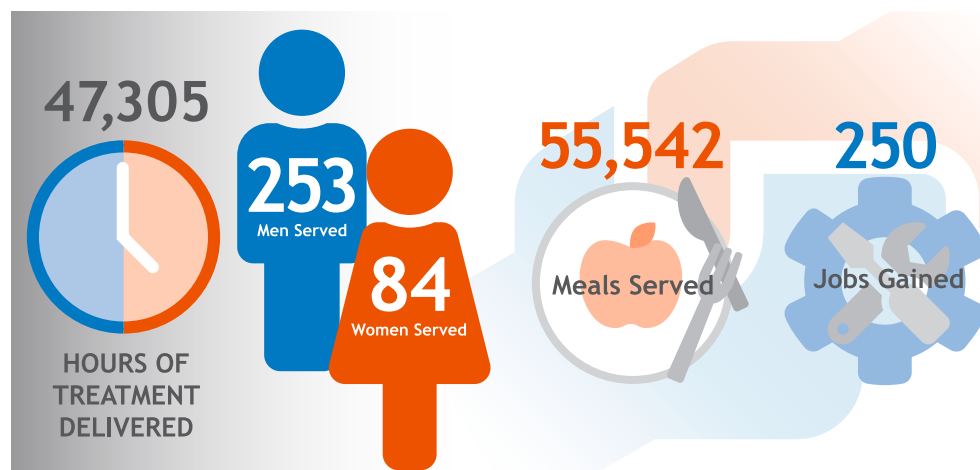
# A Real and Lasting Difference

The Extension offers a lifeline to men and women who desperately want to reclaim their future from chemical dependency. With a 33-year track record of service and leadership, The Extension has proven that a life of sobriety after recovery from substance use disorder is possible. At The Extension, men and women struggling with homelessness and addiction find the power within themselves to escape the chains of chemical dependency, rediscover their purpose, and learn to embrace a life without drugs and alcohol.

The Extension is making a real and lasting difference, saving lives each and every day. Unlike most residential treatment programs, The Extension was designed for those without the financial means to fund their recovery. The typical client is lost, broken, and without hope. They have been living on the street, in and out of jail for offenses related to their addiction, and have often become alienated from their families. These are people who have attempted treatment many times before without success and are now ready and open to trying recovery The Extension way.

The goal of The Extension is simple: that those who seek its help never again depend on drugs to get them high or charity to get them by. Discipline, integrity, and personal accountability are hallmarks of The Extension, which recently received its three-year accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). Through 9-12 months of residential treatment at our men's or women's campus, clients learn how to live life on life's terms and without drugs or alcohol. Relationships are mended, families are reunited, and careers are re-established. That is the difference The Extension makes.

## IN 2021, THE EXTENSION MADE THE FOLLOWING, LIFE-CHANGING IMPACT POSSIBLE:



# In Gratitude to Our Volunteers

Volunteer programs across the nonprofit landscape have faltered, if not collapsed, during the COVID-19 pandemic. This trend is not surprising, as the pandemic created conditions that directly defy what is at the very heart of volunteering. Volunteers show up; COVID says *stay home*. Volunteers step outside of their normal circle; COVID says *keep to yourself*. Volunteers lose themselves in service; COVID says *watch yourself and be careful*.

For 35 years, The Extension has depended on volunteers to help with special events, assist with administrative or maintenance projects at the organization's two campuses, and, most importantly, prepare and serve meals to residents. When COVID-19 hit, however, we were forced to temporarily close our doors to both new client admissions and volunteers. While new clients were welcome once again after only a two-week hiatus, inviting volunteers back on campus was a bit more complicated given all the restrictions in place to prevent the spread of the virus. Further, due to either health concerns or financial constraints, some of our volunteer groups could no longer provide meals as they had in the past.

We are immeasurably grateful for the dedicated members of our community who have continued to serve our clients through the ups and downs of the pandemic. One of our most stalwart community partners, First United Methodist Church of Marietta (FUMC) has donated over 1,000 meals to feed the residents at The Extension over the course of COVID-19. In past years, FUMC members provided about 12 meals per year. By comparison, FUMC members provided an astounding 23 meals over a period of about eight weeks at the beginning of the pandemic.

Instead of preparing and serving meals, volunteers were only allowed to drop food off for our residents. "The opportunity for church members to prepare the meals off-site and share the food while the residents serve themselves was a perfect way to stay safe and show love," said FUMC director of Programs, Forrest Cate. "Our church members have responded in an unprecedented way."



Our gratitude extends to many of our corporate partners as well, especially Printpack, Inc., whose volunteers also went above and beyond to ensure our residents did not go hungry. Meals were prepared off-site, and employee



groups made donations to cover the cost of meals or ordered from local restaurants for delivery to help them also stay afloat during the pandemic. "We know our business is not just to meet the needs of our customers. A better world and a better community is a shared responsibility that we take very seriously," said Printpack representative James Tate.

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?" Thank you to our beloved volunteers who answered this question through service to The Extension.



# Danielle



*"Those events that once made me feel ashamed and disgraced now allow me to share with others how to become a useful member of the human race."  
- page 492 of The Big Book, AA*

I WAS BORN IN 1979 IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS. My parents were high school sweethearts, but eventually grew apart and separated when I was young. They both remarried and started new families, so I am the oldest of six siblings. This was not an easy transition for me because not only did I acquire two "new parents" within a short amount of time, all five of my siblings were born within five years of each other. Going from being an only child to having five siblings in such a short amount of time, I grew into the caretaker role; I believe this is where I found my self-worth for many years. I moved to Marietta with my mom, stepdad, brother, and sister at age eleven. When I first moved here, I found it very difficult to fit in; I spoke funny and was just an awkward adolescent. Although it was around this time I turned to an eating disorder for comfort, it was shortly after that I discovered alcohol was a source of comfort for me as well.

At thirteen, I was hanging out with older kids who liked to drink and smoke, and I finally felt like I had found people who accepted me. I managed to graduate high school and moved out on my own at age seventeen; during the next several years, I got heavily addicted to drugs and constantly moved and changed jobs. At age twenty-three, I went to my first treatment center; a couple of treatment centers later, I found out I was pregnant with my first son. I managed to stay sober during most of this pregnancy but never made a firm resolution to change my life.

When my son was seven months old, I was arrested for possession of heroin with a minor in the car. To this day, I feel like one of the arresting officers was my guardian angel. He allowed me to call my mom to come get my son; I spent several days incarcerated at the Rice Street jail in Atlanta. When I got out, I remember the shame that I felt when my mother wouldn't even let me hold my child due to poor life choices. However, she allowed me to stay at her house to go through Cobb County drug court. I thrived in drug court and managed to stay sober for five years; my life was amazing. Unfortunately, I lost focus on what was important to me and got involved in a toxic relationship. During this time, I had a severe back injury, and just like that, I forgot I was a drug addict and started taking pain medicine.

I went to court and lost the custody case, and my oldest son was relocated to New York. This was the saddest day of my life, and I had to feel every ounce of pain without drugs; I wanted to run. I decided to stay for 24 hours and see how I felt. I woke up the next day, willing to stay and fight for my life by the next day.

My mom had custody of my youngest son and was very firm with her boundaries. I was not going to reunite with him until I finished the program. On June 15, 2018, I transitioned from The Extension and slowly reunited with my youngest son. My life was good, but unfortunately, I rested on my laurels and found myself in

*"As time went on, I started to see a little bit of light; it was seeing the Alumni come back and share their stories of hope with us ladies."*

Eventually, the doctor caught me abusing the pain medicine and cut me off. I had been off the heroin for seven years, but I knew it would help with my sickness, and so my addiction was off in full force once again.

Then, I found I was pregnant with my youngest son. I would love to tell you I stopped using immediately; it would be a lie. I was so afraid of losing the baby if I stopped using or DFCS being called on me, so I continued to use up until the day he was born. My son was in the hospital for six weeks tapering off the drugs. This was the most shameful thing that I had ever been through, and it brought me down a very dark road.

On September 14, 2017, I walked through the doors at The Extension. I was utterly defeated, homeless, my kids had been taken away from me, and I had very little hope of recovery. I didn't want to be there, but I also didn't want to be anywhere else; the truth was I didn't want to exist any longer. The first week I was in treatment, I was served custody papers to have my oldest son relocated to New York. I was devastated, but I knew if I left, I would get high, and there would be no hope of any relationship with him. As time went on, I started to see a little bit of light; it was seeing the Alumni come back and share their stories of hope with us ladies. I had a wonderful counselor at the time. She was the first person I ever truly trusted. I was able to get gut-level honest with her about some stuff that happened to me as a child and a teenager. She helped me work through some of the most traumatic events that I had never discussed with another human being.

trouble again; it was for a short time, but it almost cost me everything that meant anything to me. I quickly reengaged in meetings and started to get back into therapy and give back to the women at The Extension.

A couple of years later, I have full custody of both my children. My oldest son came to visit me last Christmas, I made amends to him, and he asked to come to live with me. My youngest son has autism, and I get to show up for him daily, help him transition through life, and show him that he has a mom who loves him and will not leave him again. I recently signed up for school, starting in January. My passion is to help people, especially children. Sobriety has given me the life that I never knew existed, and I owe a big part of my sobriety to The Extension.



# Divine Intervention



**TRICIA ROBERTS**, THE EXTENSION'S NEW CLINICAL DIRECTOR AND DIRECTOR OF THE MEN'S PROGRAM, found her passion and her calling working in the addiction recovery field. Addiction had impacted Tricia's family for generations. Then, when working in juvenile drug court, Tricia witnessed patterns of addiction and family dynamics that she recognized and could relate to. Tricia knew then that was the population she wanted to work with: the adults, more often than not the men, who could change the entire family dynamic by addressing their own past traumas and addictions.

Tricia's niche is in residential treatment. "It's so much more intensive and impactful than what happens in outpatient programs." When she learned The Extension was hiring a clinical director, Tricia made the leap of faith to take this next step in her career. As with any life change, she felt the combination of excitement and apprehension as her first day approached. Little did she know, she would soon receive a sign that she was on the right path.

**BYARD** BEGAN A SUCCESSFUL CAREER AS A NURSE IN 1987. He was earning a great living, working in the surgical suite of a local hospital. "But I also partied a lot...alcohol, cocaine...and then I went full throttle," explained Byard. He points to his obsessive and addictive thinking patterns as driving him deeper and deeper into drug culture. Within a few years, Byard was selling drugs and ultimately found himself behind bars.

"I had four months in jail to do nothing but sit and think and pray. I knew I needed to change, but I was overwhelmed and didn't know how." While incarcerated, Byard met two men who had been to The Extension and encouraged Byard to seek help there. Skeptical, Byard thought "if The Extension is so great, why are you two in here?" His fellow inmates shared they had relapsed during a weekend pass away from The Extension and were full of regret. "It works if you're ready and willing to do the work," they explained.

Byard was willing, and he was ready. He applied to The Extension as soon as he was released and stayed for 14 months. "The difference is there is something greater there - the energy of the place, the positivity. They made me feel like they cared about me, and it made me want to work hard at my recovery and to change." Byard believes entering The Extension was the best decision he's ever made.

## TRICIA

One weekend in 2021, before starting at The Extension, Tricia became very ill and was admitted to Northside Cherokee Hospital. Diagnosed with appendicitis, Tricia learned she'd need emergency surgery. Visitor restrictions due to COVID meant Tricia was on her own. "They wouldn't let my husband back with me. I was so sick and scared to death," recalls Tricia. One night during shift change, Tricia's new nurse came to introduce himself. "Hi, I'm Byard, I'll be your nurse tonight," he said.

*"Who knew that God uses appendicitis to bring people together?"*

## BYARD

When it was time for Byard to transition out of The Extension, he was offered a job as a resident manager of Harmony House, a transitional home for men coming out of incarceration with nowhere else to go. Soon, he became inspired to become a certified addiction counselor, which then led to multiple positions working with dual-diagnosis patients. "I saw first-hand how mental health and addiction go hand-in-hand," explains Byard, "and I realized I wanted to get back into nursing and to work in mental healthcare."

In 2017, Byard enrolled in an intensive nursing re-entry program through Kennesaw State University and was required to complete 180 clinical hours before having his license reinstated. "They put me in the ICU at Kennestone Hospital, the busiest unit" recalls Byard. "It was intense, but I stuck with it." Then in February 2021, Byard began as a nurse at Northside Cherokee Hospital. Although hoping to eventually transition to the hospital's mental health wing, he began in the surgical unit, just as he had at the beginning of his nursing career.

## TRICIA

Tricia began making small talk with her new nurse. "We talked about life, our philosophies, he was just very cool," recalls Tricia. When Byard asked what she did for a living, Tricia explained she worked in addiction recovery and would soon be starting a new job at The Extension. Taken aback, Byard shared that he had gone through The Extension, that it saved his life, and that he still sponsored men in recovery there. He went on to say he'd heard they had just hired a wonderful new clinical director, and he wondered when he'd meet her. "It was confirmation that I was doing the right thing,"

Tricia recalls. "Who knew that God uses appendicitis to bring people together?"

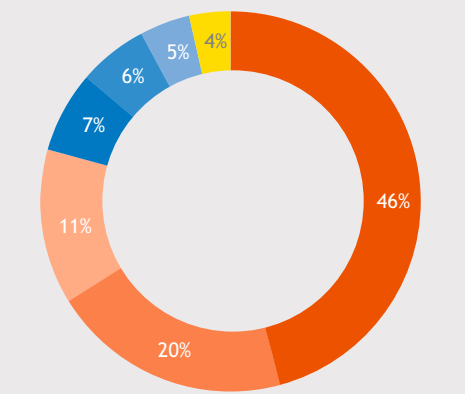
## BYARD

Byard also believes meeting Tricia that night was divine intervention. "*It's a God thing*, as we say at The Extension." Today, Byard has realized his vision for combining his skills and experience in mental health and addiction recovery by working on the behavioral health floor of Northside Cherokee. "I was once on the road to destruction and barreling down that road pretty fast. Now I am able to share my experience with others and to give them hope." Byard wants people struggling with addiction to know that The Extension really works. "It gives a person a new chance at life. It allowed me to become a productive member of society who wants to give back."

## TRICIA

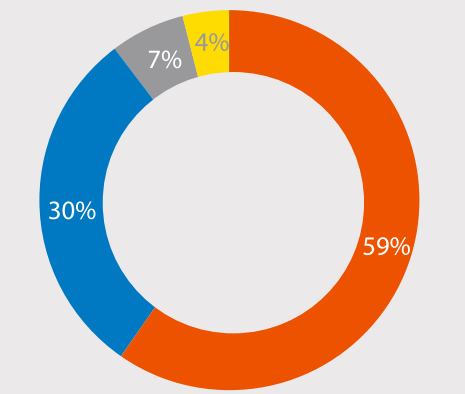
It's now been six months since Tricia joined The Extension and to her, it already feels like family. "There is unconditional love and genuine care and concern here," she explains. She continues to be inspired by the transformations she witnesses in clients. "We take their picture at intake, and it amazes me that even in a relatively short time—30-45 days—the difference you can see in these men. Their color changes. They gain much-needed weight. Their confidence level is up." The spirit of defeat, of hopelessness, of hitting rock bottom is replaced with hope, a belief that they are worthy of love and respect. "The difference at The Extension is the love and connection our clients have with the people around them. That's The Extension, and you're not going to find that anywhere else."





Source of Funds

- Government grants ..... \$ 1,172,570
- Government grants (restricted for COVID-19 relief) ..... \$ 518,277
- Private contributions... \$ 284,988
- Investment & other income ..... \$ 172,937
- SBA Loan Forgiveness grant ..... \$ 151,400
- Client service fees..... \$ 130,450
- Non-cash donations \$ 106,932



Use of Funds

- Housing & counseling services for men..... \$ 1,171,262
- Housing & counseling services for women... \$ 607,974
- Management & general \$ 143,260
- Fundraising ..... \$ 77,894

2021 Financials\*

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents .....	\$ 485,812
Government grants receivable .....	\$ 332,098

RESTRICTED ASSETS

Cash .....	\$ 962,041
Accounts receivable.....	\$ 4,127
Investments .....	\$ 124,726
Total current assets .....	\$ 1,908,804
Land, buildings, & equipment (net of accumulated appreciation)...	\$ 2,000,189
<b>Total assets .....</b>	<b>\$ 3,908,993</b>

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts payable.....	\$ 22,922
Accrued expenses .....	\$ 33,915
Mortgage payable .....	\$ 41,092
Total current liabilities .....	\$ 97,929

LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

Mortgage payable .....	\$ 330,329
Total liabilities.....	\$ 428,258

NET ASSETS

Without donor restrictions .....	\$ 2,162,356
With donor restrictions .....	\$ 1,318,379
Total net assets .....	\$ 3,480,735
<b>Total liabilities &amp; net assets .....</b>	<b>\$ 3,908,993</b>

\*For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021



The Solution for Homelessness & Addiction

theextension.org



Building Solutions

THE DEMAND FOR THE EXTENSION'S LIFE-SAVING SERVICES CONTINUES UNABATED. Unfortunately, we must turn away hundreds of men and women each year who reach out for help due to a lack of space to welcome them.

In 2020, we started a new journey to expand our current footprint and increase our capacity to serve the community. The Extension has launched *Building Solutions*, a capital campaign that will fund the construction of a new dormitory on our men's campus. Through the *Building Solutions* campaign, the organization will gain a 22,000-square-foot, 56-bed facility with meeting rooms, recreational areas, and a cafeteria. This growth will represent a 70% increase in the number of men who will have access to the life-saving solutions offered at The Extension.

You can make a gift online today to support The Extension's programs or to fund the *Building Solutions* campaign by visiting [theextension.org/donate-now](https://theextension.org/donate-now) or calling us at 770-590-9075.

STAY TUNED FOR FUTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE *BUILDING SOLUTIONS* CAMPAIGN!

CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS:

Kim Gresh  
Owner and President, S.A. White Oil Company, Inc.

David Schwickerath  
Vice Chair, The Extension  
CEO, Westbrooke Financial LLC



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CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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Lockheed Martin Skunk Works

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Former Governor of Georgia  
Principal, The Barnes Law Group, LLC

Shelley Elder  
Board Member, The Extension  
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Council for Quality Growth

Michael Unger, MD  
Psychiatrist, West Cobb Psychiatry

Penny Warren  
Community Volunteer

The Solution for Homelessness & Addiction





Georgia Department  
of Behavioral Health  
& Developmental  
Disabilities

# From Our Leadership

Our 2021 year was not without challenges. Yet, as we reflect on the past 12 months, there is much to celebrate. We continued to serve the community despite the obstacles presented by COVID-19. We hired our first Clinical Director who, in a few short months, has already earned the love and respect of our staff and clients. We transitioned to an electronic medical records system, which has given us a new level of efficiency in our day-to-day work. We embarked on a very successful capital campaign that has brought our vision for expanding our men's campus closer to fruition. Last but not least, we are blessed with talented clinicians and counselors who bring the best of themselves to work every day; it is their level of passion and commitment that has empowered us to serve 3,500 individuals and counting over the life of the organization.

However, there is still much for us to do. We continue to feel the effects of the pandemic, including unprecedented levels of mental illness, economic distress, and substance abuse throughout our local community and in our nation as a whole. Yet, as you've heard us say before: The Extension exists not because there is a problem, but because there is a solution. We are proud to have been a part of the solution for alumni like Eli, Byard, and Danielle, as well as the hundreds more we have the privilege of serving each year.

If you are already a donor to The Extension, please accept our heartfelt thanks. We want you to know that we are committed to being mindful stewards of the resources you have entrusted to us. If you are new to The Extension, we hope you will consider supporting us. We could not do this work—could not transform lives, reunite families, or re-instill a sense of hope and faith in men and women who have hit rock bottom—without the investment of our community. The lives that are saved and the transformations taking place at The Extension each and every day could not happen without you. **YOU are the difference.**

*Skip Harper*

Skip Harper  
Board Chair

*Tyler Driver*

Tyler Driver  
Executive Director

**TO SUPPORT OR LEARN MORE ABOUT THE  
EXTENSION, PLEASE VISIT [THEEXTENSION.ORG](https://theextension.org)  
OR CALL 770-590-9075.**

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Criminal Justice,  
Kennesaw State University

**Michael Unger**  
Psychiatrist, MD,  
West Cobb Psychiatry

## SENIOR LEADERSHIP

**Tyler M. Driver**  
Executive Director

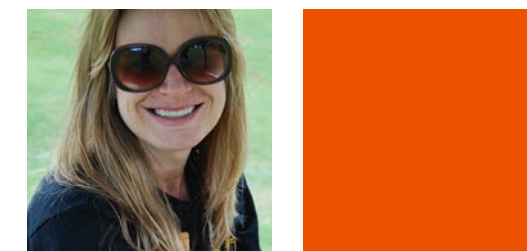
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Director of Administration

**Renee McCormick**  
Director of Community Relations

**Tricia Roberts, MA, LPC, NCC**  
Clinical Director/  
Men's Program Director

**Cher Randall, BS, CADCI, CAMSII**  
Women's Program Director

**Jillian D. Bradfield**  
Director of Quality Assurance  
and Regulatory Compliance

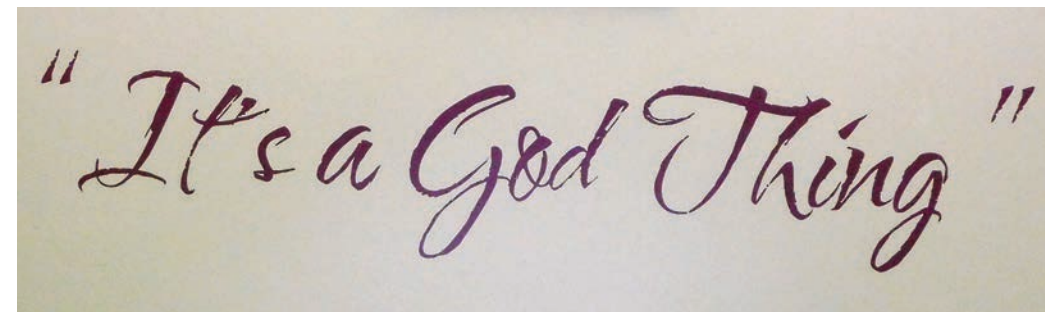






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1507 Church Street Extension | P.O. Box 793 | Marietta, GA 30061

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