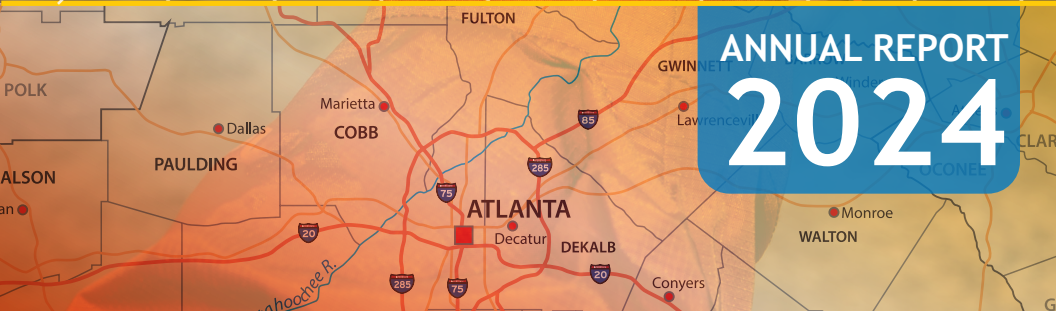




the  
EXTENSION

# EXCEEDING THE STANDARD



ANNUAL REPORT  
**2024**

*It's worth taking  
time to reflect on  
where we've been  
(and where we could have gone)*

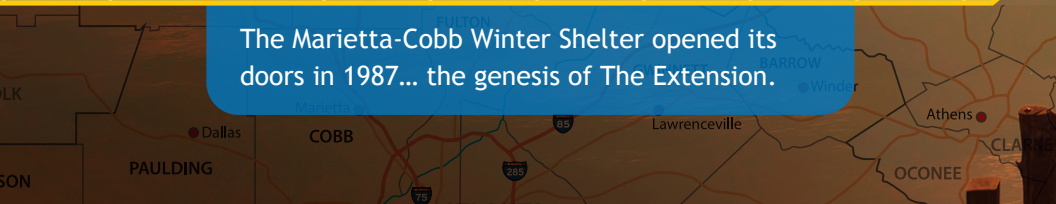
*and where we are  
going now.*

*That reflection clearly points to the uniqueness of the organization and the singularity of the path we've traveled. There is simply no other organization that I am aware of that has done what we have done, and by consequence none that have our potential to do what we can do going forward.*

*- Tyler M. Driver, Executive Director*

 **1987**

The Marietta-Cobb Winter Shelter opened its doors in 1987... the genesis of The Extension.



# LATE IN 1987,

as the last of the fallen leaves were crushed under his footsteps, a man named B.R. Hogan made his way to the bleachers of a local high school football stadium. Those were his last steps, taken just hours or perhaps minutes - maybe just moments before he took his last breath.

Shortly after his body was found the next day, word spread. The first question asked was how did he die? Next came a far more compelling question: how did he live? We don't know much about Mr. Hogan, but we do know that he died in a way no one should, and with great sadness in their hearts, many in the community felt that perhaps he lived that way as well.

A commitment to life was the community's response to Mr. Hogan's death. The Marietta-Cobb Winter Shelter opened its doors in 1987 to anyone threatened by the cold.

Since the first day our organization existed, we have continually stepped up to serve our community, ever evolving and growing into the place that was so desperately needed. Our timeline shows just how often we've taken the leap of faith into the unknown to do what we knew was right- to exceed the standard of care given to those who are so often overlooked and underserved.

Join us in walking through the timeline of our organization's development and the trajectory that keeps us on the right path forward.



## 1995

AS THE WINTER CAME TO A CLOSE THAT YEAR, we took the top bunks off of our Korean-war surplus beds and with little more than a dream and a commitment to see it realized we kept the last of our winter shelter guests who would match our commitment to them.

We obtained a grant to hire a part-time counselor and began to build a program that forever tied the organization's potential to that of the people we serve.

# EXCEEDING THE STANDARD OF CARE

Though we started with humble beginnings, today our program meets the most prestigious standards of addiction treatment care. As we continue to grow and expand our services, we keep raising the bar of treatment standards in our program.

The Extension helps clients begin to face the problems at the root of their substance use disorder in a loving and supportive environment. Our ASAM level 3.1, CARF accredited, evidence-based treatment program is divided into three phases, with group psychotherapy and psychoeducation, and individual counseling and case management tailored specifically to the needs of the clients.

Every client's individualized service plan includes benchmarks for success and is reviewed as needed. We offer a rich curriculum of Life Skills classes – from parenting to personal finance, and we are committed to helping clients establish a solid financial footing by requiring them to maintain employment after the first month in our program. We also ensure that clients take financial responsibility for any children they have parented, regardless of whether child support has been court-ordered or not.



**COMPLETED CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUILDING** next to our existing building, bringing the number of men we could serve to 47.

Every new advancement and certification is a manifestation of our belief that all people are deserving of life-saving care, regardless of their ability to pay.

## HERE'S HOW WE'VE GROWN:



**CARF ACCREDITATION** - The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities is an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human service facilities. Accreditation from this body reflects our commitment to deliver safe and effective services and continually improve our performance.



**PROVIDING MEDICAL CARE** - Addiction comes with many physical side effects including teeth degradation, liver damage, infection from unclean needles, and more. We added a Registered Nurse to our care team to help treat our clients from every angle while in our care.



**FAMILY SERVICES** - One of the issues that our individuals face after transitioning is rebuilding trust with family members. With generous funding from the Amerigroup Foundation, we responded by creating a space in our program for loved ones and family members to rebuild relationships. Family events, education, and therapy are all vital aspects of the support we provide.

# EXCEEDING THE STANDARD OF COMMUNITY

*"I transitioned on April 9, 2017, and began sponsoring ladies that were currently in the program. Over the past four years, I got to go back and be a part of Sister's in Sobriety, lead a small group, chair meetings, and be a part of other women's journeys. [Recovery] was never meant for us to do it alone — it is a "We" program."*

— Shaanon, Alumna

Our counselors strive to provide cultural and trauma informed care based on each individual's needs, but we can't do it alone, volunteers are vital to supporting our work. Churches, civic groups, businesses, employment partners, and more dedicate their time and resources to ensure the success of our individuals. Through resource drives, services projects, teaching life skills, mentoring, and providing dinner, it's not just about putting food on the table. These selfless acts show our clients, maybe for the first time, that once you are willing to put the needs of others before your own, a pathway to peace and contentment can be revealed.

We are constantly inviting the wider Cobb County community to join our work, and they answered the call! This year we had:

- over 50 church partners
- an average of 23 nights per month of dinner provided
- an average of 210 volunteers served dinner per month
- 416 total donors, 113 of which were first time donors

*"My favorite thing was eating dinner with the volunteers... I felt so much unconditional love... I began believing that I was someone worth loving"*

— Tessa, Alumna

 2009

**OPENED OUR 20-BED WOMEN'S FACILITY**, the Barbara J. Crafton Center. This program filled a huge void in the community by serving the women who need it.



Our Board of Directors also provide valuable and diverse insights and help guide us towards the next right thing. They use their professional skills and networks to open new doors and usher in growth.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Schwickerath, Chair  
 Shelley Elder, Vice Chair  
 Douglas Anderson, Secretary  
 Tammy Guelfo, Treasurer  
 Carla Jackson, Member at Large  
 Kim Gresh, Member at Large  
 Skip Harper, Past Chair

Amy Adams  
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 Greg Stone  
 Sasha Ugi  
 Mike Unger, MD



# The Extension was a ray of light in my dark world.

*It opened up a way for me to change who I was inside. The Extension gave me an opportunity to learn new coping skills so that I can live by spiritual principles. Through The Extension and working a practical program of action I have completed the program and have turned my whole life around.*

*Today I am an honest, trustworthy man. I recently got married to the love of my life that miraculously stood by me and we are raising our daughter in a happy healthy home as a family. I have learned to rely on God and put others first in my life. I can say that The Extension has been vital in recreating my life and reconnecting me with my family. I am extremely grateful today for The Extension. The Extension has given me a chance to live and be a father, husband, and friend. Most importantly, The Extension has given me a chance to live!"*

*- Shawn, Alumni*



2018

**WE EXPANDED YET AGAIN** by offering clients who were nearing completion of the program a chance to live off-site, while continuing to receive services at our men's and women's facilities.



# EXCEEDING THE STANDARD OF GROWTH

There is never a shortage of demand for our services, but after receiving nearly 3,000 pre-screen assessments in 2022, we knew there was a greater need we were called to meet. In 2023 we completed construction on a 22,000 sq ft expansion of our men's campus. There were those who doubted our ability to raise the \$7 million necessary, but our faith wasn't diminished.

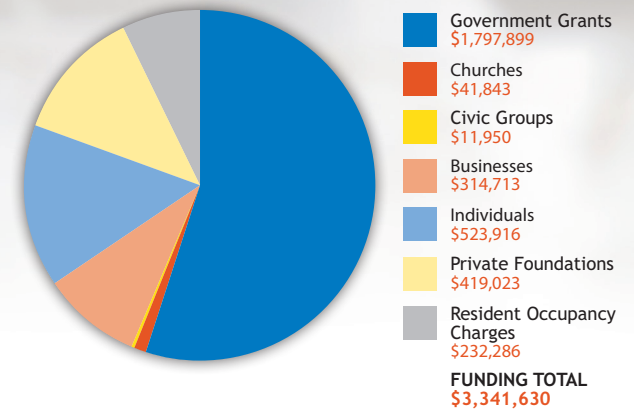
We decided to keep moving forward knowing the future was uncertain and completed our Capital Campaign in 11 months, with 70% of donors making their first gift ever.

Today we've expanded unapologetically with more staff, clinicians, and capacity. We defied the odds once set against us and continue to grow our program wider and reach further than ever. We aim higher, dig deeper, and set our sights on new ways to exceed the standard.

## IN 2024 WE HAD:

-  **3,714**  
Pre-screen Assessments
-  **174**  
Clients Admitted
-  **64**  
Transitions

## FUNDING SOURCES



## 2023

New building is complete with 52 beds, a commercial-grade kitchen, fitness center, and multipurpose classrooms, allowing us to grow bigger and go deeper with our proven evidence-based treatment.



## 2024

We look to the future to expand our services and spread our mission to those who need it most.

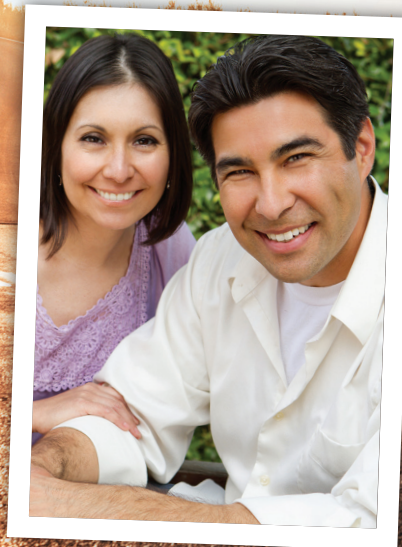


# Let's be clear;

*our goal is not a self-determined destination,  
a magical place where everything is ooey goey sweet,  
where all challenges have been overcome.  
Our constant goal is to be on the right path.  
We're not going to get somewhere and stop.  
Our faith comforts, but it also compels.  
So where are we now?*

# We are in motion between where we needed to be in the past and where we will need to be in the future!!

*- Tyler M. Driver,  
Executive Director*



**the EXTENSION**  
The solution for homelessness & addiction





the  
**EXTENSION**

*The solution for homelessness & addiction.*



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