



David's Story of Hope

I HAD 6 YEARS CLEAN AND SOBER, AND THEN I TURNED SEVEN YEARS OLD AND HAD MY FIRST DRINK. I started to drink heavily in high school and got into hard drugs in my 30s. In 2019 I spent a few months in Cherokee County Adult Detention Center and it was there that I heard about this place called The Extension. I was accepted into the program and was told there was a bed available waiting for me when I got out.

I was released on the Friday of Labor Day weekend and walked all 19 miles from Cherokee County down to Church Street Extension. When I got there I found that everyone had already left for the long weekend so I had to sleep in the Wal-Mart parking lot until Tuesday morning when staff got back.

My counselor at the time was Tony Stanley, and he's been a huge part of my recovery. He taught me things about my addiction that I never would've known. He inspired me to stay in recovery and planted the seeds that eventually lead me to come back to work here. When I graduated in 2020, due to COVID restrictions, I didn't get to have a transition ceremony and campus was closed to the public. I didn't get the chance to come back until 2021 when restrictions were loosened. That's when I started to think about working here, but there were a lot of hurdles I had to jump through. At the time I hadn't gotten any clinical certifications so I didn't think I was qualified, but our Director of Administration, Stephanie Glover really inspired me to push through and go for it, which I'm incredibly grateful for.

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I started as a part time Resident Technician and pretty soon after I was a full time RT. I loved that position because I didn't have any interest in the clinical side of recovery at the time. But while I was working that job I ended up learning a lot from our Program Director at the time, Trish. She pulled the curtain back and I learned what it meant to meet our clients where they are.

That has been one of my biggest lessons so far. We're all here for the same reason, but my story isn't their story. You know, I have trauma and this client has trauma, but I don't know what they went through to get here. So keeping that in mind and knowing that no one raised their hand on career day and said, "I want to go to The

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Extension for 12 months so I can get sober!" You have more compassion for the variety of attitudes you encounter. Some people don't want to be here but thought it would be a better option than serving time, but the reward is seeing the change in people where suddenly they want to be here and learn and grow. Of course, you can't force it and our program isn't one-size-fits-all, so our goal is to get them in recovery no matter if it's here or somewhere else, but you'd be amazed at how much a person can change here.

The Extension is a very special place. We have hundreds, now thousands of alumni, and we're talking about a real transformation that impacts each of those families and communities. That ripple effect of recovery has enormous potential. I consider myself lucky to have both experienced that transformation first hand, and to play a part in those transformations today. Our staff and leadership are also a huge reason why I love working here. Tyler, our Executive Director and

Stephanie, our Director of Administration are two amazing people who really understand how recovery flourishes.

I've worked at other residential facilities and the difference is night and day. Most of those programs are 30, 60, or 90 days, which is really only the very beginning of the journey. Our program being long-term means we really get to dig in and rebuild a strong foundation on recovery. As someone who has been around here for a long time, I can honestly say that our program is better today than ever before. Now, we have Family Services, a trauma therapist, and our counselors have certifications out the wazoo- none of that was here when I was a client.

I'm proud that we can offer all of these resources to our clients today because I know what a difference they make. Even when I first started working here in Admissions, there were a lot of people that we couldn't take, maybe because they had diabetes and didn't always



have insulin, or PTSD from combat, or even depression or anxiety. We just didn't have the capacity for those other diagnoses, but today we have nurses and a psychiatrist who can help relieve those issues while our clients are here and working on their recovery. The heart of the program has never changed though, we're still the same brotherhood that's always been here; we just get to help a lot more people now.

I'm proud to be an alumni of The Extension. It's like being a fraternity that you're proud to be a part of, but then you think about it a little more and think "who would want to be part of a treatment center fraternity?" But I really enjoy Power Hours when I can go and seeing everyone continue to grow. Whether it's the job, the marriage, the child, the house, it makes you proud to see the people around you get out there and do great things.

My own relationship with my kids has grown a lot since I was a resident here. It's been 6 years now, and they've been able to understand what I was going through. I'm grateful that recovery makes an impact on everyone in your life. I've learned that if you don't work for your recovery, it's not going to work for you. 100% of recovery is to first stop putting yourself in messed up situations and then to have a solid network to lean on. So if you implement both of those right there, you're going to be ok.



ON THE BALL

🔦 KNOCK OFF EARLY

Not a full day affair!

🔦 BRING YOUR TEAM

Colleagues, or top clients – 6 players per bay!

🔦 NO GOLF EXPERIENCE NEEDED

No equipment, no funny shoes!

🔦 BRING THE FUN

We encourage costumes, company swag and decor, golf themed dress!



We are excited to return to TopGolf Midtown for our annual golf tournament fundraiser, presented by CorkHoward Construction and SA White Oil Company! Mark your calendar for Thursday March 5th 1-4pm!

No experience golfing? No problem! No fancy shoes required, and costumes are encouraged! Just bring your colleagues, clients, or friends- and bring the energy!



We'll have tournament style golf games led by TopGolf Pros and a Silent Auction with something there for everyone!

Ready to practice your swing for a good cause? See below for sponsorship opportunities and registration details!



Please post at your church or place of business. Thanks!

HELP OUR HARVEST!

Visit our Amazon list to see what we need most:



ONLINE:
Use the QR code to find our Amazon List



IN YOUR OFFICE:
Clearing out office supplies? Donate 2 inch binders, spiral notebooks, pens, highlighters, and paper!

AT YOUR CHURCH:
Compete with other Sunday School classes or Small Groups:
Canned goods vs. Starches vs. Instant meals vs. Breakfast foods

Email Betsy@theextension.org or call 678-410-7520



Thank you to **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** for consistently and faithfully serving our residents!

And to **JACK GODBEE** for going above and beyond, exemplifying servant hearted leadership!

Make a donation to The Extension: SUPPORT SOBRIETY

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

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- I would like someone from The Extension to contact me.
- I made an online donation at www.theextension.org

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Tyler M. Driver, Executive Director

A member of our staff or Board of Directors would love to come to speak to your group about issues related to homelessness, addiction and recovery. Give us a call at 770-590-9075.

The Extension | 1507 Church Street Extension | P.O. Box 793 | Marietta, GA 30061 | 770-590-9075



Tyler's 36 YEARS of Service

OCTOBER 2025 MARKS 36 YEARS WITH OUR FEARLESS LEADER AT THE HELM!

Would you honor Tyler's service with a one-time or recurring \$36 donation?



Scan the QR code

Leave a quick comment for him too!

Tyler is certainly fearless and the driving force that has brought us to become the leading recovery program in Cobb.



If you ask him how we got here, he'll tell you stories starting from a pot of soup that lived on the stove and metal Vietnam-era surplus bunkbeds to today... a licensed and CARF accredited provider, an expanded men's campus, and new programs like Family Services, Medically Assisted Treatment, and The Extension Inside. And the best part, a thriving network of OVER 1,200 Extension Alumni!

Tyler has always led us to the next right thing, and we know his vision for recovery in Cobb will continue to guide us in transforming lives!

"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 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. Let's be clear; our goal is not a self-determined destination, a magical place where everything is ooey gooey 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 confronts, but it also compels. So where are we now? We're in motion between where we needed to be in the past and where we will need to be in the future."

— Tyler M. Driver



LEADERSHIP COBB



IN SEPTEMBER WE WERE HONORED TO BE INCLUDED AS A PART OF THE LEADERSHIP COBB CLASS OF 2026'S SOCIAL SERVICES DAY!

This diverse group of 54 local leaders came to our Men's Campus to learn about the services we provide through our program as well as the ongoing opioid crisis in Cobb County. Lisa Crossman from Cobb and Douglas Public Health presented on how the opioid crisis has evolved over time in our community and demonstrated how to use naloxone in an overdose situation, providing vital and potentially life-saving information as the class's leader Eddie Wade of Croy Engineering shared about the time he was able to administer the

Narcan he kept in his glove compartment to an individual experiencing overdose while paramedics were on their way.

We also lead tours throughout the building and gave the class an inside look at what recovery at The Extension looks like. We believe that the opposite of addiction is connection, and thus community is intentionally woven throughout our program, inviting both recovery networks and wider community groups to participate in the transforming

effects of recovery. These leaders learned that Substance Use Disorder is a disease that does not discriminate against any walk of life, and therefore we all have the opportunity to be a part of its solution. They learned that our solution involves a myriad of clinically proven evidence-based practices, and are led by highly trained staff members, many of whom have the lived experience that resonates deeply with our clients.

The class also had the opportunity to hear from a panel of our alumni and ask them the honest and hard questions on their mind. Our alumni shared their stories of how they turned despair into resilience, and resilience into success. As business owners, college graduates, homeowners, and leaders in the recovery community, our alumni gave thoughtful insight into the struggles and triumphs our clients experience and how the class members can support and advocate for recovery in their own lives and fields.

We are incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to share this experience with a group of people who have the potential to take action and make change in Cobb County, and together we can multiply the ripple effect of recovery throughout our community.





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The solution for homelessness & addiction

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Marietta, GA 30061

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THANK YOU TO
GENUINE PARTS
FOR HOSTING OUR
WOMEN FOR A DAY OF
LEARNING & INSPIRATION!

