



# OXFORD EDGE

Quarterly Newsletter of Oklahoma Oxford Houses

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## A Message From The Editor:

**BY: ASHLEY MANGES**

Across Oklahoma, the start of September means the commencement of college football season. Legendary OU Coach Barry Switzer proclaimed, "People don't know what it means to be champions. Oklahoma invented it."

Mr. Switzer is talking about football, but we know that in our homes, we must be champions of recovery every day.

In September, we champion the Recovery Movement during National Recovery Month.

Houses illuminated porches with purple lights to tell the community WE DO RECOVER. In late September, we traveled west to the 2022 World Convention in Seattle, Washington, with 85 delegates proudly in attendance.

Returning from Seattle, we geared up for the holiday season. From house Halloween parties to the Goblins on Grand Community Event in Ponca City, OK. Members were giddy and extra spooky!

November, we gathered in Arkansas for our 6th Annual Leadership Workshop. Members from across the state shared knowledge, experience, and gratitude around the bonfire.

Returning home, we gathered together around the table for Thanksgiving dinners. We shared food, gratitude, and love. Ever reminded that we only get Today; tomorrow is never promised.

# NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

SKY BRIDGE  
OKC

## WE DO RECOVER

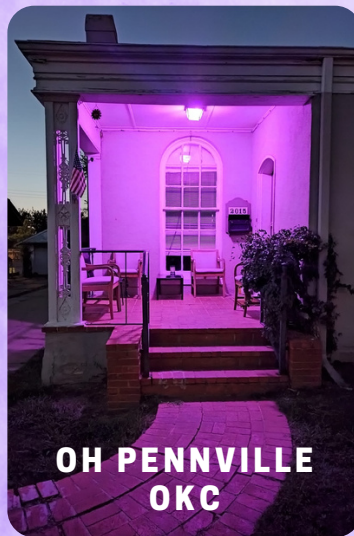
BY: ASHLEY MANGES

September, we recovery loudly in celebration of National Recovery Month.

Houses in Central Oklahoma illuminated their homes with purple LED light bulbs to show the community "WE DO RECOVER."

OKC is home to a thriving and very active recovery community, and our members attended each recovery month event and helped spread the word of Oxford House.

From watching the Scissortail Park Sky Bridge glow purple at Prevention in the Park to walking up the state capitol steps during the 21st Annual OCCARTA Recovery Walk, Central Oklahoma Oxford House Members proudly shared their stories with community members in hopes of reaching people who need a way out of their old life and into a new life of recovery. We are here to light the way.



OH PENNVILLE  
OKC



OH VOYAGE  
OKC

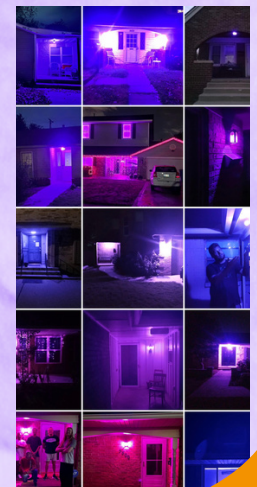
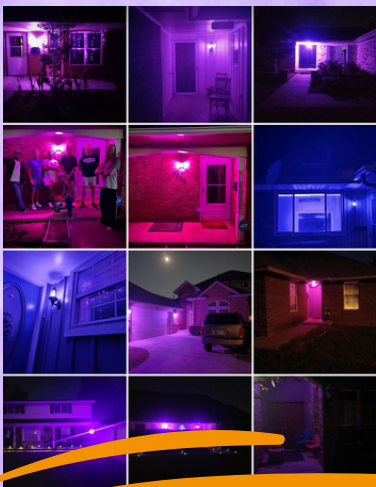
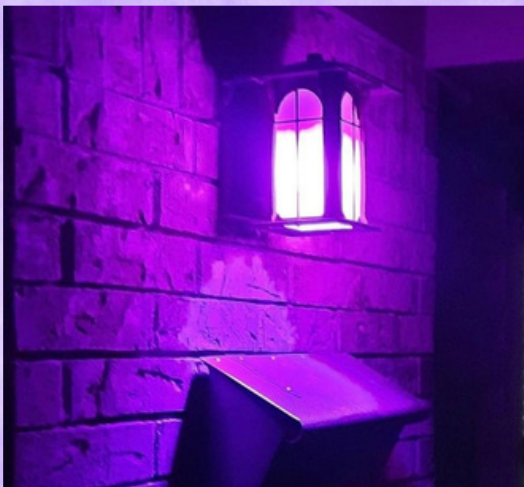
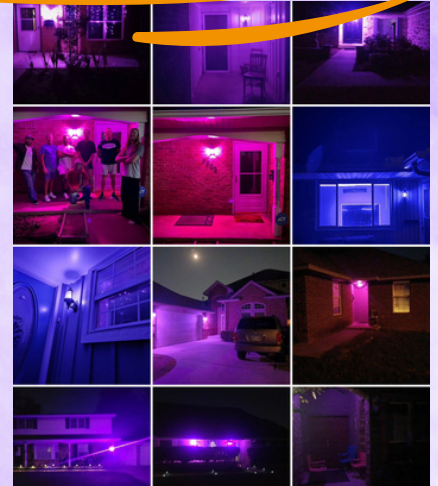
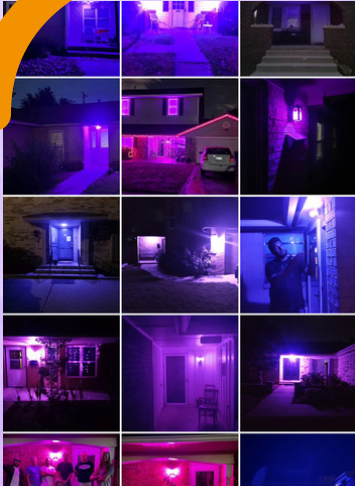
**"Hardships often prepare ordinary people  
for an extraordinary destiny."**

**C.S. LEWIS**



OH BRIAR MEADOWS  
NORMAN

# GIVE LIGHT AND PEOPLE WILL FIND THE WAY -ELLA BAKER



# PREVENTION IN THE PARK OKLAHOMA CITY



2022

# OCCARTA Recovery Walk OKLAHOMA CITY



# Vinita, OK OH Ascent

## Big Things in Small Town OK

BY GARY BUCHANAN

I traded in city lights for a starlight canopy. I gave up the sound of sirens for cattle and cicadas. I had the privilege of escaping the crowded city streets for a simpler life in small-town America.

In April of this year, I began my career with Oxford House, Inc and was tasked with moving to Vinita, OK, to open Oxford House Ascent. I had been in Tulsa my whole life, so the change excited me. As soon as I arrived in Vinita, I immediately fell in love with the town. I was amazed by the small culture and the connection they all shared. It felt right at home.

Since then, Oxford House Ascent has become home for nine men who are serious about their recovery. They have been growing and becoming new people as they have pursued this new life. The support network from the various recovery fellowships has linked arms with Oxford House Ascent and successfully created a foundation for these men to build their new lives.

In September, Oxford House Ascent had an open house event. We had a fantastic turnout from the community and other Oxford Houses. There was live music, BBQ, and fellowship. Those from the community consisted of churches and recovery fellowships, all of whom came to show their support for Oxford House and the vision of providing housing and rehabilitative support to recovering addicts and alcoholics.



# 2022 WORLD CONVENTION



SEATTLE, WA

## Rooted In Tradition

BY: ASHLEY MANGES

The definition of Tradition in the Oxford English Dictionary is "The Transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation or the fact of being passed on in this way."

Years ago, brave men believed in what they were creating in the first Oxford House in Silver Spring, Maryland. Their idea was novel and very special. They made the traditions that we live by, and since 1975 they have been passed down. House to House, Member to Member. Upholding the Traditions.

This year 85 delegates from Oklahoma proudly represented our state.

We laughed, we cheered, and we learned new things. We remembered with reverence the Great Paul Molloy.

Without him and the other members of that first house, we would not be here today. We have ever reminded of the importance of Always Counting our Blessings, not our Grievances. We will carry the Oxford House Way of life with us forever, just like Paul would have wanted us to.



"A love for tradition has never weakened a nation, indeed it has strengthened nations in their hour of peril."

-Winston Churchill



**"Count Blessings;  
not Grievances."  
-Paul Molloy**



2022

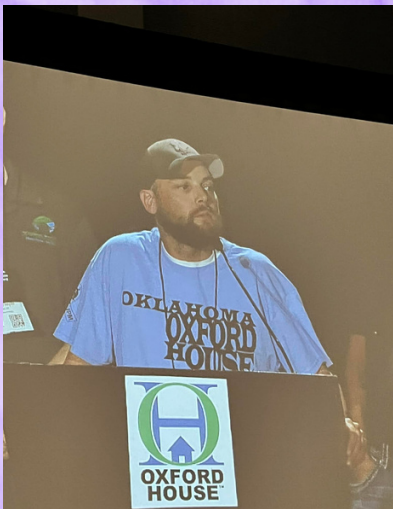
- Former OK State Comptroller
- Former Chapter 6 Chairman
- Seasoned Member: Lived in several houses for support
- Opened a new men's house in August 2022

**JAKE ELLIOTT**

2022 World Council Resident Nominee



**Oklahoma Oxford Strong**



# SPOOKY TIMES ACROSS OK





# PONCA CITY

## There's No Place Like Home

BY PAIGE GILES NWOK ALUMNA

Oxford House of NWOK is involved in a community event called Goblins on Grand that takes place right before Halloween every year in the Ponca City Downtown Area.

This was the 2nd year NWOK Oxford Houses participated in this event. Members pass out candy and spread the word about Oxford House.

Ponca City Main Street hosts Goblins on Grand, the area's best family-friendly Halloween carnival, each year in downtown Ponca City. Traffic is closed on Grand Avenue, so families can enjoy games, bounce houses, a booth to buy glow-in-the-dark swag, the witches' dance, food trucks, and more than 40 vendor booths for trick-or-treating.

This popular community event has become a staple downtown for families in Ponca City and surrounding communities and draws some of the largest crowds to our downtown each year. The children, community, and ourselves love this event every year!



# 6TH ANNUAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING BEAVER LAKE, AR



Leaders aren't born, they are made. And they are made just like anything else, through hard work. And that's the price we'll have to pay to achieve that goal, or any goal.  
—Vince Lombardi



**LEADERSHIP TRAINING'**



# GATHER & GIVE THANKS





# Trail of Lights



## Tis the Season To Be Of Service

**BY WHITNEY ANDERSON**

This year has been great in many ways. What better way to show our community appreciation than giving back? The houses in Ada, OK, came together and have done just that.

The local soup kitchen serves up to 300 people daily. We showed up and helped prepare a scrumptious dinner of cabbage and ham, roasted potatoes, and salad. We served the community and shared our experiences with the homeless. We also stayed after to clean and stock the shelves with donated goods.

It truly warms your soul to step out and be of service not only within Oxford House but in our communities.

We also hit the lottery! Oxford Houses in Ada signed up and were picked to volunteer at the booth at The Trail of Lights. We had more than 700 people donate that evening. The Ada Chamber of Commerce will donate 20% of the earnings from that night to our chapter early next year. We are looking forward to volunteering annually at this fantastic event.





# MEET OUR NEW OUTREACH WORKER



## DeAndre Chippis NEOK - Metro

My Name is DeAndre Chippis, and I am a grateful recovering Alcoholic. My sobriety date is August 14th, 2020

I got an acceptance letter through the NEOK Re-Entry program while in DOC custody. Upon release from DOC, I moved into my first Oxford House on August 14th, 2020.

In my first house, I became the Men's HSC for the chapter and started moving into other houses to get them on track. I became the Men's HSC for chapter 1, soon after the Vice-chair for chapter 1, and eventually became the state chair.

The life I live today through an active recovery program is beautiful. Oxford House allowed me to be of service to others, and it then gave me a career path. As an employee, I hope to continue on a legacy that came before me.



# NORTHWEST OK MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



## Josh Shreveport

Oxford House Strategic Ch. 10 Vice Chair

### **What was your life like before Oxford House?**

When I was in my active addiction my life was chaotic. In and out of jail, and prison since I was 18. The longest I was ever out was three months before I was arrested again. Always on the run with warrants. I never felt like I could slow down. Every time I got in trouble the crimes I committed seemed to be getting worse. And all for a high, that was never enough. I slowly started to lose my family's support and they were done with me. With no one to turn to my life was at an all-time low.

### **What is your sobriety date? When did you move to Oxford House?**

My sobriety date is 3/16/21. I moved into Oxford House on 1/27/22.

### **How has Oxford House been beneficial in your life?**

Thanks to Oxford House and the 12 steps my life has turned around completely. My family is proud of me again. They want me home for the holidays. They don't worry about if I'm ok and if I'm going to be here tomorrow. I got a great job and can make taxable money. I have responsibility and accountability. Two things I didn't know I needed so badly till I got here.

### **What's your advice for the Newcomer?**

My advice for the newcomer is to get involved with Oxford House. Go to chapter meetings and fundraisers and have a good time. Hopefully, you'll get drawn in the way I did and realize that this is what life's about. Helping others and staying sober.



# SOUTHERN OK MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



## Ross Watanave

### Oxford House Cadmar - Ch. 9 Chair

#### **What was your life like before Oxford House?**

My life before Oxford house was unmanageable at best. I had no sense of purpose in life. I was on a fast track to losing my kids and a visit to the penitentiary.

#### **What is your sobriety date? When did you move into Oxford House?**

My sobriety date is 10-1-21, and I moved into Oxford house Cadmar on 3-7-22

#### **How has Oxford House been beneficial in my life?**

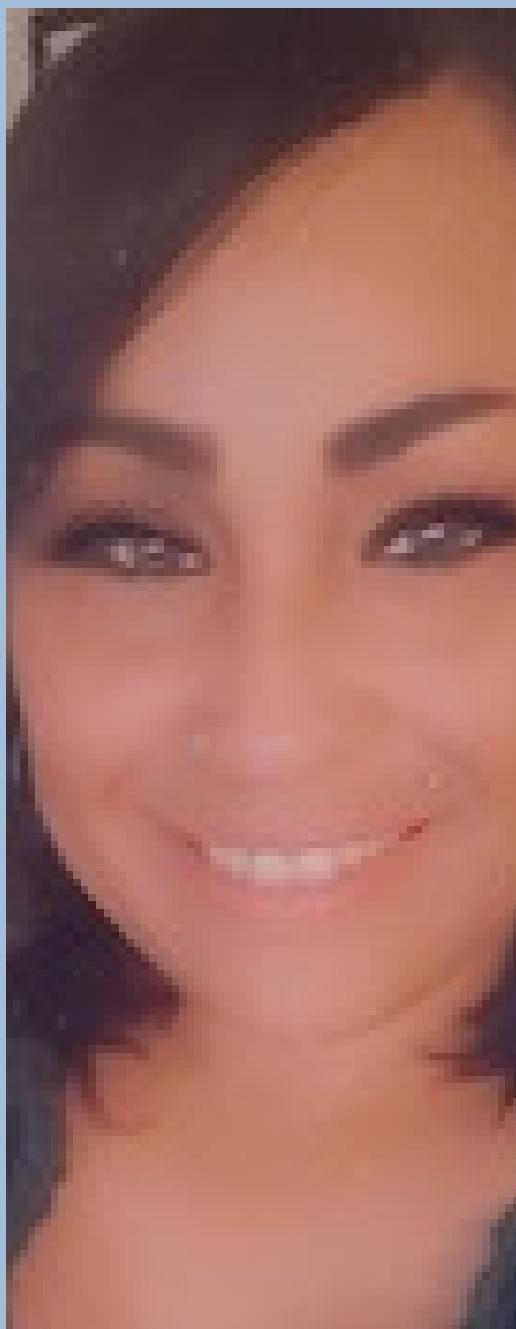
Oxford House has shown me where I belong, it has given me purpose. I have found that through Oxford house I found a heart for service. From the moment I walked in the door, I have been shown nothing but compassion, support, accountability, and love. I have been taught that I can be of service and that I can be dependable as well as trusted.

#### **What is your advice for the newcomer?**

My advice to the newcomer is to take advantage of all Oxford house has to offer. You're cheating yourself if you don't get involved and meet the amazing people that make us what we are. Don't ever be afraid to be heard. "Because unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better... it's not." - Dr. Seuss



# CENTRAL OK MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



## Takelia Troupe

Oxford House Oakhurst 2, Ch. 4 Chair

### **What was your life like before Oxford House?**

I drank at a young age but nothing took hold until I was 18 and drinking and using took the steering wheel in my life for the next 19 years.

### **What is your sobriety date? When did you move into Oxford House?**

My sobriety date is December 11, 2021, and I moved into Oxford house in March 2022.

### **How has Oxford House been beneficial in your life?**

I needed a safe place to come home to. I knew I needed to be in a place that was safe for me to grow and to surround myself with like-minded people that had what I wanted. Today I come home to structure, accountability, and the support that I have been missing for a large part of my life.

### **What advice do you have for the newcomer?**

Understand that growth is uncomfortable. Getting where u need to be and sustaining that life is hard and uncomfortable. Oxford Houses and the environment is set up for you to succeed in life. Following simple guidelines, you can build a foundation for yourself. One day you will be able to pass that same knowledge on to the next addict suffering and looking for what you have. The confidence and joy it brings to be able to share what was so freely given to you.



# NORTHEAST OK MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



## Ryan Miller

Oxford House Regime - State Chair

### **What was your life like before Oxford House?**

Before Oxford House, my life was riddled with violence, drugs, incarceration, loss, and chaos. It lacked genuine connection with anyone and any real purpose.

### **What is your sobriety date. When did you move into Oxford House?**

My clean date is July 10, 2019. I was released from prison on June 9th, 2020, and moved directly into Oxford House Regime.

### **How has Oxford House benefited your life?**

Oxford has taught me a whole new way of life in my newfound freedom with structure and accountability through a fellowship of men and women on the same goal-driven path, who relate to my life experiences, and has taught me how to function in my roles of father, friend, brother, son, uncle and even in a society as a whole.

### **What is your advice for the newcomer?**

Perspective is everything. Focus on the positive things and your goals. Always reach out, build relationships in recovery and work the steps with a sponsor.



# SPECIALTY COURT GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT



## Jenny Weinstein

Oxford House Frontier - Enid, OK  
Garfield County Drug Court

"Oh, the places you'll go", do you remember Dr. Suess's book? I think back to that book often. My dad gifted me one when I graduated from high school in 2010. Little did I know the places I would go would not be where he imagined his little girl going.

After high school my addiction started to really take off, I had chosen not to go to college, and I was finally free! I went straight into full-blown active addiction I lived to get high, I was hopeless. Quickly my heroin and meth use led me to homelessness and a life of crime. One year after being released from prison I was on my way back.

I decided I didn't want to go back and with a glimmer of hope for a different life I sat in my cell and wrote a letter to my judge pleading with him to let me in the drug court program. I stated I had tried everything else, treatment had not worked, the prison had not worked and I needed to try something different.

It was not an easy road. I relapsed several times, I was horrible at time management and kept hanging around people who were still using. I was eventually sent to treatment; it was there I realized. I am not a bad person,

I can let people in. Through my 12- Step program, the guidance and structure of the drug court program, and the positive role models like Misty Hahn I have found in my beloved Oxford House Inc., I have had a psychic change. The promises are coming true in my life today and I am growing into the woman I always knew that I could be. It wasn't easy, but it was worth it.

# OXFORD HOUSE EVOLVE

Oxford House Evolve is a five-bedroom, two-bathroom house located in Durant, Oklahoma. It is a home for nine men seeking a safe place to stay to recover from substance use disorder.

Phone: (580) 745-5518

Email: [evolve@oxfordhouse.us](mailto:evolve@oxfordhouse.us)



# OXFORD HOUSE REPLICATION

Oxford House Replication is a five bedroom, three bathroom house in Norman, Oklahoma. It is a home for 8 women seeking a safe place to stay to recover from substance use disorder.

Phone: (405) 857-2572

Email: [replication@oxfordhouse.us](mailto:replication@oxfordhouse.us)

# OXFORD HOUSE PEACHTREE

Oxford House Peachtree has MOVED! The new house is a four-bedroom, two-bathroom house in Ponca City, Oklahoma. The charter has also been changed to include 1 W/C bedroom. It is a home for 7 women seeking a safe place to stay to recover from substance use disorder.

Phone: (580) 749-5337

Email: [peachtree@oxfordhouse.us](mailto:peachtree@oxfordhouse.us)



# OXFORD HOUSE REIGN

Oxford House Reign is a six-bedroom, 3-bathroom house in Tulsa, Oklahoma. It is a home for 12 men seeking a safe place to stay to recover from substance use disorder.

Phone: (539) 867-2879

Email: [reign@oxfordhouse.us](mailto:reign@oxfordhouse.us)



# NOW WE'RE COOKING



Salsa de Rojo



Tomatillos

## Ashley's Aubuelita's Salsa de Roja (Mexican Red Salsa)

### Ingredients

4 Tomatillos

3 Roma Tomatoes

3 Jalapenos (use serrano peppers for extra spicy)

1/4 yellow onion

6 cloves of garlic

1 heaping tablespoon of Knorr Caldo de Pollo (chicken bouillon)

salt, pepper, garlic powder, onion powder to taste

1 can of tomato sauce (optional)

1 can of tomato paste (optional)

### Instructions

Wash your hands and all produce.

Remove husks from tomatillos, cut off the tops of your peppers, peel garlic cloves, peel, and cut a 1/4 of onion.

Fill a large pot with cold water. Put all produce in the pot and bring it to a boil.

Turn heat down to medium and continue to cook until tomatillos & peppers turn bright green.

Remove pot from heat and allow to cool.

Add all cooled ingredients to a blender with 1/2 cup of the water from the pot.

Add all seasonings from above. **SEASON WITH YOUR HEART!**

For Chunky salsa pulse the blender a few times

For a thin salsa blend for several minutes on high.

Is salsa too spicy? Tame it down with 1 can of tomato sauce or tomato paste.

Ashley Manges



**Special thanks to  
our partners!**



**OKLAHOMA**  
**Mental Health &  
Substance Abuse**