

PRESS RELEASE

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JOHNSON CITY'S FIRST WOMEN'S OXFORD RECOVERY HOUSE OPENS SEPT. 1

Nine months ago, several area women sat around a table for coffee at Earth Fare, wondering how they might help with the very real problem of the lack safe, affordable sober housing for women in Johnson City. Since then, their efforts have paid off. Oxford House Appalachia (OHA) will officially open its doors on September 1, 2012, making history as the first of its kind in the state east of Nashville. The house will accommodate up to 6 women who have recently completed drug and alcohol treatment, and who desperately need a fresh start.

Oxford House is a concept in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. In its simplest form, an Oxford House describes a democratically run, self-supporting and drug free home. This publicly supported, non-profit 501(c)3 corporation is the umbrella organization which provides the network connecting all Oxford Houses. The first house opened in 1975. Since then, this model for sober living has been successfully replicated. Numbering in the thousands across the country, these houses offer a safe environment to lay the foundation for a sober life. They are always rented, self-run, and self-supported by their occupants. OHA chose this recipe for success for the Johnson City house, because of its impressive 65 to 80 percent rate of effectiveness in preventing relapse to alcohol and drugs, and its elegantly simple, cost-effective formula for start-up and operation.

A rented house for six might not seem like much. But to OHA, this is just the beginning. Thanks to a groundswell of community support, especially from local businesses, this idea is now a reality. Three women have already moved in, leaving room for three more. However, there is still work to be done. While fundraising efforts are ongoing, OHA still needs support. Several events are planned for September and October, and donations of furniture and household items are still needed. Additionally, OHA is accepting membership applications for residency.

To find out more about how you can help, how to apply for residency, and the upcoming fundraising events, visit Oxford House Appalachia on Facebook for contact information.

OHA hopes that this first house will lead to several more in the Tri-Cities to fill a great need, not just for women, but for all those who need it.

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