

# GSM Alumni Corner

## Celebrating Joey's Journey

In the spirit of celebrating the resilience and success of our alumni, we're thrilled to share Joey's remarkable recovery journey.

Joey recently achieved a significant milestone by obtaining his CDCA certification, a testament to his unwavering commitment to personal growth and helping others. He's also celebrated six and a half years of sobriety, serving as an inspiration for all who follow. Joey embarked on this journey at a young age, making his achievements all the more remarkable.

During his time at Good Shepherd, Joey was a dedicated Store Manager and House Manager, contributing to the well-being of fellow residents.

Today, he continues to inspire by sharing his story, founded on trust in God and the recovery process, with our clients.

Joey embodies hope and the true essence of recovery. His journey reminds us that with dedication and unwavering faith, transformation and success are not only possible but inevitable.

Congratulations, Joey, and thank you for being a beacon of hope for all of us. We couldn't do it without your support. Together, there's hope, healing, and transformation.



## Please Consider Supporting Our Mission.

We are incredibly grateful for our supporters of Good Shepherd Ministries. As this year comes to a close, we are thankful for all the goals we have reached and for the programs we are able to provide our clients, with much thanks to you.

Please consider donating and becoming a partner for GSM by filling out the form below and returning to us. Happy New Year!



First and Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **Donation Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- I wish to make a monetary donation in the form of:
- Paypal (send to XXemail)
  - Enclosed Check (payable to Good Shepherd Ministries)
  - Credit Card  MC  Visa  Discover  AMEX

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

You can also donate via our website at:

**TheGSM.net**

Mail Checks to: 1115 E 3rd St, Dayton, OH 45402

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

# GSM News



## Fostering Hope through Service Work: Strengthening Our Community and Good Shepherd's Life Recovery Program

At Good Shepherd Ministries, we believe that the power of service extends far beyond our physical facilities and programs. Service work is not just an act of kindness but a cornerstone of our mission to rebuild lives, restore hope, and nurture recovery. We are proud to share the profound impact of service work on our community and how it profoundly supports the men in recovery within our Life Recovery Program.

Service work is a beacon of hope that shines through the darkness of addiction, despair, and isolation. It is the thread that weaves our community together, fostering unity, empathy, and shared responsibility. As the men in our Life Recovery Program rebuild their lives, the act of giving back becomes an essential part of their journey towards healing and sobriety.

### Why Service Work Matters:

- **Healing through Helping:** Service work serves as a vital component of recovery by providing individuals with a sense of purpose and accomplishment. When our residents engage in acts of service, they experience the intrinsic reward of making a positive impact on the lives of others. This shift from a self-centered focus to a community-centered approach plays a crucial role in rebuilding their self-esteem and self-worth.

- **Connection and Community Building:** Service work nurtures a sense of belonging and connection to the broader community. It enables our men in recovery to experience firsthand the support and appreciation of those they are helping. In turn, this sense of belonging fosters positive relationships and provides a network of support that is indispensable in the recovery process.

- **Breaking the Stigma:** By engaging in service work, our residents become ambassadors of hope, showcasing that recovery is possible. Their actions help break the stigma surrounding addiction and inspire others to seek help and support, ultimately contributing to the overall well-being of our community.

### The Impact on Our Community:

Service work is a powerful force that not only transforms the lives of those in recovery but also elevates our entire community. It creates a ripple effect of goodwill, demonstrating the strength that comes from unity and compassion. The positive transformation of individuals in recovery is, in turn, the transformation of the community itself.

Good Shepherd Ministries is deeply thankful for the incredible support we receive from our volunteers, donors, and the wider community. Your engagement in service work amplifies the impact of our programs and provides the men in recovery with a real-life context for their transformation. We are grateful for the volunteers who tirelessly contribute their time, energy, and resources, making our community a better place for everyone.

The heartwarming stories of recovery, like those of Michael and Abel Corser, illustrate how service work is not just a one-way exchange but a reciprocal relationship. It is through service that the men in our Life Recovery Program gain a renewed sense of purpose and community, which fuels their journey towards lasting recovery.

Together, we build a brighter future, one act of service at a time. Good Shepherd Ministries remains committed to providing the resources and support necessary for recovery and healing. We are honored to be a part of this transformative journey and invite you to join us in fostering hope, unity, and restoration in our community.

Thank you for being a part of our mission. Your support and involvement make all the difference. Together, we are truly making a positive impact and bringing light to the lives of those in recovery.



## Families in Recovery at the Shep!

In the heart of Dayton, Ohio, two remarkable individuals, Michael and his son Abel, are celebrating milestones of recovery that stand as inspiring testaments to the strength of family bonds and the transformative power of faith and support. Michael, aged 49, and his son, Abel Corser, aged 24, are residents of Good Shepherd Ministries, a haven of hope and healing for those seeking recovery from addiction and the strength to rebuild their lives.

Their journey toward sobriety has been a challenging one, rooted in a childhood marred by addiction, instability, and pain. Growing up, Abel was thrust into a role he never asked for: protector, mentor, and caretaker of his younger brother. In an environment riddled with substance abuse, domestic violence, and constant upheaval, Abel was their family's steadfast anchor.

Michael struggled with addiction, drifting from job to job, incarceration to rehab, and at his lowest point, even resorting to self-harm to feed his addiction. After a particularly dire situation, Michael made the courageous choice to seek help at Woodhaven Treatment Center in Dayton, Ohio, which was a considerable distance from Holgate.

While Michael embarked on his journey to recovery, Abel, still a young teenager, took it upon himself to care for his brother and himself. He juggled the responsibilities of attending high school, playing football, and ensuring his younger brother attended grade school, all while living with a half-sister who had her own set of challenges.

The separation was not easy for the Corser family. For four months, there was no contact with Michael, and in the meantime, Abel made the choice to join the Army and serve his country. However, military life brought its own set of difficulties, leading Abel down a path of substance use to cope with the weight of his traumatic childhood.

Reunited through sobriety, Michael and Abel's relationship took on a new dimension. With Michael settled in Good Shepherd Ministries' sober living, he was able to guide Abel toward recovery. The program director, Shawn, provided invaluable support, helping Abel access treatment. Today, both father and son are on the path to recovery and healing.

Michael, now four years sober, has found stability in his life, working for the CLC Church, and he is in the process of seeking custody of his younger son. His determination and sobriety have become an unwavering source of inspiration for Abel. Abel's journey towards recovery mirrors that of his father. After an honorable discharge from the military, he turned to his father for support. With Shawn's help, Abel successfully completed treatment and entered the Good Shepherd Life Recovery Program. He is now approaching one year of sobriety, thanks to the grace of God and the invaluable support of Good Shepherd Ministries.

Today, their lives are on the mend, and both father and son are grateful for the support they have received. Michael has found a stable place to call home and is working towards reuniting with his younger son. Abel is embracing a new purpose, assisting children at his local church every Sunday, and finds true happiness in his journey to recovery. They both hold hope that their mother will find the strength to overcome her struggles with addiction and regain her life.

The family's story stands as a testament to the transformative power of faith, support, and the unbreakable bonds of family. Their gratitude extends to the countless individuals who support Good Shepherd Ministries, as they have provided the foundation for this incredible transformation. Together, Michael and Abel are living proof that recovery and redemption are possible for those who dare to believe in a brighter future.



*A huge thank you to all the hard work from our recovering brothers and sisters.*

## GSM Highlights: A Year of Impactful Community Service in 2023

In 2023, Good Shepherd Ministries embarked on a mission to make a meaningful difference in our community. We are proud to share the incredible community service projects and collaborations that have left a lasting impact on the lives of many:

- **28 Tons of Trash Removed:** Our dedicated team worked tirelessly to remove 28 tons of trash from various areas, contributing to a cleaner and healthier environment for all.
- **15 Tons of Tires Removed:** Tires, often an eyesore and environmental hazard, were responsibly disposed of, totaling an impressive 15 tons.
- **40 Alley-Ways Cleaned:** Our efforts to clean up 40 alley-ways enhanced the safety and aesthetics of our neighborhoods.
- **Grass Cutting Program:** We maintained 35 abandoned properties, transforming neglected spaces into welcoming areas for the community.
- **Helping Those in Need:** Over 25 individuals with disabilities and the elderly received valuable assistance with house chores, grass cutting, and home improvement, improving their quality of life.
- **Ruskin Park Restoration:** In a heartwarming community effort, we restored Ruskin Park near Xenia Avenue. This included painting the picket fence, removing 4 dump trailer loads of brush, and installing 8 yards of mulch to create a vibrant and inviting space for all to enjoy. **Had our biggest volunteer youth group over 140 volunteers traveled from Georgia to Dayton to help on these projects thanks to Christ United Methodist Church.**
- **Community Events:** We hosted 5 neighborhood community events, spreading joy to over 1800 people with food, candy, and holiday celebrations that strengthened the bonds within our community.
- **Collaboration for Raised Garden Beds:** We were able to install and educate neighborhood residents on raised garden beds. This project not only beautified our community but also provided an opportunity for sustainable urban agriculture and increased access to fresh produce. We served several families in the Xenia Avenue East Side area. Thanks to great collaboration with Mission of Mary.
- **Thanks to all of our Supporters & Partners:** including CLC Church, Twin Towers Association, New Hope Church, Christ United Methodist Church, Good Neighbor House, Mission of Mary, MVP Walk-in Showers, McAfee Heating and Air, Greg McAfee and family, and many more.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our partners, volunteers, and supporters who joined us in these endeavors. Your contributions and commitment have made these impactful community service initiatives possible, and we look forward to continuing this journey of transformation and service in the years to come. Thank you for helping us help others.

## Christmas Trees, Firewood, & Tent Rental

Come on down to the fourth annual East Dayton Good Shepherd Christmas Tree Sale. Starting the day after thanksgiving Friday November 24th until Christmas. 6'-8'ft Fraser Firs. Also shop the Good Shepherd Thrift Store. Also, Santa Clause Pictures. Help us help clients for their Christmas for them and their children! Great Festivities, and pictures with Santa! Also, we do except credit cards. 1115 East Third Street Dayton Ohio, 45402, in the big open field, feel free to call if have any questions 513-816-8089.

**Also, call and order your seasoned firewood we can deliver and stack! Also rent our brand new 40x40ft event tent, we set up and deliver for a great price for weddings, family get togethers, etc. At a great price another way to support our great program. Please help us help others!**





# We Need Your Help: Expanding Our Reach and Changing Lives

We are excited to share a remarkable opportunity with our dedicated supporters. Good Shepherd Ministries has received a generous grant from a long-term supporter to acquire a bus for our Feed the Streets program, and we're calling upon you to help us turn this opportunity into a reality.

Currently, we serve an average of 250 lunches daily at our 709 Xenia Ave Recovery House in Dayton, making a significant impact in our community. However, we believe we can do even more. With the addition of this bus, we aim to double the number of daily meals provided, extending our reach and touching even more lives.

This bus won't just be a means of transportation; it will be a catalyst for change and transformation. Many of our recovering brothers have never ventured beyond their city or state, and this bus will open doors for them. We envision using it for sober camping trips, community outings, and an annual mission trip out west to help those in need.

But we need your support to make this vision a reality.

### Can You Help Make This Possible?

The bus will be a game changer for our ministries, allowing us to reach people in high drug-use areas and near homeless camps. With the bus, we can share our stories of recovery and hope, provide supplies, clothing, and more. Some of our clients are peer supporters, ready to offer their unique experiences and inspire hope. They can help connect those in need with treatment and other services that can change their lives.

This project is not just unique; it's an opportunity to be part of something truly special in the Dayton recovery community. We are at the tail end of our project, with just \$13,000 left to raise. This bus will not only help us assist people struggling but empower our clients to be of service to those in need.

### PLEASE HELP US HELP OTHERS.

Your support can make an incredible difference in the lives of countless individuals who are looking for hope, help, and a fresh start. Together, we can reach out and change lives, one meal, one conversation, and one act of kindness at a time.

Thank you for considering our call for assistance. We believe in the power of community, compassion, and change. We invite you to be a part of this journey with us, helping us to serve even more people in need.

With sincere gratitude,  
Good Shepherd Ministries

# Congratulations!

Good Shepherd Ministries has been voted the winner in the 2023 Dayton Nonprofit of the Year Award from Dayton Magazine in the following Category: Addictions/Substance Use Disorder Thanks to everyone who voted and supports us. Just goes to show the great work we are doing and recognition!



Come down checkout new shop mural and parking lot thanks to Christian Life Center & A3L Landscaping & Jon Albrecht. And Ken & Lois Elrich of Solid Blend for the butterfly bench & Julie Riley for painting the bench.

