



## GRATEFUL FOR SECOND CHANCES

I came to the Extension in February of 2013. Before I came to the Extension, I was living a life of disobedience to God. I was drinking very, very heavily, and also using drugs. It had gotten to the point where I had nowhere to go. I heard about The Extension so I decided to go. It took two interviews along with going to MUST Ministries before I was accepted into the program.

all of that I stayed at the Extension and transitioned/graduated.

When I left The Extension, I was still hurting from those tragedies. I lasted about two to three months sober. The pain, and hurt were so unbearable, that I relapsed back to alcohol to suppress the pain. I did not use the tools I was given. I didn't want to talk about my pain; and of course, my

## THE EXTENSION IS THE ONLY PLACE OF RECOVERY I KNOW THAT SHOWS GENUINE

# LOVE.

Once I was accepted into The Extension, it took a some of time for me to catch on. I had never been in recovery. Once I caught on to how recovery works, I excelled. I was working my steps the best I knew how. I was also taking advice and doing what was asked of me. I eventually got a job and everything was going smoothly.

Things were going so well that I was offered a great position of becoming a "houseman" at the Extension. This was a big accomplishment.

As I was preparing to transition/graduate (a year from my entry date), tragedy hit my family very hard. It was something I truly didn't expect. It was January 1, 2014 when I received a call from my mother at 7:00 am. My brother and cousin were killed in a car accident. That turned my whole world around. I was so hurt. I still can't explain those feelings today. As I was trying to heal from that pain, I walked into my room and found a good friend of mine dead. He had committed suicide. Through

drinking got worse. My addiction put me right back in the same spot; like the first time I entered The Extension.

One night, I got on my knees and prayed to God to bring me out of the misery that I had put myself back into.

God answered my prayer. I went to voluntary detox. At the very moment that I walked into Cobb General Hospital, I accepted the first principle, which is honesty. I am truly an alcoholic. While I was in Detox, I called The Extension, which I like to call home. I talked to John and told him where I was and that I needed to come back. He told me to come on in.

I talked to Mr. Jordan and by the grace of God, The Extension accepted me back

— Grateful for Second Chances continued on page 2



the  
**EXTENSION**

*Real Solutions  
to Real Problems*

[www.theextension.org](http://www.theextension.org)

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Comments or questions about this newsletter or any of the functions of the Extension, Inc. are encouraged, please send correspondence to us at P.O. Box 793, Marietta, GA 30061  
Phone: 770-590-9075

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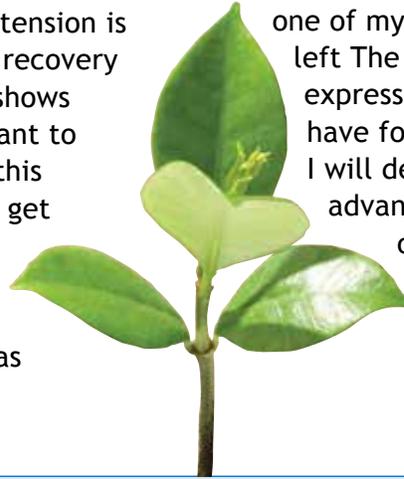
A member of our staff or Board of Directors would love to come to speak to your group about issues related to homelessness, addiction and more importantly recovery. Just give us a call at the number above.

**The Extension**  
1505 Church Street Extension  
P.O. Box 793  
Marietta, GA 30061



*Grateful for Second Chances continued from page 1 –*

with love. The Extension is the only place of recovery that I know that shows genuine love. I want to say “thanks” for this second chance to get my life back on track. This time for good. August 3, 2017 was



one of my best days since I left The Extension. I can’t express the gratitude that I have for this second chance. I will definitely take full advantage of this wonderful opportunity. I want to say thanks again to The Extension.  
– Alex

## BE OUR FRIEND ON FACEBOOK!

Our Facebook page is getting a lot of activity. If you have not had the chance to “like” our page, “invite your friends” to like our page and to “share” all the great pictures, articles and videos that are being posted, please check us out. People are saying great things about us:

*“The Extension changed my life in so many positive ways. Real people offering loving support in a safe and sane environment. You are given the tools you need to maintain and thrive in sobriety. I will be forever grateful for the love and care I received during my stay.”*  
– Leslie

*“This place changed my life. They took me from a hopeless state of mind and body and turn my life around I truly owe a lot to this place and the people who work there as well as the brothers who I’ve met here I love them all.”*  
– Timothy

*“This place showed me a new way to live. A life that I never knew existed. There is no other treatment center like it and I’m forever grateful for finding The Extension.”*  
– Brad

*“Saving lives, one miracle at a time. I have witnessed countless “hopeless” cases become sober, integral, character-filled people with the help of this program. If you or a loved one is struggling with addiction, The Extension is THE solution.”*  
– Tristan

Our Facebook page is a great way to stay informed and to keep up with what is going on at The Extension. You can find our Facebook page at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/The-Extension-Inc-180185961985/>

theextension.org/keepintouch

## LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH!

The Extension is updating its database. You are important to us and we want to make sure that we have your correct information. Please go to our website update page and enter your contact information:

[www.theextension.org/keepintouch](http://www.theextension.org/keepintouch)

Your information is safe with us! The Extension will *never* share **any** of your information with third party individuals or businesses.

theextension.org/keepintouch

# GETTING TO KNOW OUR ALUMNI PRESIDENT

by Renee McCormick, Director of Community Relations

The Alumni Association at The Extension plays a unique and vital role in the recovery of our residents. The Alumni Association was founded over ten years ago and now has over 300 members. Members of the association serve as mentors, sponsors and often surrogate family to our residents while they are in the program and even after they transition. Throughout the week you can find our dedicated and caring alumni, encouraging, coaching, leading and cheering on our residents.

I recently had the opportunity to sit down with our Alumni President Daniel Robinson to talk about his recovery and his role with the association.

**Renee: So Daniel, where are you from?**

**Daniel:** I am a Marietta native. We lived here till I was 8 then moved to Alabama for 3 years and then moved back. We've been here ever since.

**Renee: Was it hard to go through recovery in your hometown?**

**Daniel:** No, I believe that once you decide you are done with drugs and alcohol, you're done. It doesn't matter where you are. It was a little tough, I used to go to "Run Around Sue's" before they tore it down just two doors down from The Extension. I used to go there every weekend to drink. When I first got to The Extension, you could still hear the music on Friday and Saturday nights... that was tough. There are a lot of triggers around here. People I knew, places where I used to get high at. Once my mind was made up though, I was done with it.

**Renee: When was your transition date?**

**Daniel:** June 11th, 2011, it's been 6 years!

**Renee: So how is your life different now?**

**Daniel:** I my gosh!, everything is different! I have my relationships back with all of my kids, I'm married now and employed in a job that I love. I work in the movie industry, building movie sets and TV sets, a job I never dreamed was even out there. They are actually paying me to do something I love to do! It doesn't get any better than that, I get to see famous people and have fun.

**Renee: Tell me about your involvement in the Alumni Association and how long have you been involved?**

**Daniel:** I've been involved with the Alumni Association since I transitioned out of the program and became an official alumni five years ago. Living so close to The Extension, I'm able to stop by a lot

– *Getting to Know Our Alumni President continued on page 4*



and see the guys. I am very involved with all the car washes and the annual Lake Day event.

**Renee: What role did the Alumni Association play in your recovery?**

**Daniel:** Oh, a huge role. Even though I lived right around here, at the end of my drinking, I had lost contact with all of my family, so I really looked up to the alumni as a family. So they played a huge role, Taking the residents out on camping trips, rafting down the river, and just spending time with us meant a lot to me. I considered them my family, I had pushed my own family away so far that they did not and anything to do with me, they didn't want me around. The alumni were my family.

I see so many other guys that come through here that don't have families and they are looking for something to latch onto, to make a connection. The alumni fill that void, until they can reconnect with their own families, we act as mentors sponsors and a surrogate family. We establish lasting relationships that help our guys stay in recovery long after they transition. The activities and special events that we plan for the residents really helps that process. Lake Day this past weekend was a great example of that. People out there were not worried about work, or anything else. They were just smiling, reconnecting with their families and having a good time creating new memories.

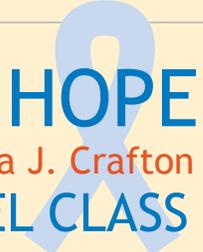
**Renee: Creating new memories?**

**Daniel:** All the memories that we have leading up to getting into The Extension are mostly bad memories. Anything I thought of when I came into recovery was a bad memory associated with my drinking. So, an important part of recovery is creating new good memories with people we care about. The events that we do are planned around creating new good memories. So the alumni play a vital role in that even after people transition out of the program. We are one big family to this day. We still go out to eat together, go to the movies, play softball, we do everything together. I've made lifelong friends. Just like a family, we get to be with each other and watch each other grow.

Now we have someone to talk to about our issues with work, family, etc. It used to be that we would just go drink or get high to try and forget about it. But now we have tools to work with and people to work with us on real solutions and we don't have to do that any more.

**Renee: What are some of the upcoming events that the Alumni Association will be hosting for the residents?**

**Daniel:** We'll have our fall car wash fundraiser and we'll be the taking residents to a Braves game in September. We are really looking forward to the holidays. The holidays are the best! A lot of our residents don't get to see their kids or have not been able to afford to buy them a Christmas gift in a long time or sometimes ever. We partner with the How Place who buys gifts for the resident's kids. The residents then get to pick out gifts for their kids and give it to them when they come to see them. Seeing them hug their kids and all together as a family... that's the best..... That is what it's all about.



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# THE EXTENSION WOMEN'S PROGRAM RECEIVES A SERENITY GARDEN

Many thanks to Cobb County Government EXCEL Program members and all of the businesses who helped to make the new garden at the Women's Extension so beautiful! Volunteers worked countless hours during the summer heat and storms to transform an overgrown section of land into a gorgeous serenity garden for our ladies. The garden includes wooden benches, a beautiful arbor, manicured pathways of pavers and gravel, raised beds brimming with flowers and vegetables, and a fire pit. The project also included a beautiful butterfly mural in the ladies' dining room. Please take the time to come by to appreciate all of the hard work and effort that went into this project. EXCEL is a year-long program of the University of Georgia, Carl Vinson Institute of Government involving management level employees from all departments of Cobb County government. All of us in Cobb are grateful for their dedication and leadership!

*The Garden is beautiful! Excel did an amazing job, they put in much time an effort. We all really enjoy it, and it just makes our home that much more of a beautiful place to live and we are so thankful. It is wonderful to be able to sit outside and meet around the garden. Thank you so much Excel for adding to our beautiful home!*

— Cynthia

*Thank you so much for all you have done for our community. We now have meetings in the Serenity Garden around the fire pit, which is my favorite place to be. A few of us spend time out there meditating as well. The mural in the dining hall is a place to leave our legacy. When we transition and become a part of the Alumni, we put our handprint on the wall to gives hope to the newcomers. Thank you again for all of your support.*

— Trisha

*Just wanted to say thank you so much for all the work y'all put into the garden and the mural in the dining hall. We all love both very much and appreciate it a lot. The garden is beautiful and give our meetings even more meaning than before.*

— Devon

*Thanks ever so much to The Excel Class 2017, for doing such a beautiful job inside and outside of our home. It's a delight to know how much our community cares.*

— Danielle



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

# NEEDS LIST



Copier paper  
Comet, Ajax, etc.  
Coffee & cups  
Commercial mops  
Cleaning supplies  
Laundry detergent  
Peanut butter & jelly  
Bathroom tissue  
Twin sheet sets

Shampoo  
Towels & washcloths  
Shower shoes  
Bars of soap  
Toothbrushes  
Toothpaste  
Bleach  
Instant oatmeal  
Instant grits  
Canned soup  
Tea bags  
Feminine hygiene products  
Socks  
Unopened first aid supplies  
Working washers and dryers  
New pillows  
Sanitary pillow covers  
Light bulbs

Gift cards  
Shaving razors  
Blankets  
Sweatshirts  
Deodorant  
Dishwashing liquid  
Paper towels  
Brooms  
Jackets & coats  
Sugar  
Notebooks & journals  
Pens & pencils  
Copy Paper  
Stocking caps & gloves  
Stamps  
Umbrellas  
Bicycles with helmets  
Lawn & garden tools



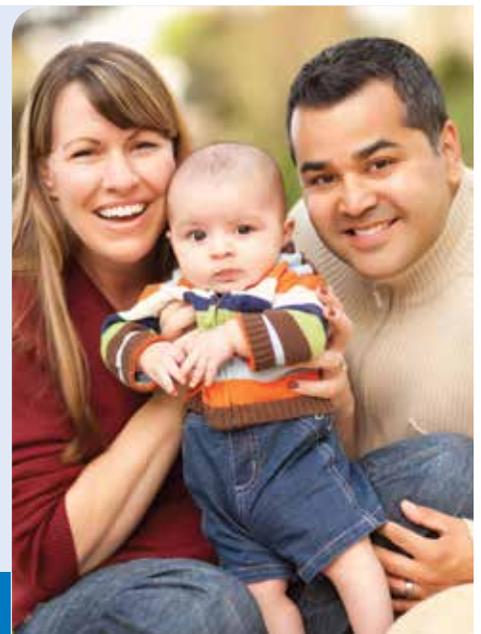
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[info@theextension.org](mailto:info@theextension.org)



*Of course, your financial support is also appreciated!*



# JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FOR THE EXTENSION

Thursday, October 5, 2017 | 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
*at the beautiful*



129 Church St, Marietta, GA 30060 (near the Marietta Square) | **Suggested minimum donation: \$25**

**GREAT BLUES:** Juke Joint Dukes

**GREAT FOOD:** Southern Routes Catering & Truck | Local Craft Beer & Wine

**SILENT AUCTION & INSPIRING STORIES FROM EXTENSION ALUMNI**

## ON THE MENU:

### SMALL PLATE TASTING TABLE

*A self-serve appetizer table for you to enjoy at your own pace*

Roasted GA Vegetable Stack with fresh mozzarella, arugula and sherry vinaigrette  
Crab, Avocado and Heirloom Tomato Gazpacho with jalapeno-cilantro oil  
Mini Pimento Cheese Sandwich Bites

### HOT FROM THE TRUCK

*Visit the food truck to enjoy as many hot tasting portions as you like*

Hickory Smoked BBQ Brisket  
GA Stone Ground Cheddar-Chili Grits  
Crispy Shrimp Po'Boy Sliders with remoulade sauce, fresh tomato and lettuce  
"Down and Dirty" Rice Bowl  
New Orleans Style Fried Rice with Tasso Ham, Chicken and Sriracha

### SERVER PASSED DESSERTS

Peach Cobbler Bites with Chantilly Cream  
Red Velvet Whoopie Pies  
Bourbon Praline Dark Chocolate Truffles



## RSVP Early - Space is Limited!

For more information or to RSVP please go to [theextension.org/30years](http://theextension.org/30years) or call 770-590-9075 and ask for Barb.

**Great Music, Great Food, and a Great Reason to Celebrate!**



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**WE NEED...** We need volunteers to prepare and serve dinner,  
please call 770-590-9075 for details.



## I WANT TO HELP!

Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_  per month  quarter  year

- I would like to be sent a reminder of my pledge.
- I would like someone from The Extension to contact me.
- I made an online donation at [www.theextension.org](http://www.theextension.org)

Please mail to: **The Extension, P.O. Box 793, Marietta, GA 30061**

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