

# Annual Report 2008

"For me, when I was younger, life was always going to get better one day, but that day never seemed to get here. I grew older. I gave up ever feeling like much would change. I thought that was what growing up was—accepting misery, accepting defeat, resigning myself to increasingly lower expectations. I was primed for addiction, and I gave it my all. I suppose that sounds bad, but that's not the worst of it. I got married, had kids. I put them through all of it. Finally, it was get help or die. I went to The Extension. I was honest with them. I told them I wanted help but doubted it would really happen. By that evening I met so many other people just like me; only they were me in the future. For the first time since I was a teenager, I had hope, but this time it was real hope. Fast forward nearly two years and I'm a supervisor at my job now, we have a good down payment saved and we're looking at houses. My kids are doing great, and my oldest may get a scholarship. I am at The Extension every Tuesday and Thursday unless my kids have something going on. I'm the guy now that the new guys can see as their future. I'm proof this place works."

Roger is one of thousands of people that have come to us for help over the years. Nearly all had no where else to go—nowhere else to go but up!

The Extension can't fully be described as a list of services or encapsulated in statistics. It's hope. It's a great opportunity that meets a right choice. It's the two biggest smiles in the world when daddy comes home to his son. It's life well lived.

## The Extension

Our mission is to help restore lives suffering from the devastating effects of substance abuse. We serve the community through a comprehensive, long-term Residential Recovery Program for homeless, addicted men, outpatient counseling and various outreach initiatives, all led by certified and licensed counselors, with the support of a caring community.

We seek to foster a spiritual awakening in those that come to us for help. Through a life-long process of recovery, lives become whole, wounds are healed and new possibilities become evident.



**EXTENSION**  
ADDICTION RECOVERY SERVICES

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“ . . . I don't know. I mean what could I do? I couldn't handle the pressure. I mean a kid; I was just a kid myself. I knew leaving my pregnant girlfriend was wrong, but wrong was all I knew—the only experience I had was doing the wrong thing. Finally I got to The Extension and got help, still getting it actually. I hope to transition in about four months, get married, do the right thing. My son, my girlfriend, heck even me, we're worth my best effort. I can do this.”

## Life Discovered

A member of our Resident Alumni Association described 2008 as “another good year.” The organization shares that assessment. The life-change and the lasting transformation we witnessed this past year gives ample credence that the right combination of attitude and aptitude results in tremendous personal growth.

Men that were once nearly destroyed by their addiction became accountable to themselves, their family and the community. Families consumed by despair discovered hope and an abiding peace. Children that once recoiled from the horrors of desolation and dejection found security and happiness with their world made whole again. When daddy left he took more than a suitcase.

In 2008 we celebrated the reunion of 33 families. That's the discovery of life—not in a biological way but in a way that transcends meager quantifications. The 57 children that experienced daddy coming home discovered life as redemption, life as wholeness, life as joy. That definition works for us.

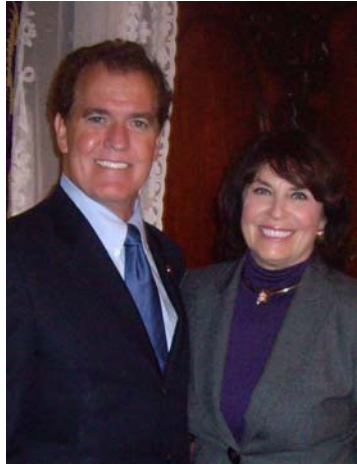
In short, life is more than they ever knew or thought it could be. There's something universal about that realization.

For those that come to us for help, overcoming their addiction is only part of it. Living life on life's terms, accepting a power greater than self, fostering the spiritual awakening that opens the door to every good thing they know—that's the discovery of life in the truest sense possible.

### 2008

- 40 residents completed the program
- 33 men who completed the program reunited with their families
- 75% of those that completed the program reported they maintained self-sufficiency and sobriety during the following 24 months





Honorable U.S. Congressman Phil Gingrey and his wife Billie

“Addiction has affected many people in our community. Nearly all of us know a family who has been devastated by addiction. Even more of us know that helping addicted individuals and their families is the right thing to do. Please join me in helping bring hope to their lives by helping The Extension fulfill its vital mission.”

— U.S. Congressman Phil Gingrey

# Life Pending

The success of our Residential Recovery Program for Men is nothing short of amazing. We are determined to replicate that success in a Residential Recovery Program for Women.

In 2008 we made tremendous strides towards that goal. We’ve embarked on a capital campaign that that has been phenomenally successful, but we still have work to do. We are grateful to have U.S. Congressman Phil Gingrey and his wife Billie serving as Honorary Co-Chairs of the Capital Campaign. With their help—and yours—our goal of providing life-saving and life-changing services to homeless, addicted women will be realized.

The imperative could not be greater. A recent point-in-time count of homeless individuals in Cobb County revealed that 38% of those that were counted were women! We know from our own experience and myriad national studies that addiction is a leading cause of homelessness.

Perhaps most startling is that there is not a program in Cobb for women like the one we have for men. We know that our community must respond to this need. We also know that if there is a place in our heart for homeless, addicted women, there will be a place to serve them.

Please join us in this vital effort to bring life-saving and life-changing services to these women in need.



When renovated, these buildings, totaling approximately 8,000 square feet, will provide long-term residential and program space for 20 women.

Our women’s facility will be located at 130 Holiday Street, in Marietta, with easy access to public transportation and employment opportunities.

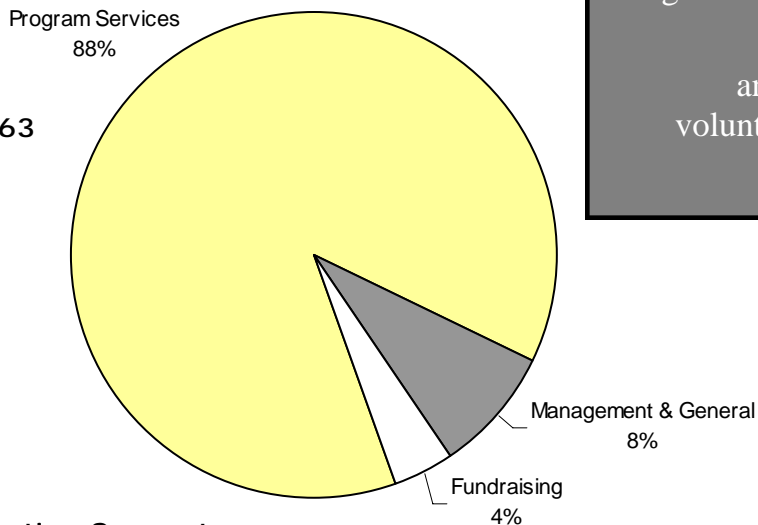


# Life Support

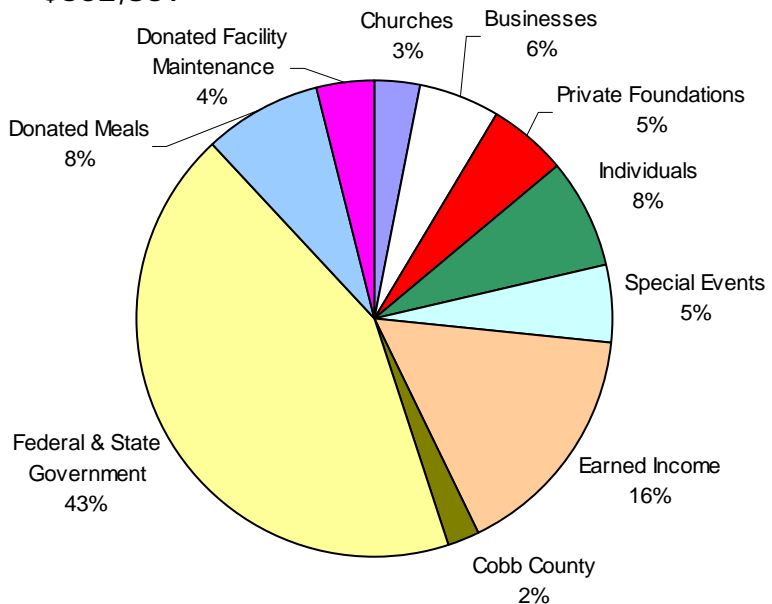
Thankfully, many of us will never know the terrible pain of addiction; fewer still will end up homeless. Just as thankfully, many of us can help those who find themselves separated from their family by addiction and shame. The Extension can help the alcoholics and addicts, and we can help their families, but we can only do it with your support.

None of us really make it on our own. We've all benefited from the love, encouragement and guidance of others. Please share with us your ability to help those in need. We simply can't do this without you.

**Operating Expenses:**  
\$596,363



**Operating Support:**  
\$602,839



“When I first started volunteering, I thought the person being helped was the resident I came there to serve. But I quickly realized that I was leaving with more than I gave. That’s when I understood that there is really no distinction in people when they come together to do the right thing.”

— Michael  
an Extension  
volunteer for over  
eight years

## The Gift of Self

- Over 30,000 meals were served by volunteers during the course of the year.
- Approx. 1,500 volunteers provided nearly 15,000 hours of service at The Extension.
- The value of in-kind donations totaled more than \$125,000.
- There are now over 300 members of The Extension’s Resident Alumni Association.

Many thanks to Tharpe Printing for graciously printing this Annual Report.