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## ROAD TO RECOVERY STARTS HERE

The Extension celebrates 30 years of community support

Sep 24, 2017



Executive Director Tyler Driver and Men's Program Director Robert Jordan talk outside of the men's facility on Church Street Ext., in Marietta. The Extension is celebrating 30 years of recovering lives and restoring families.

Special to the MDJ

The Extension is celebrating 30 years of recovering lives and restoring families. On Thursday, Oct. 5 from 6 to 9 p.m., join the Special Anniversary Celebration at The Brickyard.

The evening will include a silent auction, food, local craft beer and wine and blues entertainment provided by Juke Joint Dukes.

"The Extension provides long term residential treatment to homeless, addicted men and women in our community. We are a state-licensed treatment facility," said west Cobb resident Tyler M. Driver, Executive Director who has worked at The Extension since 1989.

In 1987, the Extension found its roots as the Marietta Cobb Winter Shelter. Driver said a homeless man named B.R. Hogan died from exposure underneath the bleachers of a local high school football stadium. "The community was astounded by that event," he said.

The event was the springboard for establishment of The Extension. "People from throughout the community were determined that such an event would not happen again in our community," he said.

A bigger issue surrounding homelessness soon became apparent.



Trevor Lewis, a case manager with The Extension, talks to a new resident.

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Men's Program Director Robert Jordan helps a prospective resident fill out an application for The Extension.

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“Through the early years providing shelter in those winter months, we realized that homelessness was not so much a problem as it was a symptom of a problem. For most homeless men and many homeless women in our community, that problem was addiction and its causes,” Driver said.

The organization took steps toward providing life changing services to homeless addicted men and women. Today, services include addiction and family counseling, comprehensive life skills programs and anger management programs. “It’s a level of care that isn’t available anywhere else in the state for homeless, addicted people,” Driver said.

The Extension currently houses 47 males and 20 females. “Addiction is really running rampant, particularly for younger folks in our community. We’re not here because there’s a problem. We’re here because there’s a solution,” he said.

The community benefits from the work at The Extension by getting people back into the work force and back to their families and children. “They’re supporting the community. They’re a positive force in the community versus a negative force in their active addiction. It’s an amazing transformation when a person first comes to us having nothing but the faintest glimmer of hope that their life can be different,” he said.



Courtney McClure, right, case manager with The Extension's Residential Treatment Program for homeless, addicted women, talks to intern Christy Hamby.

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“This community has supported our organization and supported our growth. This community is making sure that folks who are homeless and addicted are able to get the help that they need. Thank you to this community for these 30 years. We promise a whole lot more because of the support we receive. The life change has been incredible. We are so very grateful for this community we serve,” Driver said.

A suggested minimum donation at the event is \$25. Space is limited. To RSVP, call 770-590-9075. The Brickyard is located at 129 Church Street in Marietta, near the Marietta Square.