

**THE \$2 MILLION CAMPAIGN FOR
LAKE-GEAUGA RECOVERY CENTERS:
A MESSAGE OF CARE, HOPE & RECOVERY**

I started smoking weed after high school and continued into college until I dropped out. I ended up meeting a girl that was into taking pills so I started as well and it progressed until I was arrested. I went into JTP but kept using and went back to jail. Shortly after getting released I started using heroin and overdosed the first time using it! But it didn't stop me. Eventually, my parents found out and sent me to treatment. I wanted to be sober but ended up relapsing again and went back to rehab but it didn't work. I needed money for my habit and stole my parents TV and was later arrested. The judge gave me the option to go to Lake House, it was at that moment, sitting in jail, that I had a coming to God moment because I was sick and tired of being sick and tired. I admit, I wasn't 100% committed at first but I eventually picked up a sponsor, buckled down and got serious. Towards the end of my time at Lake House I felt I still needed the structure and transitioned to the Water Street House where I was able to continue working my steps, attend my support group and continue my meetings over at Lake House. A friend in AA helped me get started at a local factory where I got interested in welding. I enrolled at Auburn Career Center and started taking welding courses. I recently graduated and have been employed locally since. It was the structure at Lake House that showed me a new lifestyle, how to live and take care of myself, even eating three meals a day. It's where I learned to live again. – Ryan S.

Lake Geauga Recovery Centers...Increasing Access to Care

2021 marks the 50th Anniversary of Lake-Gauga Recovery Centers. Over those 50 years, Lake-Gauga Recovery Centers has saved countless lives just like Ryan's. Lake-Gauga Recovery Centers' mission is *"To promote lifelong recovery from addiction through education, prevention, and treatment regardless of ability to pay."* Lake-Gauga Recovery Centers has continued to offer the ***most effective alcohol and drug residential treatment in Lake and Geauga Counties ensuring no one is turned away*** even during a worldwide pandemic. Since its beginning in 1971, Lake-Gauga Recovery Centers has earned a reputation for its successful outpatient and residential treatment programs addressing substance use and co-occurring disorders. Working closely with local stakeholders and other social service agencies in the community, clients have achieved a ***success rate notably higher than the national average for long-term sobriety.***

Residential Treatment Services...Growing and Changing Needs

More than 20 million people in the United States have a substance use disorder. Across the United States, as the COVID-19 pandemic has collided with the substance use epidemic, experts worry about the vast numbers of people who may be suffering from the impact. Anxiety, grief, isolation, financial worries, changes at home and work, and an ongoing sense of uncertainty can all threaten people with a substance use disorder as well as those at risk of developing one. So far, experts see signs of relapses, rising overdoses, and other worries. In the brief span of a few weeks, life has changed immeasurably for all of society due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Social distancing and self-isolation have become the norm, workplaces have closed, and virtual care has replaced many face-to-face encounters. Persons suffering from addiction are particularly vulnerable during this time as alcohol and drug addiction continues to be a growing epidemic in the United States and in Lake and Geauga Counties. Statistical demonstration of this growing epidemic includes:

- COVID-19 has caused a statewide overdose death spike with May 2020 marking the deadliest month in 14 years
- 78% of residents and 100% of community leaders identified drug overdose deaths as a health concern in Lake County. (Lake County Health district 2019 resident survey results)
- January 2020 – 51 recorded drug overdose ED/UC events among individuals 14 to 59 years of age in Lake County. 51% were male.
- In 2019, Ohio had 4,028 overdose deaths reported, compared to 3,764 in 2018.
- Mental health and addiction, specifically reducing drug overdose deaths, were identified as priority topics in the Lake County and Geauga County 2020-2022 Community Health Improvement Plan, based on the finding of the community health needs assessment

A significant aspect of this pandemic is the growing and changing service needs related to residential treatment services for addicted men who continue to need care now more than ever as recent studies have shown COVID-19 is contributing to increased social isolation, stress levels and anxiety for everyone, but this can be especially dangerous for men recovering from addiction.

New Residential Space... Responding to the Need

To address the growing and changing needs of residential treatment services for men, Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers needs to construct a new, state of the art facility that will serve 16 men.

This new house will address the community demand, eliminate the wait time for this level of care and increase the organization's capacity to provide high quality and much needed residential treatment services to men.

This new treatment facility, utilizing evidence based practices, will provide the continuum of care to promote lifelong recovery for those with substance use disorders.

New House...Home to Hope and Recovery

Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers has helped thousands of Lake and Geauga County residents conquer their addictions and turn their lives around. This residential treatment facility will be a welcoming home for men trying to change their lives, providing the supportive, safe environment where the hard and hopeful work towards recovery can begin. With your generous support many more like Ryan can experience the joy of recovery.