



Summer 2024

Oxford Tri-Star

Oxford House of TN Newsletter

By Sarah Harris



Fast Facts

As of June, 2024, there are 160 Oxford Houses in Tennessee.

- **Men: 97 Houses, 734 Beds**
 - 3 Houses for men & children
- **Women: 63 Houses, 479 Beds**
 - 20 Houses for women & children

Oxford Luv

"Oxford Luv!" has become a common greeting amongst Oxford House members in Tennessee; so common, that it became the theme of the 2024 State Convention. Nearly 250 persons in recovery attended the educational event. The room was buzzing with fun and excitement as members embraced the experience and knowledge that was shared with them. Guest speakers traveled to TN from across the country. Misty Hahn (OK) shared her knowledge on Tradition 9 and the formation of their Alumni Association. Chandra Brown (NY) lit up the room with a presentation on the Traditions in Action. Jamonte Johnson (NY) shared his story; filling the room with a powerful message of strength and hope in recovery. Other guest speakers, such as Marty Walker and James McClain, shared their decades of Oxford House experience with attendees. The impact of this convention will have a lasting effect on the members who were present.



2024 Oxford House TN State Convention

Photography by Michael Howard



Chrissy Davis

This was my second state convention! My first convention I was super nervous, scared, and out my comfort zone, but I met so many amazing friends who I now call my FAMILY! The speakers are my favorite part; hearing their stories fuels my fire to keep pushing. One day, I want be one of the people speaking! The speakers this year helped me realize I'm not alone in my grief.

I've made some mistakes in the past. I've fallen down a couple times, but there's always time to get back up and keep fighting. Being of service in Oxford House keeps me sober. I have a family I can call anytime when I need help. And when I'm called-upon, that means the world to me. I'm so thankful I've found my people!

Brian Stacks

This was my first Oxford convention and I can't wait to attend more. My favorite panel was on Having Fun. I also learned a lot more about the House structure, etc. I can't wait to apply what I learned at my house. Loved meeting all my new family. I'm grateful & blessed to be clean & sober. God is good.

Dave Hastings

Oxford gave me a chance to be a part of a recovery community and the ability to get involved as well. Life's nothing but grand!



Tayler Newbern

This was my second state convention! I'm so grateful to have been able to actually attend every single panel and session this year. My favorite panel was the Interactive House Officer Training. I learned so much and I'm excited to bring all the safety information back to my house and start doing fire drills! I live in a women and children's house and it's very important that we have a fire safety plan. Thanks guys for putting on an absolutely wonderful convention this year!!

A Special Feeling - By Vickie Carter



I first came to Oxford House Nye in January 2020. My goal was to focus on work, stay sober, and that's it. I did the House meeting once a week, but that's where my participation in Oxford House began and ended. "Pay your rent, don't get high." That's all I was ever told to do. I never heard anything that sparked my interest.

I longed for family and friends. I wanted someone I could talk with after work, or even go get something to eat with. Everyone was on different schedules, and I wasn't making that connection in my House. After about a year, I found that person, got married, and moved on from Oxford House.

In July 2022, I made the call to come back. It turned out, the House I had lived at before was in need of members. Something different happened this time. Walking up to the same house, I was greeted and welcomed with a smile. Oxford House Nye was being restarted. I was told, "I'm glad you're here, let's get to work," and from that moment on, my experience with Oxford House changed completely. I wanted to be a part of anything and everything I could. From meetings, unity events, fundraisers, to moving furniture, you name it! I wanted to be involved with all of it.

I knew this time was different. Acceptance started the moment I was greeted at the door. Inclusion started the moment I was asked to help clean a House that had been awfully mistreated. Every day I would go to work and come home, eager to help with something or to be of service in some small way. I was of service to my House, my chapter, other chapters, and I even served as a state officer. My life became so full. Friends became family and I found the connection I wished for in 2020.

I wanted to become an outreach worker. The feeling of providing a home, seeing the look on new members faces; that stuck in my heart. My journey as an outreach worker started November 1st, 2023. So far, I've had the privilege of opening 2 Oxford Houses. They're both so special to me!

The most recent House I opened is Oxford House Salaya. When I walked through, after moving all the furniture in, I cried with so much joy. 6 women will soon feel the same way I felt. It's such a special feeling; getting beds, furniture, utilities. This empty House will soon be a home.

Oxford House never stops overflowing my heart. I now have the privilege to continue my journey as Resource Coordinator for OHTN. I'm beyond grateful for another opportunity to grow and help even more!

Oxford House Salaya





Home is Where the Heart Is By David Morris

We would like to welcome Felecia Carpenter and Bobby Warner to Knoxville.

Felecia recently transferred to OH Knight's Trail from OH Cumberland North in Nashville where she held the Chapter 24 Secretary and Chapter Chair positions. Felecia started her journey at OH Aura, then moved to help stabilize OH Epic Manor, and again to help stabilize OH Cumberland North.

Bobby recently transferred to OH Titan from OH Datum in Nashville, where he held the Chapter 24 HSC position. Bobby started his Oxford Journey at OH New Bluff City in Memphis in 2022, then he relocated to OH Hard Lein in Nashville to be closer to family. After gaining experience at OH Hard Lein, Bobby then helped start OH Datum. This power couple met at a chapter meeting and began dating, and then became engaged to be married in March 2024. When a new career opportunity opened up for Felecia, they contemplated moving out on their own, but with all the stability and support Oxford House has given Felecia and Bobby, they yet again decided to move to their current Oxford Houses in Knoxville. These two rockstars have been instrumental in furthering the Oxford House model in TN, and have such generous hearts. I have no doubt they will leave a lasting impact on anyone they meet, and will help build a firm foundation for the Oxford Houses of the Future. Thank you for your service and for your friendship.

Welcoming the Newcomer By Payton Osborne

Being a newcomer in an Oxford House can be overwhelming and sometimes scary. We're faced with challenges often. A lot of times, newcomers arrive not knowing how to live sober or even how to successfully be an adult. In the Tri-Cities, Chapter Chairs Amara Morgan and Alan Davis have created an amazing event that opens the door to educate new members on what Oxford House is about. They teach everyone the house officers roles and the duties associated with each house position. They also go over an in-depth presentation on the Oxford House Traditions. Most importantly, you get to see others' successes and find connection and similarities with your peers. We want you to know that you're not alone on your road of recovery!!



Daydreams - By Scott Elrod

Before coming into Oxford House, addiction had stripped me of everything. For more than 25 years, all I had was the feelings of loneliness, hopelessness and defeat. I left jail with nothing but the clothes on my body and hope in my heart. I wanted a new start. My brothers and sisters of TN Oxford House Chapters 9 & 15 showered me with love and support. Today, I'm truly grateful for Oxford House. It has taught me how to love myself again and how to share that same love and support that was shared with me. Every day I do my best to help make sure addicts like me find the same opportunity that I have been given. Oxford House gave me something I thought I'd never find again; a sense of self-worth, dignity, and a family full of love. God answered my prayers through the hearts of my Oxford House brothers and sisters. Today, I live a life I had only daydreamed of. Because of the love that is shared here, Oxford House made restorations in my life.



Saving Lives - One Training at a Time By Rachel Ketelle

Oxford House now has the opportunity to host in-house overdose reversal trainings and harm reduction trainings in Tennessee. Since the establishment of TN Training & Education Coordinator, there have been 8 trainings, with over 100 members in attendance. Jackson, TN had the most participation, with 29 members in attendance! New training schedule is coming out soon. Let's share some knowledge, and that Oxford Luv!!!

It Takes a Village - By Savannah Beal Whitfield

I've been a part of Oxford House since September, 2022. I left and came back to Oxford House Nene at 6 weeks pregnant. I was terrified and not sure what to do. During my pregnancy, I attended my first World Convention. I had the time of my life and met people from all across the U.S. Suddenly, I had a whole new outlook on my recovery, Oxford, and my life in general.

I brought my new newborn baby home to Oxford House Nene. It truly does take a village to raise a baby. My village is my Oxford Family. My baby is so loved by so many people. Each one of my brothers and sisters have helped me when I've needed them. Oxford House is my safe haven and I will always be grateful for everything it's given me and taught me. I have grown as a friend, mother, sister, daughter, and I've become a person that I'm happy to be today. Oxford House has shown me a love I never knew existed.



2024 Oxford House World Convention

This year, the World Convention will be in Orlando, FL October 3-6. Registration cost is \$675 (member/alumni) or \$775 (nonmember). Additional costs may include:

- Hotel rooms: \$190.13/night
- Women's Conference: \$50
- Golf Tournament: \$125

Pool Party and Cookout on Friday! Banquet on Saturday!



Expansion - New Houses



**OH Enchanted
Opened April 2024
for Women & Children**

Johnson City, TN

**OH Sunsphere
Opened April 2024
for Women**

Knoxville, TN



**OH Gravitass
Opened June 2024
for Men**

Knoxville, TN



**OH Resurgent
Opened June 2024
for Men**

Johnson City, TN



**OH Salaya
Opened June 2024
for Women**

Nashville, TN

