



Covered Bridge Therapeutic Communities, Inc.

"A Residential Substance Abuse Aftercare Program"

P.O. Box 569; St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
(802) 748-6948

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Dear Friends,

See that blue sky in the photo on the right? Beautiful, huh? The 17th of May was a wonderful day for our 5th Annual Walk-A-Thon! We had around thirty walkers who joined us for the 4.4-mile circuit around St Johnsbury. The walk was followed by a wonderful picnic style lunch here at Covered Bridge. Thanks to Karlo and Pastor Rick Menard, we also enjoyed a great time of fellowship



Our 5th Annual Walk-A-Thon

and praise & worship that afternoon. Everything about the day was just right---and, to date, we've received about \$3,000 toward this year's operating expenses!! We're very grateful to those who walked, donated and played a part in helping to make the day all that it was. We want to extend a special thanks to the local pastors who communicated the event to their people: Pastor Joel Battaglia from Lyndon Bible, Pastors Rick & Carmen Menard from New Beginnings Christian Church, Pastors Paul Powers & David Piers from Union Baptist Church, Pastor John Marshall from Grace United Methodist.



Former CB Resident, Don—Grill Tender Maestro!

The Walk-A-Thon is one of only two annual fundraisers that we have each year. The other is our banquet, which we expect to have in the early fall. The centerpiece for this year's banquet will be sharing testimony of how God is providing for Covered Bridge and how He changes lives. We continue to stand in awe of how God brings hope where there is despair, light to dispel the darkness, life where there's death!

"Reconciliation To Community By Building Bridges Of Restoration"

This was shared in devotions this morning: It's from Isaiah 29:18-19 (KJV)

"And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness. The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. "

The deaf shall hear the words of the Book....the meek shall have fresh joy (that's what increased joy is!) I understand that the meek are those who have experienced God's mercy and grace in such a way that they have yielded to God's love—and remain responsive to that love. Abiding in Him, bearing the fruit of relationship! FRESH JOY! That's what God has for those who seek Him. But it truly all begins with a revelation of the WORDS OF THE BOOK---The Word Made Flesh in Jesus!! Elsewhere in Isaiah, the Lord God spoke these words: "I live in a high and holy place, **but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit,** to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite." Isaiah 57:15 (NIV)

We are very grateful to be witnesses of God's reviving presence that brings a man to understand that his life's purpose and identity need not be defined by a former way of life or even a single tragic event at some point in time! Thanks for being a part of what God is doing through the ministry of Covered Bridge!!

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It's been a while since you've heard from Patrick who arrived at Covered Bridge on October 9th. Here's an update from him:

Praise the Lord!!! I have a new job, which means no more stocking shelves all night at Price Chopper. I am now the maintenance and custodial supervisor (handyman, in my words) at the Union Baptist Church which I attend here in Saint Johnsbury. I have very few tidbits of information that I have hung onto that my father gave me aside from, "Find what you love to do and find a way to get paid for it." That is what God has sent my way, as I truly love my work at UBC.

I have also started playing guitar for Celebrate Recovery Program ministry on Friday nights at UBC. Two others and myself also play at a local nursing home, The Pines, in nearby Lyndonville. We have also started a Wednesday evening praise and worship celebration right here at Covered Bridge . . . all are welcomed to attend!!

I cannot thank the Lord enough for all that He has done in my life. The Lord has used all of you Covered Bridge supporters to help mold me into the man I am becoming. I am up for parole in June and would appreciate your prayers for me in that God would continue to guide the next steps that I must take should I be granted parole.

Thank you, and God bless you,
Patrick Laughlin



Our renovations will be getting underway next month. The electrical and third floor is first on the agenda. The electrical work will involve completely rewiring the house—new distribution panel, switches, lighting, outlets. The third floor will provide staff quarters, including their own bathroom & kitchenette. In addition to this, we'll be installing new windows and insulation, doing heating system upgrades and a new kitchen, including appliances. Please pray for us in all this as I'm sure you can imagine the challenges with as many as nine of us using one bathroom and the additional stress of things being torn up!

Also on the horizon in July, I (Steve) am scheduled to have both knees replaced on July 23rd. I am very ready to have this done. I'm looking forward to being able to get around and do some of the things that I really miss doing. Please pray for perseverance during the recovery time and, of course, that the surgery accomplishes all that it is hoped for.

In closing, I wish we could say to each of you in person how much we appreciate your faithful support. Believe me, I do know that it is getting tough to make ends meet and that, in many cases, giving is a sacrifice. We also know that there are many ministries doing good work to whom you may choose to give. Our commitment is to be good stewards of what God has entrusted to us. Please know that we are very grateful for your friendship and support!!

~In His love & ours,
Steve & Lorie Clark

- Please pray for:***
- ❖ ***Wisdom for our Board of Directors***
 - ❖ ***The work on our building's renovation throughout this summer***
 - ❖ ***Favor with GOD & man***
 - ❖ ***Our cooperation with God in the work of family restoration***
 - ❖ ***Men who will be arriving at Covered Bridge***