

Richard Figlewski, Executive Director, the dry dock HB 5747

68 Quinnipiac St., Wallingford Ct

Redemption Song Inc,( d.b.a The Dry Dock) is a 501c(3) non-profit providing a safe and sober environment to the community as a whole, with particular emphasis on the recovery community. The Dry Dock provides a sober alternative to the community. Fellowship is the cornerstone of recovery where with an open heart, mind and an understanding of recovery and its pitfalls is openly shared. Where living a twelve step program is encouraged. We are a group of individuals in or familiar with recovery. We bring recovery out of church basements and meeting halls, to bring a message of hope and freedom from substance abuse to the community. It has been our experience that the fellowship we enjoy is a model to live by.

The Dry Dock began construction at it's present location in March of 2010. We opened our doors in June of that year. We began by providing a series of 12 step meetings, music and dances. We opened our kitchen in August of that year, providing low or no cost home cooked meals to our patrons. At our entrance is a sign explaining that we are a drug and alcohol free facility, "if you need help ask". Within hours people came looking for help.

A couple came in and said they had heard they could get clean needles here. They were told they were half right, they could get clean. It has not stopped since. We have successfully mentored hundreds of recovering substance abusers in our time here. We have had people walk through our doors, in withdrawal, in need of emergency rooms, even close to overdose, who we have helped get clean and sober. We have done this with limited funding.

We now have 20 -12 step meetings a week, weekly holistic, and bi-weekly meditation groups. We provide 5-7 monthly social events, live music, dances, open mic nights, holiday gatherings and sober motorcycle rides to name a few. Families and friends join in the celebration of sobriety.

We also have 8-12 immediate crisis interventions a month. These include individuals or families who walk in or call in need of emergency resolution to substance abuse issues. This may include transporting to the ER or detox, arranging for detox and treatment or initiation into 12 step programs.

There are approximately 2000 people walking through our doors every month. There is no agency in our community of over 45000, that specifically works with the recovery community. The 2-1-1 tracking for substance abuse calls from Wallingford was down 25% from 2011. In our tracking, those calls and individuals came to us for help. In the same statistics covering Meriden/Wallingford calls were decreased by 11.4%. We cannot say emphatically we are responsible for those declines, but, it is inferred by the local UnitedWay funding we were provided in 2012. All of our service is done at no cost. We ask for donations, and people give what they can. We are staffed by volunteers who believe in our mission and the principles of what we are able to provide. Our dedication is to the least, who feel lost and alone. We have been

there, we understand, we do not judge or preach. We offer help, understanding, with an open heart and mind.

We have developed a strong working relationship with the following local agencies, many of our referrals for immediate care come from these agencies: Wallingford Youth and Social Services, Master's Manna, Wallingford Emergency Shelter, South Central Substance Abuse Council, Rushford, Wallingford Adult Education and Alternative High School.

We have spoken at or been involved with Wallingford Rotary Club, The Mayors Council on Substance Abuse,, The Wallingford Forum, SCOW, Red Ribbon Week, SADD, Overdose Awareness Day, Wallingford Public Access T.V., CDC Opiate Advisory Board, CT. Chapters of EAP and UAP professionals.

We have conducted and will be conducting Naloxone (Narcan) trainings in a train the trainer model to get this life saving medication into the hands of treatment providers, family members of opiate users, and users themselves.

The majority of relapse in the recovery community occurs in the newly clean and sober. The longer a person stays sober the less likely they are to return to substance abuse. The problem with the system is the sometimes overwhelming obstacles people feel are in the way of staying sober.

This bond will enable us to provide transitional living for the least serviced in the recovery community, families. Our proposed space will provide 6 mos to a year housing for families with parents, or parent, newly clean and sober. There is 12,000 square feet of zoned housing space on this property, second and third floor, along with 8000 square feet of commercial space on the first floor. We would be able to build and house 12 familys, and 2 recovery coaches in the building. We are expecting to have a three bedroom, two two bedroom 3 one bedroom apt on each floor. A studio apt. would also be in the plan for the recovery coaches. We would be able to continue our current support programs and add a few more. Job search, community babysitting, homework rooms, recreation, drug and alcohol counseling. Helping people with transportation to judicial appts., social services, out-patient services, school functions, healthcare needs and other events that are often barriers to the newly clean and sober. Tenants would be required to be an active participant in our peer recovery program. Recovery is a series of small victories. Housing in a safe, sober enviroment will facilitate those victories. Imagine the pride of a parent being able to attend a Parent Teacher conference for the first time. For the first time clean and sober. A small step but enormous growth for them and their children.

Recovery requires that we change one thing, the problem is that it is everything. We are helping people eliminate the negative from their lives and replacing it with a strong sober network. We provide a firm, grounded foundation for the newly clean and sober. An honest and helping starting point for a new life clean and sober. The realization of this funding will bring a whole new level of hope and sobriety to a vastly underserved population.

The problems of a family in the recovery process is vastly forgotten. Parents, single parents are very often carrying the double stigma of failing as individuals and as providers. There are programs and sober living facilities for single men and women. There are few if any sober living facilities for families. Keeping families together has enormous gains for the parent and the children involved. A sober, structured environment providing meetings, community baby-sitting, counseling, job search, transportation, and community involvement teaches and mentors children, and their parents to being productive members of society. Strong sober role models in the living environment keep people clean and sober. The fellowship of recovery is what keeps people clean and sober. Responsibility, compassion, understanding in a nurturing non-judgemental environment is what works. Substance abusers left to their own devices relapse. Without guidance and support the world becomes overwhelming.

The purpose of this funding is to realize these goals for the families of recovering parents. Healthy, strong sober families raise healthy, strong, sober children. We need to begin embracing addiction as a disease not as a life choice. Our facility, with your help, will provide our communities with productive members of society.

National, regional and local treatment and social service agencies will be referring client to this program. These include but are not limited to Rushford, American Addictions Centers, Turning Point, Crossroads, Mountainside, and the State Treatment Centers, CVH for example.

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