

A Women's House for Recovery in Wake County

*A request from
The Fellowship Home of Raleigh
Sept. 29, 2020*

Our goal:

We are planning a halfway house for women in early recovery that will provide affordable housing and the support they will need to return to society as sober, responsible citizens. The home will be modeled after our men's home that has operated successfully since 1961, returning thousands of men to their families and successful lives in Wake County.

The Need:

The need for housing and support for vulnerable women in Wake County is well documented, and acute. The 2019 Raleigh/Wake Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness PIT (Point-In-Time) data showed 358 women were counted as homeless with 76 physically living on the street or in the woods. Most of these women are in our target group, as well as many others who are struggling with addiction but not yet homeless.

Qualifications:

The women's home will be modeled after our existing men's home, which operates from a Wake County-owned home at 506 Cutler Street. We are the only halfway house in Wake County that will accept residents who cannot afford to pay. We provide a grace period and assistance in finding employment. Our program of recovery requires residents to find a job, pay rent, observe a curfew and become active participants in Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, or other such mutual aid programs. We provide safe and structured lodging, three meals per day, and onsite staff to offer guidance, share resources and teach a sense of responsibility. We provide life skills courses and for women will add trauma counseling and parenting classes. The suggested stay for women will be nine to 18 months.

We expect similar results as those obtained from our existing men's home. Last year, we served 99 men. Of our vested residents (those who stayed at least 30 days), only 28% were employed upon arrival but 96% were employed upon discharge. Only 14% were discharged for alcohol or drug use, in other words--- 86% were sober when they left our home.

Request:

We estimate it will cost \$850,000 to purchase and furnish a home. We are requesting \$500,000 from Wake County. We are in active discussions with other funding sources and are confident we can raise the needed balance.

We operate on a very tight budget but have managed to set aside \$75,000 to put toward the purchase. Additionally, we will spend about \$150,000 the first year to operate the home. Rent will provide about 35% of the operational funds and we plan to raise the balance from grants and partnerships we have established over the years with our existing men's home.