

EDNA NEWS

The Edna House Newsletter

Newly Renovated Edna House Kitchen

Before



After



Testimonial

I arrived a broken woman with no desire to live, but Edna House brought me safety, shelter, structure and love. In my 10 months here, I have lost my fiancé, my dad, walked through COVID and been quarantined, but because of your work I had a place to do those things sober. Thank you for caring enough about hopeless alcoholics like me to provide for us.

- Halie

THE EDNA HOUSE MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of The Edna House is to give women an opportunity to recover from alcohol and drug addiction by providing a safe, sober place to live and to learn life skills in order to maintain 12 step based sobriety throughout their lifetime.

A Letter From the Executive Director



Over the past year, The Edna House faced many challenges and difficulties brought on mostly by the COVID-19 global pandemic. From foiling our fundraising plans, to changing our traditional ways of admitting and caring for our residents along with a host of other challenges, I would like to share that through it all, we persevered and grew as an organization. I want to thank the staff, Board of Directors, residents, alumnae and the community at large who prayed, encouraged, and supported us. We will never forget the kindness and generosity shown to us and we all share a deeper appreciation of our Edna family.

As our nation faced lockdowns, fear and uncertainty fueled an already skyrocketing substance abuse problem. Here at The Edna House, our traditional methods of operation had to be amended to successfully lead us through the challenges. Staff and facilitators learned to lead groups and meetings online via Zoom. This was made possible by a donation of a SmartTV from our dedicated Edna Alumnae. Because of the additional demand for IT related services, we were able to upgrade our technological infrastructure with COVID grant money from The Cleveland Rapid Response fund and The Murphy Family Foundation.

Because of your direct assistance, on January 10, 2020, we officially purchased the former convent (The Edna House) which we had rented for 14 years. We also purchased the adjacent school building which housed our Job Skills program as well as a GED tutoring center. Our vision for the school building is to offer post six-month recovery services and capacity build by adding 10 long term sober, supportive residential suites. After this acquisition, we were eager to begin renovations on the century old Edna

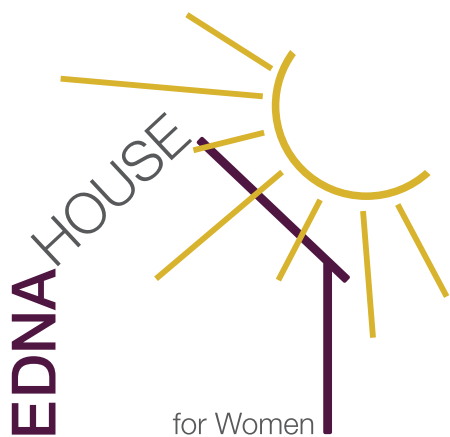
House and I am delighted to report that those renovations were completed February 2021. All renovations and improvements were made for the safety, support and dignity of our women and I would like to spotlight a few of our generous donors.

Renovations began with an electrical upgrade which included air conditioning in the attic living space, provided by board member Michael Naughton along with an anonymous donor. With the support of 100 Women Strong Ohio, both bathrooms on the second floor were renovated with additional showers and new plumbing. Soon the Cleveland Building Trades and The Finishing Trades Institute volunteered their time and efforts by fixing the ceiling and walls of the attic with supplies donated by a.m. Higley. With generous support from Ray and Katie Murphy, the dilapidated kitchen became a dignified, beautiful space along with new flooring throughout the first floor. The chapel has been given a facelift which brings a new, fresh, calm feeling. The beautification of our home was made by our dear friend and interior decorator, Lora Blaha who gave of her time and talents. The stunning kitchen cabinetry was donated in kind by Tony and Dottie Laurinaitis of Choice Cabinet in memory of Robert L Schultz Jr.

All renovations were completed while the women continued to live, eat and have groups in house. We were able to do this because of the many organizations that prepared daily hot meals for our ladies. Each day felt like a gift instead of an inconvenience and we will be so proud to give tours at our next open house when that can safely be done. I want to thank each of you for believing in us and sharing your time, talents, and financial support so that we may grow. There is still fundraising to be done and you can learn more about that from our Advancement Coordinator, Sarah Murphy in the pages to follow. I will continue to advocate for the ladies and The Edna House mission confidently, knowing the impact we have in Cleveland and beyond. Thank you for your continued and loyal support.

With gratitude,

Jenn Lasky



EDNA HOUSE ALUMNAE MISSION STATEMENT

We, The Edna House Alumnae, seek to be part of the solution. We aim to serve The Edna House and her residents while creating a lifelong sisterhood through meaningful engagement. By volunteering our resources, we make a continued commitment to give freely that which was given to us. We believe in recovery, new beginnings, and second chances.

Alumnae Spotlight

I walked through the doors of The Edna House on a hot summer day in August 2018 with a plastic trash bag of my clothes and necessities, books to keep me busy, and a journal. I was honestly a messy bundle of nerves, not knowing what I was getting myself into. I was a 23-year-old young woman who could not stay sober. My life became extremely unmanageable, barely getting through college and unable to maintain a steady job. I always knew I needed more help and was exhausted from the kind of life I was living. I truly did not want to continue the way I was going, but I was in a deep state of denial that I was believing that everything was fine and that I could do this without anyone's help. Coming to The Edna House made me realize how wrong I was and that I did not have to trudge through this journey alone anymore.

On the first day, a couple women took my things and showed me around Edna, the place that I would unknowingly soon call home for the year to come. They taught me that I was enough, and to lean on my support group, sponsor, and the women in these rooms.

Then I met The Edna Alumnae. I never met such an amazing group of women and little did I know I would be calling them family one day. They welcomed me with open arms and took the time to get to know me. They insisted that I call them and said they were here if I needed anything. I was a stranger, and they still wanted to help me. When I was with Edna Alumnae at

meetings, when they gave me rides, in our groups, I always thought they carried themselves differently. I always felt their strength, perseverance, and hope in their demeanor. It was admirable, and I wanted what they had.

I began to learn how to live life while I was at Edna. Along with learning who I was again, Edna taught me to ask for help. Living at The Edna House carved a strong foundation for me. I learned how to support myself, maintain a job, pay bills on time, assume responsibility for my actions, maintain 12 step sobriety, and continue performing service for the new women entering The Edna House. I completed The Edna House program in August 2019 and moved into my own apartment at Kent State University. My Edna sisters helped me pack and move my belongings. It was bittersweet leaving the place that saved my life and shaped me into the woman I am today.

I was finally able to graduate college in the spring, making the Dean's List for the first time since I was a freshman in college. It may have taken seven years to finish, but that does not matter to me. What matters is that I did it by using the tools I learned while at The Edna House. I want to work for nonprofits and the government to focus on social injustices and the opioid epidemic. I am so grateful to The Edna House and to those who made this beautiful place a reality, because without it, I would not be here today.

-Sabrina

Looking Ahead

Edna House Phase III Sober Suites



Join Us as We Grow

For 17 years, The Edna House has been committed to providing structured sober living and education to restore women to their vital roles in their families and communities. The unique principles of Edna House include faith and service to others. Living purposefully in this way enables us to bring the hope found in recovery to those with substance abuse disorders and to their loved ones as well.

Today a new need has presented itself, and we feel called to once again meet the needs of our community. At Edna House, we understand that alcoholism and addiction damages every part of the individual and their lives. We are privileged to be able to open our doors to all women regardless of their financial situation. Many women cannot restore their life within six months, and therefore we encourage her to stay as long as needed for the ultimate goal of a lifetime of sobriety. Our home on Guthrie Avenue, which houses 4 Edna Alumnae, is Phase III of our program and is always at capacity, with a waiting list from our current residents. We have a unique opportunity to grow this much needed phase of our program.

This past year, we have been in a silent phase of our \$1.25M Capital Campaign, which not only has allowed for improvements to the convent, but for ten, long term living suites to be developed on the second floor of the school building. A committee of dedicated Edna Alumnae worked diligently to develop the layout of these suites, and our committed staff and board of directors worked together to make this dream a reality. This groundbreaking opportunity will allow our ladies the privilege of remaining on the safe Edna House campus as they continue to work and improve their lives in sobriety.

Our friends at CLE3D volunteered their resources to showcase what this

renovation will look like, and we invite you to take the tour on our website. We are happy to report that we have reached 90% of our goal! Please join us in making a capital campaign donation and know that your gift will make a lasting impact.

We look forward to growing as a recovery community, and a family. With the support of our donors, Board, staff, alumnae and families, we will grow! Please connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn to follow our progress as we venture into this new phase, and remain Edna Strong.

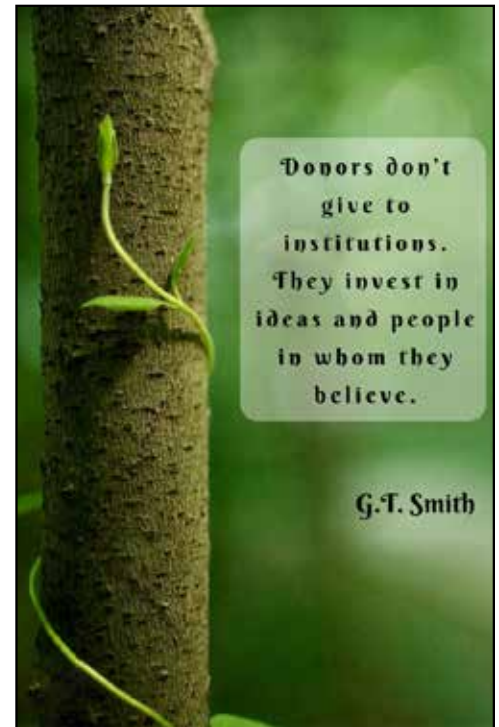
Sarah E. Murphy
Advancement Coordinator



Pictured here are Jenn Lasky, Mark Busch and Sarah Murphy. Mark and Jennifer Busch made a generous capital campaign gift which kicked off the Phase III Expansion.



Infinity Title Solutions is proud to partner with us as we grow Phase III of our program. We are honored to be the recipient of their give back program. Their quarterly financial donations have made it possible to renovate a classroom into a beautiful meeting space which will be named *Infinity Hope*.



Edna House has continued to grow mindfully for 17 years putting every dollar to work in support of its programming.

Backed by a strong and stable staff and board of directors, we purchased our beloved Edna House along with the adjacent school building on January 10, 2020. For the safety, support and dignity of our residents, and to expand the continuum of care, we began a capital campaign which grew with momentum despite a global pandemic.

We have raised over 90% of our \$1.25 million dollar capital campaign and our goal is to begin construction on the former school building in July 2021.

Please contact Jenn Lasky at 216-281-7751 or jenn.lasky@ednahouse.org to invest in our ladies and our program.

Save the Dates

Recovery Race at
Edgewater Park
Sunday, October 3, 2021
Upper Pavilion 9am

St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser
Saturday March 12, 2022
UAW Hall, Parma

Board of Directors

Erin Becker, Chair
Michael Naughton, Vice Chair
Nancy Hatgas, Treasurer
Kate Hubben, Secretary
Treg Balding
Jane Bennett
Bill Dillingham

Mary Ganske
Scott Hamilton
Rachel Kabb-Effron
Shelley Keller
Robert Morris
Katie O'Toole Smith
Lyndsay Weil

Check us out at Ednahouse.org. Like us on Facebook & follow on Instagram for event notices!

P.O. Box 602686, Cleveland, OH 44102



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CLEVELAND, OH
PERMIT NO. 362