

# FREEDOM



Broken families restored one person at a time.



MESSAGE FROM THE  
**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR**

**2025 was an incredible year at Mercy House Adult & Teen Challenge!**

Because of your partnership, we had the privilege of seeing 44 men graduate from our program.

Each of these men was given the opportunity not only to break free from addiction, but to step into the purposeful life God has intended for them. We've watched men secure jobs, purchase vehicles, and begin rebuilding their lives with stability and hope. More importantly, we've seen them restored to their families—returning as fathers, sons, and leaders who are now making a lasting impact in their homes and communities.

This kind of transformation doesn't happen alone. It happens because people like you choose to invest in something bigger than themselves.

Thank you for walking with us on this journey and for believing in the mission of helping people find true freedom. Your partnership is making it possible to reach broken families—one person at a time.

Because of you, lives are changing,

**Matt Milliman**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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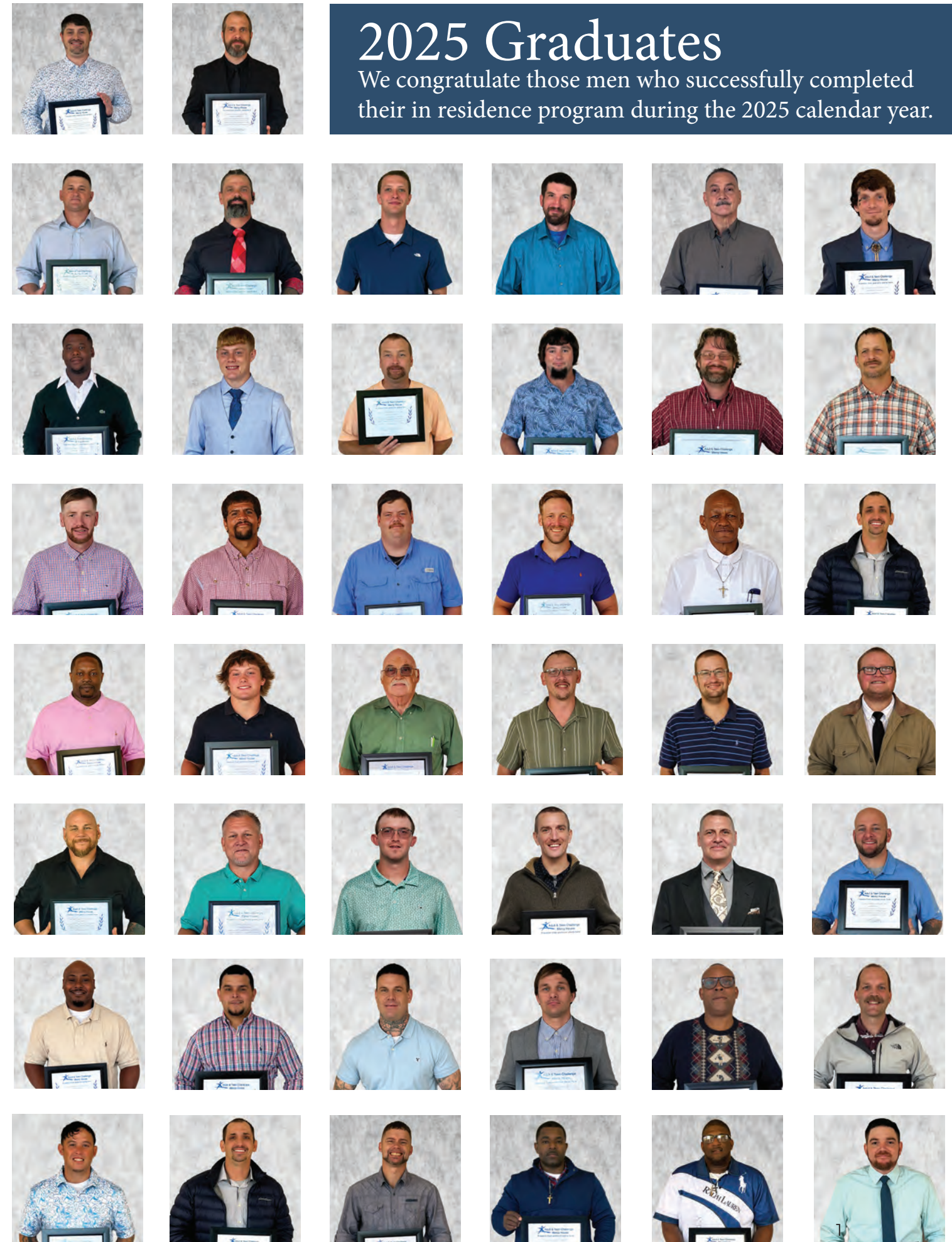
Ed Buchanan



Bobby Barrett

## 2025 Graduates

We congratulate those men who successfully completed their in residence program during the 2025 calendar year.



# THE NEED IS REAL FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Every year, millions of women in the United States are battling substance abuse, and most are not getting the help they need.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, only 1 in 5 people who need treatment actually receive it. That means nearly 80% are still without help.

An estimated 7.2 million women in the U.S. are living with a substance use disorder, yet women remain underrepresented in treatment programs.



## THE IMPACT ON CHILDREN

The consequences extend far beyond one life.

More than 2.1 million children in the United States live in homes impacted by substance abuse.

These children are at greater risk for:

- Trauma and instability
- Emotional and behavioral challenges
- Continuing the cycle of addiction

When a mother cannot access recovery, the next generation is affected.

## WHY MANY WOMEN NEVER STEP FORWARD

The reasons are consistent and proven:

- Fear of losing custody keeps many women from seeking treatment
- Stigma is stronger for mothers, creating silence and isolation
- Financial barriers and lack of transportation make access difficult
- Around one-third of women in treatment struggle with lack of insurance or affordability

These barriers create a system where the women who need help the most are often the least able to get it.

## THE REALITY FOR MOTHERS

For women with children, the barriers are even higher.

- Over 70% of women in treatment are mothers
- Many are the primary caregivers, carrying full responsibility for their children
- Very few treatment programs offer childcare, making entry into recovery difficult

For a mother, getting help is not just about herself. It often means asking, "What happens to my children if I leave?"

## WHY THIS MATTERS NOW

This is not a small gap. It is a widespread need.

- Only 20% of people receive treatment
- Millions of women are still struggling
- Mothers face the highest barriers to entry

Recovery is possible, but access is the issue.

# THE SOLUTION



## ABOUT

Mercy House Adult & Teen Challenge is a Christ-centered recovery program dedicated to helping individuals find lasting freedom from addiction and life-controlling issues. With 115 beds across all phases of the program, we provide a safe, structured environment where men and women experience healing, restoration, and transformation spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Throughout the program, participants engage in daily classes, one-on-one mentoring, work therapy, and intentional family involvement. We teach responsibility, build character, and cultivate the life skills needed for lasting success. More than just recovery, Mercy House offers a clear path to real life change through discipleship, accountability, and the power of God's grace.

## OUR FACILITIES

### GEORGETOWN, MISSISSIPPI (Men's Facility)

### LEARNED, MISSISSIPPI (Women's Facility)

In 2010, Pastor Bryan Wilson recognized a growing need to support men struggling with addiction. In response, he founded a Teen Challenge program in Georgetown, Mississippi, launching the ministry in the old Union Academy school building. Soon after, God brought David Dilmore and his family to help lead the vision, faithfully serving for over a decade and playing a vital role in establishing the foundation of what is now Mercy House.

Today, the program operates on 14 peaceful acres—an ideal setting for recovery and restoration. Our 12-month program is divided into four distinct phases, each designed not only to help individuals break free from addiction but also to equip them for lasting transformation and a purposeful life.

Continuing on this tradition, Mercy House acquired a property to house a Women's and Children's center in 2025 and held its grand opening March 25, 2026.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Helping adults and families find new life in Christ, develop godly character, and live restored, purposeful lives through practical life skills and community.

## FIVE LIFE TRUTHS OF FREEDOM

The Five Life Truths are the guiding principles that shape every aspect of recovery and spiritual growth at Mercy House. They provide a Christ-centered framework for discipleship and life transformation, helping men and women develop the character, accountability, purpose, and community necessary for lasting freedom and restoration.

When applied daily, they equip individuals to make better decisions, stay accountable, and build strong, stable lives. This is not just for the program. These truths are meant to carry into everyday life, shaping how a person thinks, responds, and moves forward.

As these principles are put into practice, they lay a lasting foundation that continues to guide a man or woman long after the program is complete.

### 1. Live Christlike

Trusting Jesus as the source of freedom and new life, leaving behind old ways, and choosing to live with love, humility, and obedience in daily actions and decisions.

### 2. Live with Character

Developing the habits and discipline to do what is right at all times. It is seen in self-control, personal responsibility, honesty, and consistency in both actions and decisions.

### 3. Live Purposeful

Pursuing God's calling with intention in every area of life—work, family, and community—leaving behind the patterns of the past and choosing the next right step each day.

### 4. Live Accountable

Walk in honesty, remain teachable and open to correction, and stay consistently connected to people who speak truth, challenge you, and help you stay on track in your recovery and your walk with Christ.

### 5. Live in Community

Be intentional about building strong, healthy relationships and staying connected in environments where you can grow, serve, and be supported.



MEN'S FACILITY  
Georgetown, MS



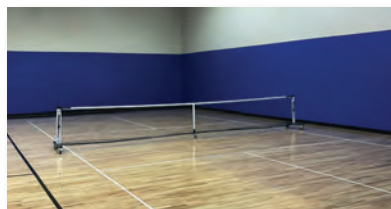
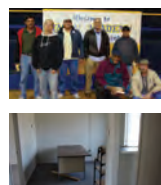
WOMEN'S FACILITY  
Learned, MS

# Adult & Teen Challenge Mercy House

Freedom for men, women, & families



## OUR VISION Women's Facility - Learned, MS



### First Teen Challenge Residential Center Opens Brooklyn New York

**Mercy House Adult & Teen Challenge Founded by Bryan Wilson**  
Mercy House Adult & Teen Challenge was founded in 2010 to bring hope and transformation to those battling addiction. Built on faith in Jesus Christ, it became a refuge for healing and restoration. Since then, countless lives have been changed through discipleship, community, and the power of God's grace.

### Byram Thrift Store Founded - Byram, MS.

In 2018, Mercy House opened its first Thrift Store in Byram, MS., to support recovery efforts and provide job training for program participants. More than just a store, it became a place of restoration—helping individuals gain work experience while funding the mission to bring hope and healing through Christ.

### Pearl Thrift Store, Pearl, MS. & Classroom Expansion

In 2022, Mercy House expanded its impact by opening a new Thrift Store in Pearl, Mississippi, providing more job training opportunities and funding for recovery programs. That same year, a new classroom was established to enhance education and recovery classes, equipping participants with life skills and spiritual growth for lasting transformation.

### Georgetown Gym & Basketball Court Renovations

In 2024, Mercy House completed renovations on its gym and basketball court, creating a space for physical health, community, and personal growth. These improvements provided program participants with opportunities for recreation, teamwork, and a healthy lifestyle as they continue their journey to recovery.

1958

### The Founding Teen Challenge

1962

1963

### Best-Selling Book published about Teen Challenge



2010

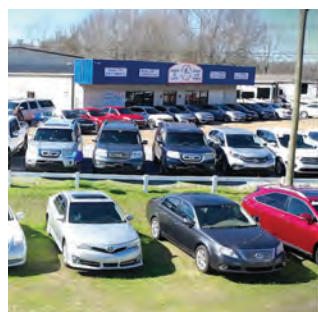
2017

### Auto Center and the Sojourner House founded



In 2017, Mercy House expanded its outreach with the launch of Mercy House Auto Center and Sojourner House. The Auto Center provided job training and support for those in recovery, while Sojourner House became a safe haven for men as they transition from our program back into the community-at-large. Both initiatives strengthened the mission of restoration, equipping individuals with skills, stability, and a renewed purpose in Christ.

2018



2020

### Auto Center Rebrand & Focus

In 2020, Mercy House Adult & Teen Challenge officially rebranded its vehicle ministry as the Mercy House Auto Center, transforming it into a full 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose used-car sale proceeds directly support its addiction-recovery programs. This strategic rebrand emphasized both community service—by offering affordable, donated vehicles—and mission funding, funneling all sales into helping men overcome substance use and rebuild their lives.

2021



### Product with a Purpose Launched & Chapel Built

In 2021, Mercy House introduced Product with a Purpose, offering handcrafted goods created by program participants along with home decor displaying important meanings. This initiative provided practical skills, job training, and a pathway to restoration, while every purchase helped support the mission of transforming lives through faith and recovery.



2022



2023

### Bryan Wilson Home & Georgetown Kitchen Renovations

In 2023, Mercy House completed a major kitchen renovation, enhancing its ability to serve and support program participants. This upgrade provided a better-equipped space for meal preparation, fostering community, nourishment, and a sense of home for those on their journey to recovery.

2024

2026

### Mercy House Women's Facility Opens!

Mercy House women's program is a 12-month residential recovery center for women who have drug and alcohol addictions.



## MERCY HOUSE

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

At Mercy House, our core promise to supporters is to maintain financial integrity and gain trust. We take seriously the responsibility of stewarding all Mercy House funds with excellence and honesty.

### Auto Center and Vehicle Donations

Program Contributions

**\$1,522,155**

### Products with a Purpose

Program Contributions

**\$1,181,065**

### SuperThrift Stores

Program Contributions

**\$1,048,471**

### Donor Support & Gifts In Kind

Program Contributions

**\$1,498,665**

### Financial Summary

2025

**TOTAL REVENUE**

**\$5,250,356\***

2025

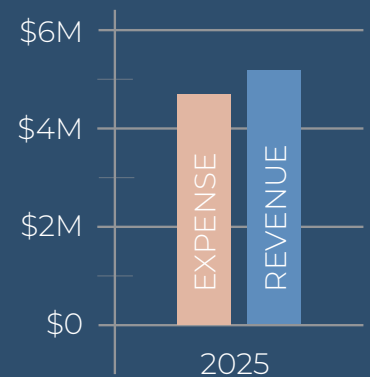
**TOTAL EXPENSE**

**\$4,634,009\***

Women's Campus

**PURCHASE AND  
RENOVATIONS**

**\$1,064,101\***



\* 2025 unaudited financial statements.



**BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF \$649,101,  
WE WERE ABLE TO RENOVATE AND OPEN THE WOMEN'S CAMPUS!**

# From Brokenness to Freedom

## Willie Lee's Story



I grew up in the Mississippi Delta — Greenwood born and raised, in a loving Christian home where my father led our congregation every Sunday. But when I was eight, my parents divorced, and my world quietly broke open. My father moved away, and the absence of a male figure left a hollow I didn't know how to fill.

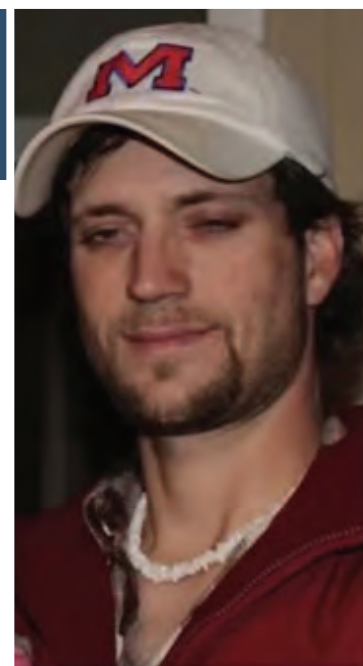
By eighteen I'd left home and found something that felt like escape: marijuana, then alcohol, then methamphetamine. By nineteen I was a full-blown meth cook and IV user. What started as excitement turned to two decades of darkness. Meth consumed everything I had — my possessions, my dignity, my years.

Moments later, the sheriff walked in and asked if I'd be willing to change my life if he gave me a chance.

On July 7, 2019, I enrolled in Mercy House Adult and Teen Challenge. For the first time, I truly felt the love of God wrap around me.

I completed the 14-month program, stayed on as a mechanic, and later counseled other men walking the road I'd once walked. Then I married Kacie — the love of my life — and a year later we welcomed our son, Mickey.

Today I run Faithful Fruit Farms, tend my bees, and operate heavy equipment. I attend church. I know that none of it — not one acre, not one sunrise with my boy — would exist without the grace of God and the faithful hands and feet of the men and women at Mercy House.



## Mercy House Auto Center

1164 S Pat Harrison Dr., Crystal Springs, MS 39059



*The Mercy House Auto Center in Crystal Springs, Mississippi, is more than just a place to purchase quality used cars—it's a beacon of hope and transformation.*

**“More than just quality used vehicles, each sale fuels hope, healing, and second chances for individuals in need.”**

1164 S Pat Harrison Dr  
Crystal Springs, MS 39059  
(601) 308-5248



**MercyHouseAutoCenter.com**



## Turn Your Ride Into Changed Lives

- ✓ Tell Us About your Vehicle
- ✓ Arrange A FREE Pickup
- ✓ Receive A Tax Reduction

Scan To  
Get Started!



**DONATE A VEHICLE! CALL 601-572-7296**

# From Thirty Years in the Dark to Truly Free

***Kenny Hardin spent three decades trying to outrun his pain. At Mercy House, he finally met the One who could carry it.***

My name is Kenny Hardin. I am 46 years old, and I grew up in Northern Mississippi in a home shaped by abuse—physical, verbal, mental, and emotional—from both of my parents. By the time I was six, my older brother had become my shield. He did everything a boy could do to look out for me while we both tried to survive the world we'd been born into.

I was twelve the first time I smoked marijuana. I told myself it was an escape, and for a moment it was. By fifteen I had moved on to heavy drugs, and what began as a way to numb the pain became the defining story of the next thirty years of my life.

Through my teenage years, through college, and deep into adulthood, I called it partying. The truth was far darker than that. What still amazes me is how much I accomplished while addiction quietly dismantled everything underneath. I earned a bachelor's degree. Later, I earned a master's in Christian apologetics, convinced that if I just learned enough about God, I could think my way out of my addiction on my own. I never did. Knowledge couldn't save me, and addiction kept destroying every area of my life.

My wife and I moved to Jackson, Mississippi, where I worked a string of jobs and careers and ruined many of them. My family suffered. My friendships suffered. My marriage suffered. And in time, my addiction pulled me into a fentanyl habit that nearly took everything.

It all finally collapsed in July of 2024, when my wife discovered the fentanyl. I was broken and desperate for a change I didn't believe was possible. That's when I came to Mercy House.

***At 44 years old, I encountered the living Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in a real and life-changing way. That encounter changed everything.***



At Mercy House, I began to learn the things addiction had stolen from me for thirty years: accountability, community, purpose, obedience to God's Word, and what it means to build a life centered on Christ. As I put those truths into practice day after day, God began to transform me—physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

One of the greatest miracles He worked in me was the ability to forgive my parents. Both of them passed away before I ever found freedom from my addiction, yet today I no longer carry the bitterness I once thought I'd carry to my own grave.

Now, two years later, I have the privilege of working at Mercy House, walking alongside men who are fighting the same battle I once fought alone. I have joy. I have peace. My wife has her husband back, and my four children have their father back.

For the first time in my life, I am truly free.



# Products with a Purpose

Inspiring Hope. Building Faith. Restoring Lives.



**Products with a Purpose** is a unique initiative from Mercy House Adult and Teen Challenge that blends recovery with creativity, healing with hands-on work. As part of their vocational training and work therapy, men in the program craft high-quality, handmade goods—ranging from home décor, signs, and seasonal items.

**phone: 601.867.1004**  
**web: [ProductwithaPurpose.org](http://ProductwithaPurpose.org)**



## Third Phase Program

The Third Phase is designed to help students transition from structured recovery into real, everyday life with stability, responsibility, and direction while learning how to live purposeful in every area of life.

After completing the first two phases of the program over an eight-month period, students move into the Third Phase, which lasts four months. During this time, they are given greater independence while still remaining connected to the

accountability, structure, and support of the program.

Students who complete the first eight months on campus transition into transitional housing, where they begin applying the principles they have learned in a real-world environment. This phase serves as a bridge between residential recovery and long-term success by helping students pursue God's calling with intention in their work, family, and daily responsibilities.

Throughout the Third Phase, students work full-time jobs, manage personal finances, rebuild family relationships, and continue developing the discipline and consistency needed for a healthy and productive life. They are challenged to leave behind the unhealthy patterns of the past and choose the next right step each day while continuing to grow spiritually, emotionally, and practically.

**MORE ABOUT THE THIRD PHASE PROGRAM ON BACK COVER.**

## When I Cried Out, He Answered

Jacob Fairchild



My name is Jacob Fairchild. I'm 27 years old from Raymond, Mississippi, and for nine years, IV drug addiction had a grip on my life that I couldn't break. I told myself I was in control, but the truth was I was completely broken.

That road eventually led me to the Raymond Detention Center. Sitting in that cell, I reached a point I could no longer ignore. I cried out to God and asked Him to change my life — and that moment changed everything.

God opened a door for me to be bonded out, and I came straight to Mercy House. From day one, this program gave me something I desperately needed: structure, accountability, and people who genuinely cared whether I made it. It wasn't just about getting clean. It was about learning how to live again — with purpose, with discipline, and on the right foundation.

**Through this process, my life has been completely rebuilt. I am not the same man I used to be.**

A verse that has grounded me throughout this journey is Ephesians 3:16–19 — a reminder that real strength comes from within, and that a life worth living is built on a deep foundation of truth and love.

**Mercy House moved me from chaos to stability. I've learned how to stay accountable, make**

**better decisions, and keep moving forward even when things get hard. This program doesn't just pull you out of addiction — it equips you to stay free and build something that lasts.**

I'm incredibly grateful for the staff here who pour into the lives of men like me every single day. And I'm grateful for my family, who stood by me and believed in me even when I gave them every reason not to.

Today, I work at Hazlehurst Tire, I'm connected to a strong church, and I'm building a life marked by growth, responsibility, and service. I'm not just surviving — I'm moving forward.

# THIRD PHASE PROGRAM

Staff members remain actively involved by providing guidance, accountability, and ongoing support as students navigate everyday responsibilities and challenges.

## During this phase, we help students:

- Secure career-level employment
- Develop financial stewardship skills
- Enhance communication and soft skills
- Make restitution payments when needed
- Rebuild and restore family relationships
- Maintain healthy routines and accountability
- Grow in purpose, responsibility, and consistency

The goal of the Third Phase is not simply independence, but long-term stability and purposeful living. By continuing to grow in faith, character, and daily responsibilities, students are equipped to build a sustainable future and continue moving forward in freedom.



Adult & Teen Challenge  
**Mercy House**

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