



Centenary  
Community  
Ministries, Inc.

*"Developing sustainable communities through  
the revitalization of people and place."*

*To our congregations, community partners and friends:*

*We have had the privilege of serving men in recovery for several years at Centenary Community Ministries, Inc. Folks in recovery lived in the house that is now the Wesley House for some time before transitioning to the blue house on Hazel St. Throughout the many iterations of our Transitional House, our church and community partners have come together to support the needs of the men in the program. Prior to the pandemic, church members served as shepherds and sponsors for our transitional house men. The congregation has provided meals, hosted graduations, and donated goods and resources to help them meet their needs. The Centenary Community was able to plant the seed for a comprehensive recovery ministry in Macon thanks to the help of the church community and its volunteers, including but not limited to, Don Wilkinson, Dennis Hasty, Joshua Hale, JW Smith, Fred Martin, Russ Vaughn, Pat Hardie, James Smith, and the many sponsors who committed their time and energy to helping our men reach a full, free, and sober life.*

*The same volunteers who have been working behind the scenes have recently answered a calling to start an even bigger ministry, one that would far more than just 9 men (our current capacity) at once. This new ministry, Awakening Fires, is the spiritual fruit of the seed planted here at Centenary and we are eager to support it! We know that this transition comes with some questions, so we thought we'd share this FAQ to better learn of the change:*

**Will the guys from the Centenary blue house move to the new program?**

*Yes! Centenary's Transitional House was led administratively by CCMI's staff, but the spiritual and organizational leadership (meetings, group outings, conflicts, legal issues, etc.) has been managed by Joshua Hale and his team for over four years. Because of that, it's only natural that the men in our home serve as the first cohort in his new ministry.*

**What will we do with the blue house?**

*As mentioned above, we are always going to be committed to serving those in recovery. For that reason, we have decided that we are going to serve a different need in the recovery community. We are going to turn our program into a 3/4 Recovery House.*

**What is a 3/4 House? How did you come up with this idea?**

*A 3/4 House is like a "halfway house" (1/2), but instead of bringing in folks fresh out of detox, prison or the streets, it focuses its attention on men further in their recovery (at least 6 months of sobriety). After folks graduate from rehabilitation programs, they are expected to assimilate back into society. This can be jarring, especially with the rising costs of housing, the struggle of earning a livable wage, and the sudden adjustment of being on your own outside of the accountability of a program. A 3/4 House provides a low-stakes way for those in the later stage of their first year of recovery to practice financial independence and schedule-management without the risk of falling behind. We will partner with*

*Awakening Fires, as well as other programs such as Bridges of Hope, the Rescue Mission, and Rivers Edge to give their graduates a home to practice the early stages of independent sober living.*

*We have been testing this idea for several months now, and it's working! Awakening Fires opened their first 3/4 House several months ago. Men who reached the 9 months sober mark moved from our blue house into their 3/4 program and were able to hit key milestones while being in complete control of their schedules, finances, and relationships. That's why on October 15th, we will have 5 graduates who have all been living in 3/4 for 3+ months and all have supportive housing to move into after graduation.*

### **What will Centenary's role be in this?**

*Just like with the current Transitional House model, our men will be active members of our church community. Additionally, we are bringing back shepherds and other group-development opportunities. Do you have a special skill that you can teach the men in our program? Maybe you have experience with budgeting or a trade that you can teach, maybe you just want to walk alongside them on their journey to be a listening ear during tough times; perhaps you want to sign up to bring a meal to the guys in our home. All of that is possible and we are depending on the church to help us take care of our 3/4 House guys.*

### **Will there still be transitional house guys serving at the community breakfast?**

*Of course! Service work is crucial for recovery. Awakening Fires will be sending a different crew of guys from their program each Sunday to work the community breakfast. Instead of the same 9 guys every week, we will see a different crew every Sunday, which means we will get to fellowship with even more men in recovery.*

### **How can we help the transition right now?**

*There are many ways you can help right now. Here are a few options below:*

- Sign up to cook a meal for Dennis Hasty, our senior house manager. The guys have moved out and we won't be accepting new residents until November. Therefore, Dennis is going through a deep "empty nest syndrome" and is missing the company of his residents! Sign up to visit him and share a meal with him here: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/9evr3l>
- Join us for the epic graduation and transitional house celebration on **October 15th at 11am**, as part of the Centenary church service! Afterward, join us in the Fellowship Hall for a reception where we'll continue the celebration of the men in our program.
- Help us clean and fix-up the house before we bring in new residents! We are having a transitional house work day at the blue house on **October 27th from 9:30am-2pm**. We'll be repainting some areas, deep cleaning the carpet, and hauling off old furniture!
- Pray for those in our recovery ministries who will have to adjust to a lot of change that can be scary and tough, but will ultimately provide more for them in the future; and pray for the leaders of these transitions that we find joy and purpose in the hardship.

*Thank you to the many volunteers and congregants who have cared for each version of our ministry. We look forward to your involvement and continued support in our new recovery program, and we hope you'll offer a warm welcome to our new residents when they arrive in November. We also look forward to welcoming our current residents home after they've completed their programs at Awakening Fires. It'll be exciting for them to start their next phase of sobriety in the home that started it all.*

*Sincerely,*

*Melissa Rodriguez-McClain, Executive Director  
Centenary Community Ministries, Inc.*