Volunteers Matter
The lifeblood of our organization.

Since early Fall 2018, Elevation House has been spreading the word about the organization’s forthcoming existence. During that time the Clubhouse has developed quite the list of potential volunteers. Encounters with prospective volunteers are always encouraging. The recognition that a program like Elevation House is needed in our community is immediate and certain, and always followed by an offer to help in some way.

Like all nonprofits, Elevation House’s programs and services can be greatly enriched by those who choose to connect to the organization. Our goal is to ensure that volunteers engage with our mission through meaningful opportunities. We are very conscious of the fact that, though our volunteers have big hearts, they have limited time. Volunteers bring a myriad of skills and passions to the Clubhouse when properly united with purposeful, mission-centered ventures. We want every moment a volunteer spends furthering our mission to be significant.

To that, Elevation House offers a variety of options for volunteer service. These options can accommodate any schedule ensuring that volunteers can be involved as much or as little as they are able. Opportunities to volunteer at Elevation House include, but are not limited to holiday events; sharing skills/ talents with participation in Clubhouse socials and House include, but are not limited to Opportunities to volunteer at Elevation House is paramount to our success. A nonprofit organization. Elevation House understands that the support of volunteers is our greatest need. Volunteers who serve in this capacity, bring a robustness to the mission and help to broaden the circle of Clubhouse friends.

The value of a volunteer goes without saying. New national figures note that one volunteer hour is worth more than $25 to a nonprofit organization. Elevation House understands that the support of volunteers is paramount to our success.

To find out how you can become a volunteer, email a request to Carrie Edge at carrie@elevationhouse.org or call 706-413-2323.

Facilities/ Housing
Fundraising
Program
Program Subcommittees: Education & Employment and Health & Wellness

Organizational committees work to secure community resources to acquire a plethora of opportunities for members. Resource development, especially raising funds, is obviously our greatest need.

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A Home for Elevation House
The search is over, Elevation House has a home.

As a building-centered program one thing is imperative... A BUILDING. Elevation House leadership knew from the beginning that selecting a home for our Clubhouse would be a critical undertaking. Since the winter of 2018 we have carefully considered a number of options. These options covered the gamut: purchasing a facility, being housed in a church, sharing space with other organizations, etc.

Over the course of six-months, we were tremendously blessed with several serious offers. We are grateful to those who opened their doors and hearts to Elevation House. However, at the end of the day, the determining factor was remaining consistent with the Clubhouse model. We recognized that the best way to fortify recovery for our members was to adhere to the best practices that have proven effective for nearly 70 years.

That priority narrowed the options down to one: The Kelsey-Aycock-Burrell Center. The KAB Center is a Rome City owned community center occupied and operated by a number of organizations. The former home of Main High School was restored and renovated in 2014 under the direction of Mr. Rufus Turner.

“From the moment we entered the schoolhouse nestled on a hill in North Rome, I knew we were home,” said Carrie Edge, Elevation House Executive Director. “In my mind I could hear the laughter of our members filling the halls with familiar sounds of yesteryears.”

After presenting a space proposal and growth plan to the KAB Board of Directors in mid-April, the final approval was received to begin Clubhouse operations in the center. The proposal included “value-added” commodities to our partnership with KAB. These included business support, receptionist services, and custodial duties to assist with the maintenance of the center and undergird the operations of the other KAB partners. These services support Elevation House’s mission. Providing aid to our partners helps members learn employable skills in a safe atmosphere, while they gain the confidence necessary to seek opportunities outside of Elevation House. Our partnership with KAB represents a true collaboration and a strategic partnership between organizations who truly want our community to thrive.

We are elated that KAB has welcomed us and provided us a place to incubate our mission. We are forever grateful.
Laying the Foundation

Elevation House spends first several months in preparation for the future.

Even if you’ve never built a house, you don’t have to be an engineer to understand the importance of a foundation. The foundation of a house holds up the structure built upon it and ensures that it remains upright. The strength of a house lies in its foundation; you can only build what the foundation can withstand and sustain.

Just like building a house, an organization must be built upon a solid foundation. The underpinning of an organization guarantees future sustainability and success. The advancement of an organization’s mission can only be as successful as the foundation is strong.

Over the past several months, Elevation House has meticulously ordered the placement of every block of the Clubhouse’s foundation. We have identified our mission, forecasted a vision, and completed Clubhouse International training to become well-versed in the Clubhouse model. We have established short-term goals supported by three planning documents, developed space proposals, a business plan, membership enrollment packets, etc.

Don Scuvotti, Founder/President; Bonnie Moore, Vice President; Greg Cater; Dr. Susan Claxton; Rozanne Collins; Lorrie Heiken; Colette Mosley; Halei Scuvotti, Founder; and Sundai Stevenson.

Throughout the month of June, we will feature the biographies of our Board of Directors on social media. We are so very fortunate to have them on our team and hope you will take a few minutes to get to know a little about them. We can’t wait to share!

Our board has worked diligently, meeting every Thursday since the beginning of March, to construct a sturdy organizational substructure reinforced with community partners. We value partnerships and understand the best way to accomplish a goal is through teamwork. We will continuously seek out partners who are experts in their fields to compliment the mission of Elevation House and better serve our members.

During this season, we have identified key partners and volunteers. These key players will educate and provide services to our members including housing resources, addiction recovery, food, physical and mental healthcare, employment, and educational opportunities. AND one special partner—The KAB Center—provided space for Elevation House to begin serving members. Partnership development is imperative to ensure the greatest leverage of community resources.

Resource development takes up a large chunk of the foundation of a nonprofit. Months have been spent on outlining plans to secure resources. Elevation House has a comprehensive resource development plan which supports the organization’s goal to raise two-years of operating funds in 365 days. Raising two-years of unrestricted funding will allow the organization to focus on the mission and plan for growth.

Before the end of 2019, the Board of Directors will begin the long-term planning process and convert the organization’s three short-term planning documents: Launch Plan, Clubhouse International Action Plan and Resource Development Plan into a three to five-year Strategic Plan. This plan will provide strategic guidance for Elevation House. We will continue our efforts patiently build a solid foundation, confidently knowing our preparation and planning will pay off.

Additionally, we have purposefully built a strong leadership team. From the appointment of our Executive Director, Carrie Edge, to the election of nine members of our Board of Directors, each was thoughtfully selected. Our Board of Directors is comprised of the following members:

The Power of the Work Ordered Day

Work produces wellness.

What are the first questions a person is asked upon encountering someone for the first time? Other than the formalities of “what’s your name”, “where do you live”… the question of “what do you do” is typically of high on the list. How do adults whose lives have been disrupted by mental illness answer this question? The work ordered day gives Elevation House members the ability to confidently answer this question.

At Elevation House, members and staff work side-by-side running the Clubhouse through the work ordered day. Members contribute their time to provide various skills to the work units of the Clubhouse. Working alongside of staff, members cultivate relationships that develop a sense of purpose, help build life skills, and provide the confidence necessary to re-engage the community as friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

Elevation House exists for, by and because of its members. Members are integral and active participants of the program. Elevation House is intentionally understaffed to ensure that members have meaningful work in which to engage.

Becoming a Member

How the process of becoming a member of Elevation House works.

Obviously the big question now that we have a house, is “HOW do people become members?” Membership to the Clubhouse is reserved for adults that meet certain criteria established by Clubhouse International. This criteria includes:

✦ Interested in attending, as membership is voluntary.
✦ Has a primary diagnosis of serious and persistent mental illness
✦ Does not pose a threat to our community
✦ At least 18 years of age

If these four primary requirements are met, individuals interested in membership can email elevationhouserome@gmail.com or call 706-413-2323 to request an enrollment packet. The enrollment packet must be completed by the prospective member and his/ her physician. Once the packet is complete, a tour of the Clubhouse can be scheduled.

After completing the tour and making the decision to enroll, members then begin the two-week process of New Member Orientation. During the orientation period, the new member is partnered with a current member and given the opportunity to shadow each of the work units, explore Clubhouse opportunities, and ask questions.

Upon completion of orientation, the new member will decide which work unit to be a part of and begin full engagement in the work ordered day. Membership is voluntary, thus may participate for a lifetime. Membership are encouraged to come daily as attendance will support recovery; however, participation is not mandated. Interruptions in membership, for whatever reason, do not prohibit members from returning to the Clubhouse.

Elevation House is a safe haven available for members whenever it is needed.

The voluntary nature of Clubhouse membership guarantees that members are genuinely motivated to contribute to the Clubhouse community. No one intentionally sets out to teach daily living skills, these skills are an organic product of spontaneous, daily interactions between members and staff. The work ordered day is the great equalizer, it capitalizes on the fundamental sameness of members and staff—every human being needs to be needed.

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The work ordered day enables members to “get off the bench” of life and get in the “game”. As members connect with the Clubhouse community and contribute to the operations of the Clubhouse, feedback and positive, genuinely appreciative affirmation fuels confidence and recovery. As a result of a member’s real contribution to the community, dreams are reignited, passions are refocused, goals become clearer and authentic relationships are birthed. It’s the power of the work ordered day that provides meaningful work which produces wellness and begins the process of recovery.