



**AWAKENING  
RECOVERY**

SAVING LIVES, 12 STEPS AT A TIME™

Summer 2023 Newsletter



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## Dear Awakening Recovery Family:

**What a year 2023 has already been.** It is amazing that our landmark women's house has been open for 6 months already! Thanks to the incredible support of our community, Awakening Recovery has never been stronger or been able to help as many people as it is now. I am incredibly proud of the work that we are doing and look forward to what the rest of the year will bring.

### Women's House Update

In just its first 6 months of being open we have already filled the women's house and its 12 beds and we currently have a short waiting list; we have seen the incredible demand for long-term recovery solutions for women. We are excited that two of our residents in the women's house are now "senior members" with over six months in the house and two more will reach this important milestone in September, enabling them to provide leadership to the newer residents.



Thank you to Los Angeles County Supervisor for District 3 **Lindsey Horvath** and her team for touring our inaugural women's house and presenting us with a commendation! We are grateful for their support with our vital mission to help those that need it the most find a long-term recovery solution to their chronic and acute substance addiction and to advocate for our long-term peer mentoring process on a county and state level.

### Help us congratulate our newest graduate, Yianni!



I was lost, I was afraid and I wanted to give up on life. But I found hope, and Awakening Recovery saved my life. God granted me a second chance. It was tough and very uncomfortable, but I was desperate and remained willing. For the first time in my whole life I completed something that I started. I've been given the chance to live happy and free, and to give back what was freely given to me." - **Yianni / Graduate**



## Graduate Wedding

A truly incredible milestone as our alumni **Tyler G** married his wife **Talula** and I had the great honor of being their officiant. Seeing how far Tyler has come and getting to be a part of his new life is one of the greatest moments I've had as a part of our recovery community. Looking out at the graduates dancing together at the wedding and getting to see the fruits of AR's labor is what makes this all worth it.



**Now with two houses, it is more important than ever that we have the resources we need to ensure both our recovery homes can continue their life-saving work. Click here to learn more about ways you can support AR's efforts.**



## 7th Anniversary Event

**That's right, the men's house has been open for 7 years!** On July 29th our Awakening family came together to celebrate the continued change the men's house has brought to so many lives and the addition of our women's house this year. It was gratifying to see graduates' family, staff, donors and community members come together and reflect on what we have been able to accomplish. **Our alumni and Board Member Austin G. took a sobriety cake for 7 years** at the open house and **one of our residents took a cake for 1 year!** Thank you to our event sponsor **A&CO** for helping to make this event possible.



## Big Bear Trip

**The weekend of July 7th was our annual Big Bear trip. We congratulated our graduate John G. on getting 1 year of sobriety again and David T., our live in manager and alumni on 2 years.**



In my darkest times, when hope felt lost, Awakening Recovery's support and brotherhood brought new life to my tired soul. I am incredibly grateful to them for guiding me to become resilient. They have made a profound impact on my life once again."

- John G. / Graduate



Out of all the things I am grateful for, which are many, I am most grateful for Awakening for teaching me how to confront the darkest parts of me and lighting my path back to the Spirit within."

- David T. / Graduate

**2023 really has been quite the year. On behalf of the Awakening Recovery Board of Directors, our alumni, staff and residents, thank you for your continued support of our mission and work**

In Gratitude,



**David van der Velde**

Executive Director

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