

# The History of Secure Organization Building Educational Recovery, Inc. Christian Fellowship Home



After entering into recovery, for alcohol and drug addiction, Michael W. Edwards began to work in a local substance abuse treatment center. There he saw those less fortunate people come into treatment with a great desire for recovery. They were turned away because they could not afford the treatment they needed. Now with no one to help they were knocking on death's door. God then laid it upon Michael's heart to help those less fortunate in the grip of addiction.

Michael decided to take a leap of faith and started clearing tenants from the apartment building he was struggling to pay for. Now the vision God gave him could become reality, a home for those men with such a desire for recovery to be until they can once again become productive members of society. A home full of love, faith and recovery, free from alcohol and drugs, would be built. This home was to be called Secure Organization Building Educational Recovery, Inc. Christian Fellowship Home.

December 17, 2004 Secure Organization Building Educational Recovery was incorporated in Carroll County, Virginia. Now working only by himself, Michael began to remodel the 6000 square foot building into a home for those men in recovery, using only his paycheck. He also began sharing his plans for the home with family and friends.

In April of 2005, The Carroll News interviewed Michael and his new wife Karen. After the article ran in the news paper, public support increased, people began to donate furniture, building supplies, and money to the cause. The road to completion is slow, progress is now taking place. Also in April of 2005, Secure Organization Building Educational Recovery, Inc. sponsored it's first fund raiser, The First Annual Ride for Sobriety.

The second Annual Ride for Sobriety took place in 2006, due to lack of funds S.O.B.E.R. has been unable to sponsor another Annual Ride for Sobriety. We hope to be able to sponsor another sobriety ride in the future.

In February 2, 2007 Secure Organization Building Educational Recovery, Inc. received confirmation they were considered a 501(c) (3) organization beginning in December, 2007. Contribution will be tax deductible.

## **What is now taking place? Progress**

Michael and Karen are now in the process of trying to acquire supplies, and organizing volunteers to help with the completion of the home. They are asking for much needed funding, needed for the long awaited completion of the home.

Plans are being made for several programs to benefit the men at the home.

- A computer class to teach the men basic computer skills. These skills can be used to help the men gain confidence and help with future employment.
- A hygiene class to teach the men about personal hygiene and educated the on health issues.
- A program to help with budgeting and personal finances.
- Programs to help introduce them back into society as clean and sober members.
- A program to teach the trades they can use during their stay and upon leaving the home.
- A program to supply musical instruments and craft supplies to help with relaxation.

We already have volunteers to help with these programs once they are in place.

- S.O.B.E.R. already have regular 12-step meeting three times a week on the premises.
- A prayer garden under construction along side a creek located along the property.
- Regular program for the residents to attend churches in the community and surrounding communities.
- Connections with local employment agencies to help in employment placement for the men.
- A program working with a mental health agency to provide counseling to the men

We are also taking suggestion from other programs to help the men.