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The Bryan Clay House



**Albert Pugh
Executive
Director**

CREAA FOOTPRINTS

A Word from our Executive Director

It is Easter time, a time when we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And it is a time that we are reminded, that the same resurrection power that raised Christ from the dead is at work today in our lives.

This is what I want to talk about, how the resurrection power of God has been at work in my own life. I have experienced this many times, but I want to talk about one particular experience that happened very recently. A few weeks ago, I got sick and even had to take a few days off work, something I never do, unless I just have to. My doctor said that I had bronchitis and told me that if I wasn't any better after the weekend to come back. The following week I did go back, and was told I was getting better.

Yet, I didn't really feel any better and ended up at the emergency room. The doctors there told me that I had a blood clot and that I had over 90% of an artery blocked. They put me in an ambulance and sent me to Birmingham, where I had surgery the next day. The doctor who did the surgery came to my room before the surgery and introduced himself, saying, I looked very good, but he didn't expect someone with my x-rays to look so well! I had surgery on Friday and went home on Sunday, breathing just fine. God is always on time and this is just one example of the many times, where God has come through for me with His resurrection power!

The work that we do can be frustrating at times, but when you see how God is working in the lives of the men; that someone is making the changes they need, while at the same time other areas are being restored. It is at these times, you know and see the resurrection power of God is at work. This makes it all worthwhile!

Albert Pugh

Albert Pugh,
Executive Director

Our transitional home is not a handout, it is a hand up, and a way forward for those that truly want to restart their lives. Our first Board of Directors meeting was held October of 2017. From that first board meeting we have not stopped, opening our first transitional home for men in Cullman, Alabama on April 1, 2018.

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Volunteer Highlight—A Living Testimony



Volunteer Johnny Kuykendall

“Come join us at CREEA, as we seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus, to further the Kingdom of God.”

Contact us at www.creaa.net to get more involved. There is a need for your hands and feet!

You can be a Thursday night Roundtable leader...

You can be an employer...

You can help us replace the heating and air system...

You can help us with much needed roof repairs...

An interview with CREEA Volunteer Johnny Kuykendall.

How did you find out about the Bryan Clay House?

Through Albert and Bob at our Monday morning Men’s Breakfast at St. Andrew’s church.

What have you experienced while volunteering at the Bryan Clay House?

There are not many men or women that do not have some kind of problem. At least the men at the Bryan Clay House are trying to deal with their problems.

How has your experience impacted you?

It takes me back. You should never forget where you came from. In today’s world, it is so easy to get into trouble.

What are some of the key things you have discovered?

For the most part, the men interact in our meetings. This is a good sign that they want to change.

And what would you want others to know about the Bryan Clay House?

From what I have seen the program is working. I feel most of the men will come away from the Bryan Clay House a better person. There is no reason to not make it in today’s world. With God’s help, I know that they can make it.

Thank you Johnny for all you do for CREEA and for the many lives that you are impacting. May the Lord continue to use you as a living testimony of resurrection life!

CREAA Front Entrance Renovation



Richard D. uses his brick mason skills to renovate front entrance



Michael T. utilizing his mechanic skills



Resurrection Power

As we approach this Resurrection Sunday, CREA wants to celebrate the men of God that the Lord is raising up at the Bryan Clay House. It is our heart's desire to raise up men of God and to help them overcome their past as they move forward to live successful lives. Many of the men come from very challenging backgrounds, backgrounds which led them into the heartache of addiction, incarceration, and even homelessness.

Yet, by the amazing grace of God, these gifted men of God are working hard to overcome their past, relying on the resurrection power of Jesus Christ to bury their past once and for all. They are not looking back, but one day at a time, they are taking back ground that the Enemy has stolen, knowing that they already have the victory.

We are confident that God is working things out for their good. For day by day, the Lord is restoring their confidence, renewing their hope for a better future, and leading them to ultimately discover and fulfill their God given purpose and calling.

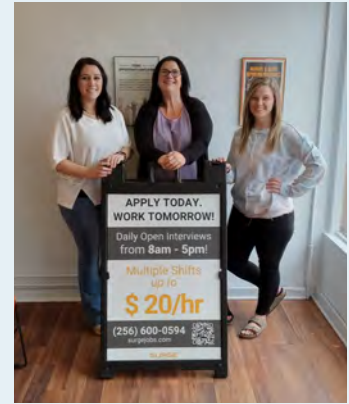
We are proud of all of the residents of the Bryan Clay House. It is truly a place where men can experience resurrection power. It is a place where men can grow and rise up to be the men God called and created them to be before the foundation of the world.

We also celebrate and recognize the many God given talents and skills that these men possess. We are blessed to have among us mechanics, painters, brick masons, carpenters, plumbers, welders, landscapers, and many others that are able to help us with various opportunities to improve and maintain the Bryan Clay House and property.



Scotty, Danny, and Vinton relaxing outside around the house

Kayla, Heather, and Madison from SURGE Staffing help place Bryan Clay Residents with local employers



1 year graduate Allen G. now on staff as Driver



Michael O. outside his job at the Downtown Grill



CREAA Joins Association of Christian Recovery Ministries

CREAA and the Alabama Association of Christian Recovery Ministries

CREAA is continuing its efforts to become a fully certified member of the Alabama Association of Christian Recovery Ministries (ACRM).

The Alabama Association of Christian Recovery Ministries is Alabama's largest, oldest, and most successful association of Christ-centered recovery service providers. The Alabama Association of Christian Recovery Ministries estimates that more than 1000 Christ-centered recovery/rescue ministries across the Southeastern US are making a sacrificial difference in their local communities. It has been even more difficult these last few years serving individuals with life-controlling problems with the pandemic and the opioid epidemic complicating life. The Alabama Association of Christian Recovery Ministries seeks to bring Christian recovery ministries together to be encouraged, to network and equip, because together, we are stronger.

There are many benefits to be had from this certification, the most important of which is that CREAA will finally have a dedicated voice in Montgomery that will help State lawmakers appreciate the unique challenges that we face and help guide State policy. This certification also ensures that all certified ministries have policies in place regarding accounting and financial matters, and that they are followed. Great emphasis is also placed on ensuring that member organizations treat their clients with the utmost professionalism and respect.

Additionally, ACRM offers training to all associated organizations on a quarterly basis, and that along with representatives from ACRM's other 44 member organizations, the staff of CREAA attended the most recent quarterly training on March 16th in Hueytown, Alabama at the Heritage Christian Center. Those attending were Albert Pugh, John Means, and John Augustine.



CREAA Staff attends ACRM training March 16, 2023 at Heritage Christian Center in Hueytown, Alabama



The Life of A Graduate—James Hurst



How did you find out about the Bryan Clay House?

I found out about it through my instructor Mr. Jim Foshee at Ingram State Technical College while I was incarcerated. He put me in touch with Office manager John Means and I stayed in contact with him until I was released from prison. Upon my release, I became a resident of the Bryan Clay House Thanksgiving weekend of 2022.

What did you experience while you lived at the Bryan Clay House?

I experienced so much. There were a lot of ups and downs, but it was where I found myself and regained my confidence. I am proud of myself because of all that I have accomplished so far, and it brought me to a place where I could believe in myself again.

How did it help prepare you to move forward to take your next steps toward a successful life?

It gave me the courage and ability. The most important part is that you have to believe in yourself to move forward.

It is part of letting go of the past. I was able to do that while I was here.

What were some of the key things that you learned?

Self control. Resistance. And to stay away from things, even though they were right in front of you. I learned not to follow the crowds, but to be a leader. And you know, to be myself again.

And what would you want others to know about the Bryan Clay House?

It is a great place. You come in here and you have all the opportunity in the world to create the life you want, but it is up to you to create that life. You are given all the tools for success, but you have to learn how to use them and that you need to use them. There are great people here. Everyone is willing to help each other. I love it. It was probably one of the best decisions I have ever made in my life.

If you could put your finger on one thing that helped you decide to make changes in your life, what would it be?

It would probably be not wanting to have anything to do with the old me. Everyone says they want to go back to the old me, but I wanted nothing to do with the old me. That person is long dead and gone.

And what are you doing now that you have moved out of the Bryan Clay House?

I am living in a two bedroom apartment. I have a full-time job at Topre and I am also going back to school for paralegal. Things are going great and I am moving forward.



*"Jesus,
remember me
when you come
into your
kingdom..."
Luke 23:42*



Scotty, after repainting the three crosses in our yard.



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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE