

## Ms. Bea's House Offers the Next Step in Recovery

by **Stephen Robinson**  
Housing Director

In conjunction with our Best Practices, Turning Point has established a continuum of services that addresses the after-treatment needs of our clients (African American men), particularly those with histories of drug and alcohol addiction and homelessness.

Ms. Bea's House is the next step in the recovery process. It addresses the often asked questions "What now?" and "Where do I go from here?" As a 32-bed, room and board facility, Ms. Bea's has served over two-hundred and fifty homeless African American men from a cultural perspective since its opening in 2012.

The facility operates on a case management service model that focuses on addressing at least five of the contributing factors

leading to addiction: stress, homelessness, unemployment, education, and access, all of which have received individualized case management service. Of the 250-plus residents, 193 (or 77%) have come straight from Turning Point's treatment program. Another 41 have shared addiction-related issues that partly brought them to a state of homelessness and ultimately to Ms. Bea's.

A bed and three meals a day provides some of the stress relief. Our case management in collaboration with the Goodwill Easter Seals Employment and Training staff has been able to support the efforts of 79% of the men coming through the program. Our combined efforts have enabled us to help them secure full or part-time employment, college or a career training program. The average length of stay is about eleven months, after which



Ms. Bea's House, room & board facility of Turning Point.

*Photo by Walter Marmillion*

time approximately 58% have moved on to permanent housing either through Minnesota Housing Authority, Catholic Charities or other community connections.

As part of our continuum, Ms. Bea's residents who have achieved their established personal goals become eligible to move on to our (GRH) Supportive Housing Program or Single Adult Housing Program

apartments. By the time he has traveled through the continuum he is confident, clean, self-supporting and has community resource information. More often than not he has established a positive inner circle support system of friends, introduced some level of spirituality into his life and re-connected with his family.

## President Expresses Personal Thanks for Honors Gala

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foundation of success that is based on valuing the work. She taught me that if you concentrate on accomplishing your vision, time will allow it to grow and flourish. I want to say thank you to Dr. Brisbane not only for mentoring me but for traveling from New York to be with me at the Gala.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Darryl Rouson. A successful attorney and legislator in Florida, he is also a Turning Point alumnus. I want to thank him for delivering the "client speech." His remarks made it clear for the men and women who come through Turning Point on a daily basis that you can't forget the program or the fellowship. If you remember what you learned at Turning Point, you'll have the tools to help you maintain your recovery.

Sobriety saved my life, and it allowed me to appreciate my wonderful family. I want to thank the cast of the Hayden family for their ongoing support and love: Joyce, Jeff, Taylor, Erin, and Sydney. Several other extended family members appeared in the video or attended the Gala, and I appreciate each one of them.

Finally, none of this would have been possible without Liz Reed, Chief Operating Officer of Turning Point. After all the excitement had died down, Liz asked me if I was pleased with the evening. Now I can tell her and everyone reading this: It was great. I will always cherish our friendship, professionally and personally. I treasure the way you give of yourself to every life you touch. Thank you for one of the most memorable evenings of my life. I will never forget it.