

# Recovering addicts look inward to help Exodus House rebound

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For the Daily News

**KEWASKUM** — When Tom Moore struggled with a drug and alcohol addiction, he felt the world owed him. But when he shifted his focus from victim to victor, his attitude also brought a change in an organization that badly needed reinvigoration.

Moore, a recovering addict is also the current president of the Board of Directors at Exodus House, a halfway house for those seeking a better life without drugs or alcohol.

Moore describes himself as a "more" kind of guy. Before he entered treatment nine years ago, that "more" attitude meant one more drink or another snort of coke.

Moore lived at Exodus, a 20-bed transitional living facility for men from Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, Dodge, Waukesha, Washington, Ozaukee and Calumet counties who were seeking treatment from drug and alcohol addictions.

Still in recovery and feeling he was owed a better life, Moore met Charlie Schrauth.

Schrauth, now a certified clinical substance abuse counselor, has been connected with Exodus since he began attending meetings there 32 years ago.

That meeting started a change and Moore learned a simple lesson: life could be fun when you didn't have



Director and certified clinical substance abuse counselor Charlie Schrauth and Board President Tom Moore have brought a new attitude that has reinvigorated programs at Exodus House in Kewaskum. Exodus House is in its 25th year of assisting men in their transition from addiction to sober living.

to drag the chains of addiction into every activity.

That's when Moore found a new way to use his "more" attitude to make positive changes not only in his life, but in the lives of others who found themselves in similar situations.

Deciding it was time to give back, Moore got on an alumni list of men who came in on Saturdays to talk with residents about their addictions.

"I never cared about

other people before," Moore said. "Now the greatest joy I have is to see others go through the program."

Shortly after Moore became a visiting alumnus, the chairman of that program quit. Moore volunteered to take over to avoid another downhill slide as offerings at Exodus and referrals dried up. The house that had helped so many over the past 25 years was headed toward closing its doors until Moore joined

the facility's nine-person board in September 2009. By May 2010, he was elected president.

That's when he contacted Schrauth to go out for coffee.

"Little did I know he had a hidden agenda," Schrauth said.

Schrauth, already a co-director at Quality Addiction Management, accepted a role as part-time director at Exodus.

When Schrauth was

attending meetings in 1979, the primary focus at Exodus was alcohol addictions.

Now he said the facility offers support to 70 to 90 men a year whose addictions to drugs or alcohol are almost evenly split.

In the past eight months, Exodus House has experienced a turnaround, Moore said. First- and second-shift counselors were added along with new programs and a heightened focus on both drug and alcohol rehabilitation.

Exodus House provides the extra support needed for men who are working on connecting to new ways of living in the community and learning how to socialize without drinking and drugs, Schrauth said.

"It's a unique and wonderful support system. Without it, it would be difficult to maintain sobriety," said Schrauth.

Washington County Human Services Behavioral Health Coordinator Kay Thuecks has seen the change.

"They've upgraded their programs and curriculum; they offer in-house treatment," she said.

Exodus has also incorporated sober living programs, staff and peer support groups.

"They are bringing the program back up to the standard that it was," Thuecks said. "We are very satisfied with the service they are delivering."