



Grace  
house

Transformed by Grace

## GRACE HOUSE & THE COVID PANDEMIC

How the Covid pandemic affected those struggling with chemical dependency.

Greetings from Grace House! My name is Steph Hebel, Treasurer of Grace House. Christine Downton, the Resident Director of Grace House and Caroline Rizzo, who is the weekend relief for Christine, have worked tirelessly to keep Grace House running even while the Covid Pandemic was in full swing.

During the pandemic many individuals that struggle with chemical dependency especially struggled with depression and anxiety.

Since legislation was enacted that prevented landlords from evicting individuals for non-payment of rent, **those seeking housing – in particular people recovering from chemical dependency, found it extremely difficult, at times impossible, to find housing. Parole visits were non-existent. Inperson counseling, which is an extremely meaningful tool for a person in recovery, was entirely eliminated.**

**As of the time of this newsletter, the probation system, including drug testing is just restarting.**

Grace House is at full capacity and has a waiting list. While this is good news in a sense, it has placed an enormous burden on our fulltime director and her weekend relief.

It was a revelation to me that Christine and Caroline, completely voluntarily and unpaid, overlap their time during influxes of activity in order to better serve the residents and the community. It is on Fridays and Mondays that things are extremely busy in the house. On Fridays many residents are either moving out, having parole visits, or having family visits. Mondays are another day full of transition filled with a large influx of women seeking the help of Grace House, after had crisis over the weekend.

Another big stumbling block to people struggling with chemical dependency has been the economic stimulus money that many have received. **Having large amounts of cash available has caused a number of people to struggle and relapse into addiction.** Although Christine had repeatedly offered to assist a now former resident with budgeting their money, this help was not welcomed. Many residents have lacked motivation to seek employment due to unemployment and economic stimulus funds arriving in large amounts, partially due to the backlog that the pandemic caused.

The Board, Staff, Volunteers and the women of Grace House are grateful to all of those who have assisted us in any way- by prayer, in-kind donations, financial contributions, and encouragement.

We would like to remind you that we continue to need your help as **we receive no state, or local funding.**

In-kind donations can be left @Grace House @ 11 East Main St, Canton, NY

*Bottles & Cans may be dropped off at Bessette's Bottles-N-Beverage, 39 Gouverneur St. (Route 11), Canton, NY  
Please let Bessette's know it is for Grace House!*

Financial donations may be sent to PO Box 637, Canton, NY 13617

Or online at

**[NewHopeTransformation.org/Donate](https://NewHopeTransformation.org/Donate)**

**Christine Downton, Resident Director of Grace House**

\*All pictures of individuals are from the open domain – and are not individuals from Grace House.\*

**315-386-3904** [director@newhopetransformation.org](mailto:director@newhopetransformation.org)